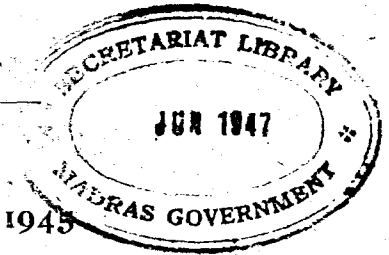


THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
Official Report

Volume II, 1945

(28th February to 13th March, 1945)



TWENTY-SECOND SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1945



Volume II—28th February to 13th March, 1945

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Deputy President :

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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

Wednesday, 28th February, 1945

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. Nivarty Sundaresan, O.B.E., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

COMMITTEE FOR ESTABLISHING CENTRAL TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

519. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Secretary, Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) whether any committee has been appointed or is about to be appointed for establishing a Central Technological Institute in India;

(b) what sort of institute it is going to be, and when it is likely to be set up; and

(c) the place where it is going to be located?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Steps are being taken to appoint a Committee to consider the desirability of establishing a high-grade technological institute in India.

(b) and (c). The decisions on the points raised by the Honourable Member will have to await the recommendations of the Committee.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the committee has been appointed?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Invitations have issued to the personnel: we have not had replies from all of them yet.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the Honourable Member will disclose the terms of reference of this committee?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: First of all, they are being asked whether such an institution is likely to fulfil a useful purpose in India: over and above that, if they answer that in the affirmative they are to be asked to advise on the scope and size of the proposed institute, the situation of the institute, its control and management, the recruitment and conditions of service of its teachers, the cost involved (with rough plans and estimates), and "other relevant questions relating to the establishment of such an institute and its future development".

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know to whom the invitations have been issued?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I would be perfectly willing to read out the list if that is the desire of the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is the list a long one?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: About 19 persons.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Has anybody been approached to preside over the committee?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am happy to say that Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker has agreed to be the chairman.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask what are the subjects included in this technological institute?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That is one of the matters the Committee has been asked to advise upon.

IMPURE WHEAT RATIONED IN PESHAWAR

520. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) whether impure wheat with an admixture of barley, gram and small stones is being rationed in Peshawar; and

(b) whether steps are being taken to find out who is responsible for this?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) I am informed by the N.-W. F. P. Government that it is not a fact.

(b) Does not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware that the same complaint is being made by people as far down south as southern India and Malabar?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the Honourable Member has seen the sample of wheat which I placed on his table this morning?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have just seen the sample handed over to me by the Honourable Member himself.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the fact that some Provincial Governments are very lenient in dealing with these organisations for distribution of grain, may I know whether the Central Government will appoint its own agents directly to deal with this distribution?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No; that is not our policy.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Government have examined anywhere, taking at random a unit of a bag of rice or wheat, and seen what percentage of it is mud and stones?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No; it is not necessary to do so; the quality is generally good.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is the Honourable Member aware that allegations have been made in this House by at least three Members of this House coming from three different provinces and in view of that fact, will he do it?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes; if any complaints are brought to my notice. But generally the quality is not bad: people are eating the stuff.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the Central Government has any machinery to find out whether the report of the Provincial Government is correct or not? Will Government appoint an independent machinery of their own?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I will inquire.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member aware that municipal officers of health are very nervous in complaining about the quality of foodstuffs in Government shops lest they should be sacked and that the Government strangles any complaint in the press against their grain shops?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No; I am not aware of that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government got any officers of their own who are expected to go down to these places where these complaints come from and examine what sort of quality of foodstuffs are being supplied to the people?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No; I have already answered that; the Government of India have no machinery.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member...

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

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: This is a very important question, Sir.

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

DISPARITIES IN PRICES OF RICE IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY

521. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is not a fact that disparities are allowed to prevail in the prices of common sorts of rice in different surplus or delta districts of Madras Presidency;

(b) what the causes are for such disparities;

(c) if it is not a fact that while the ceiling price of paddy is allowed to remain at Rs. 11-12-0 per bag of 166 pounds including the cost of sack and cartage to the factory, the corresponding price in Kristna District is only Rs. 10-8-0;

(d) whether, while the Guntur price was raised from Rs. 10-8-0 to Rs. 11-12-0 during December, 1944, the price of a bag of paddy in Kristna District has not been raised;

(e) the reasons for this distinction;

(f) whether Government are aware of the fact that owing to the pressure of land revenue and harvest expenses many of the poorer peasants are obliged to sell away their paddy at too low prices, coming down to Rs. 9-8-0 per bag, while richer landlords and factory owners and many middlemen are able to purchase such paddy and hoard it up in anticipation of a later rise in prices; and

(g) whether Government propose to see that the ceiling price is raised at least to the Guntur level and make it the standard price?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No, Sir. The maximum difference in price for the first sort rice is three annas a maund.

(b) The differences are based on pre-war parities.

(c), (d) and (e). The same prices have been fixed for Kistna and Guntur Districts, viz., Rs. 11-12-8 per bag of 166 lbs.

(f) Transactions at rates slightly lower than the ceiling prices, immediately after the harvest are quite normal. The ceiling rates have been fixed for the whole year.

(g) Does not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that so far as the Kistna district is concerned, this so-called ceiling price of Rs. 11-12-0 per bag was not actually in operation and that the actual price was Rs. 2 less than this?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not aware of that.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Government have received representations from the ryots in these areas that the price fixed is very much less than their cost price?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not aware of that, either.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask what is the policy of the Government of India—to increase the present prices or to lower them?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: This is a very general question—a very wide question; I cannot answer it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that in the country the people are not only anxious that dearness allowances should be granted to the working classes in the towns but also a decent price should be given to the producers of food grains?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That is a matter for argument.

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

CEILING PRICES OF PADDY AND RICE IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY

522. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Food Grains Producers Conferences of Guntur, Nellore, Kristna, West Godavari and Vizagapatam Districts have demanded that the ceiling price for a bag of paddy of 166 pounds *minus* the sack should be fixed at Rs. 12, which works out at about Rs. 9 per maund of 80 pounds as against the present price of Rs. 8-2-0 per bag;

(b) whether the ceiling price of the same quantity of rice is Rs. 9-8-0 in Sind;

(c) whether the ceiling price of the Punjab rice is Rs. 13-8-0;

(d) whether the Sind and Punjab prices used to be much higher than the Madras prices of paddy and rice;

(e) whether, as a consequence, the Madras paddy growers have been made to lose in view of their liability to bear the same higher prices of most of the industrial commodities needed by all peasants of all provinces;

(f) whether it is not a fact that the Madras Government is trying to further depress paddy and rice prices by selling subsidized wheat at prices lower than those of rice of common varieties; and

(g) whether Government propose to see that a reasonable price approximating at least to the price of Rs. 12 per bag of paddy or Rs. 9 per maund of rice is fixed as the ceiling as well as the price in the Deltaic areas of Madras presidency?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) I have no information.

(b), (c) and (d). The Madras ceiling prices are not comparable with the statutory maximum prices in Sind and the Punjab. In Sind, the statutory maximum for coarse rice is Rs. 8-8-0 per maund, but the market price is about Rs. 8. In the Punjab, while the statutory maximum price is Rs. 13-8-0, the market price has varied from time to time and is now about Rs. 11. The ceiling prices in Madras are the prices at which Grain Purchase Officers will buy from mills in surplus districts for supply to deficit districts. These prices are not inelastic but have been increased whenever an increase has been found to be necessary.

(e) No, Sir. I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (a) (ii) of his Starred Question No. 187 on the 13th February.

(f) No, the sale of wheat is subsidised in order to provide at prices within the reach of the poorest, a substitute for rice which is in short supply.

(g) I am satisfied that the present purchase prices fixed by the Madras Government are not unfair to the agriculturist.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that it is not the poorest people who are able to consume wheat in South India but it is rather the richest, the richer and the middle class people?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: We want the poorest to eat wheat. It is good for them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member then prepared to supply them with the necessary implements and vessels and other things?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not know what implements are necessary for eating wheat. I am sure that the Madras Government will do everything in order to popularize wheat and encourage its use.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the Madras Government is doing nothing? On the other hand it is only the richer and the middle class people who are able to consume wheat.

(No reply.)

LOWER PRICES OF PADDY AND RICE IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY

523. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is not the policy of Government to protect the interests of paddy producers against any low prices imposed upon them by the local factory owners and other merchants;

(b) whether it is not a fact that the prices of paddy have gone down in Kistna District from the ceiling price of Rs. 10-8-0 to Rs. 9-8-0 now prevailing in the villages;

(c) whether there has grown to be a difference of Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per bag between the prices of paddy and corresponding quantities of rice; and

(d) whether Government propose to take steps to fix a minimum price which may not be lower than Rs. 10-8-0 and a ceiling price of Rs. 12 per bag and to give full option to peasants to supply to Government and cooperative stores either paddy or rice and to make the ceiling price as the price to prevail throughout the year?

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.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of establishing a price, whether it is ceiling or medium or whatever it is, and see that at that price paddy is purchased by their officers as well as the general public?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Well, Sir, I will make a note of that.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR WOMEN IN DELHI PROVINCE

524. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) the educational institutions for women in the Delhi Province which are under the management of the Government or receive grants-in-aid from Government, and the annual expenditure by Government on these different institutions;

(b) what form of control Government have over the aided institutions;

(c) if the rules for residence and management of hostels in these institutions are the same; and, if so, whether a copy of these rules will be placed on the table of the House;

(d) if Government have received direct or seen in the Press complaints about the management of any of these institutions or their hostels; and, if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take for dealing with them; and

(e) if Government propose to appoint a representative committee to review and report on the working of these institutions with recommendations for their improvement; and, if not, why not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) There are in all about 96 educational institutions for girls and women which are either under the management of or receive grants-in-aid from Government. A statement giving a list is laid on the table of the House. The total expenditure on these institutions from Government funds was Rs. 6,29,528 in 1943-44. The expenditure varies from year to year.

(b) Generally by means of inspection. The payment of the grants-in-aid is dependent, among other things, on the tone and discipline of the institution. In the case of certain institutions some special conditions have been laid down before grants-in-aid can be claimed.

(c) The rules for residence and management of hostels are not uniform in all the institutions. College Hostels are under the supervision of the University of Delhi.

(d) The Government are aware that there has been some criticism of the management of the Indraprastha Girls' College, Delhi, and it is understood that the College authorities are taking necessary action to set matters right.

(e) No. Government do not think that there is any need for appointing a special committee to go into the affairs of any of the institutions at present.

Statement giving list of institutions for girls and women in the Delhi Province which are under the management of, or receive grants-in-aid from, Government

Colleges.

1. Indraprastha Girls' College, Delhi.
2. Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi.

Higher Secondary Schools.

1. M. R. Girls Higher Secondary School, New Delhi.
2. Queen Mary's Girls Higher Secondary School, Delhi.
3. Indraprastha Girls' Higher Secondary School, Delhi.
4. Anglo-Arabic Girls Higher Secondary School, Delhi.
5. St. Thomas's Girls Higher Secondary School, New Delhi.
6. Lady Irwin Girls Higher Secondary School, New Delhi.
7. Arya Girls Higher Secondary School, New Delhi.

High Schools.

1. Arya Samaj Girls High School, Delhi.
2. M. B. Girls High School, Delhi.
3. B. M. Gange Girls High School, Delhi.
4. Francis Girls High School, Delhi.
5. St. Therese School, Delhi.
6. Convent of Jesus and Mary, New Delhi.

Middle Schools.

1. Government Model School for Girls, Delhi.
2. M. B. Bengali Girls Middle School, New Delhi.
3. Arya Girls A. V. Middle School, Delhi.
4. Vidya Bhawan Girls A. V. Middle School, Delhi.
5. Victoria A. V. Girls Middle School, Delhi.
6. Butler Memorial Girls A. V. Middle School, Delhi.
7. Saraswati Girls Middle School, Delhi.
8. M. B. Middle School for Girls, Lal Kuan, Delhi.

9. M. B. Middle School for Girls, Bulbuli Khana, Delhi.
10. M. B. Middle School for Girls, Pulbangash, Delhi.
11. M. B. Middle School for Girls, Pahargunj, Delhi.
12. M. B. Middle School for Girls, Qarolbagh, Delhi.
13. M. B. Middle School for Girls, Subzimandi, Delhi.

Primary Schools.

1. M. B. Primary School, Minto Road, New Delhi.
2. N. A. C. Nagri Girls School, Timarpur, Delhi.
3. N. A. C. Bengali Girls School, Timarpur, Delhi.
4. M. B. Primary School (Urdu), Pahargunj, Delhi.
5. M. B. Primary School, Haveli Azam Khan, Delhi.
6. M. B. Primary School (Nagri), Kashmerigate, Delhi.
7. M. B. Primary School (Urdu), Kashmerigate, Delhi.
8. M. B. Primary School, Kanari Bazar, Delhi.
9. M. B. Primary School, Churiwalan, Delhi.
10. M. B. Primary School, Mohalla Dassan, Delhi.
11. M. B. Primary School, Daiwara, Delhi.
12. M. B. Primary School (Sundar Nanhi), Dariba Kalan, Delhi.
13. M. B. Primary School, Basti Punjabian, Delhi.
14. M. B. Primary School, Ajmeri Gate, Delhi.
15. M. B. Primary School, Basti Rahgarh, Delhi.
16. M. B. Primary School, Chandrawal, Delhi.
17. M. B. Primary School, Nabi Karim, Delhi.
18. M. B. Primary School, Kucha Pati Ram, Delhi.
19. M. B. Primary School, Kucha Ghasi Ram, Delhi.
20. M. B. Primary School, Anguri Khirki, Delhi.
21. M. B. Primary School, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi.
22. M. B. Primary School, Masjid Tahwar Khan, Delhi.
23. M. B. Primary School (Bengali Girls), Mori Gate, Delhi.
24. M. B. Primary School, Birla Mills, Subzimandi, Delhi.
25. M. B. Primary School, Rang Mahal, Delhi.
26. M. B. Primary School, Mughalpura, Delhi.
27. M. B. Primary School, Delhi Gate, Delhi.
28. M. B. Primary School, Ballimaran, Delhi.
29. M. B. Primary School, Ram Nagar, Delhi.
30. M. B. Primary School, Model Basti, Delhi.

District Board Schools.

31. D. B. Primary (Urdu) School, Mahrauli.
32. D. B. Primary (Nagri) School, Mahrauli.
33. D. B. Primary (Urdu) School, Najafgarh.
34. D. B. Primary (Nagri) School, Najafgarh.
35. D. B. Primary School, Chiragh Delhi.
36. D. B. Primary School, Palam.
37. D. B. Primary School, Narela.
38. D. B. Primary School, Khor Panjab.
39. D. B. Primary School (Urdu), Shahadra.
40. D. B. Primary School, (Nagri), Shahadra.
41. D. B. Primary School, Masjid Moth.
42. D. B. Primary School, Alipur.
43. D. B. Primary School, Ladpur.
44. D. B. Primary School, Chhaola.
45. D. B. Primary School, Dhansa.
46. D. B. Primary School, Bazidpur.
47. D. B. Primary School, Bhartal.
48. D. B. Primary School, Nangloi.
49. D. B. Primary School, Bakhtawarpur.
50. D. B. Co-Educational School, Sahibabad.
51. D. B. Co-Educational School, Bawana.

Aided Primary Schools.

52. Rajput Kanya Pathshala, Devnagar, Delhi.
53. S. D. Girls School, Chirakhana, Delhi.
54. Suraj Kanya Shikshala, Naiwara, Delhi.
55. Lakshmi Girls' School, Khari Baoli, Delhi.
56. Jain Girls School, Pahari Dhiraj, Delhi.
57. Jain Girls School, Dharampura, Delhi.
58. Arya Girls School, Beadonpura, Delhi.
59. St. Michael's School, Jungpura, New Delhi.
60. St. Anthony's Primary School, Paharganj, Delhi.
61. Holy Trinity Church School, Turkman Gate, Delhi.
62. Delhi Cloth Mills Primary School, Delhi.
63. Naziria Girls School, Phatak Habash Khan, Delhi.
64. Gadodia Girls School, Delhi.

Special Schools.

1. Government Girls Training School, Delhi.
2. St. Elizabeth Girls Industrial School, Delhi.

3. Mrs. Chatterjee's Girls Rural School, Dhaka.
4. Lady Reading Health School, Delhi.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know the nature of the complaints against the Indraprastha College and the action taken by the Government?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Government have not actually received any complaint. We have heard of criticism.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that one of the inmates of the hostels committed suicide and was it not brought to the notice of the House as well as the Honourable Member?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I have answered questions on that: it was not at the Indraprastha College.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of such happenings, is it not advisable that Government should appoint a committee to inquire into the management of the hostels, so that the interests of the girls may be properly safeguarded.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We were perfectly satisfied, in the particular case to which the Honourable Member refers, that there was no failure to discharge their duties on the part of the authorities of the Medical College concerned.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: How long is it since Government appointed a committee to inquire into the matter?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I doubt if Government ever appointed a committee for this purpose. Many of these institutions are self-governing bodies.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: In view of the fact that there have been complaints, will Government consider the question of appointing a committee?

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Is it not a fact that in 1931 a committee was appointed in connection with the Lady Hardinge Medical College?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I believe there was a committee in 1931 in connection with the financial side of that college.

PATIENTS' WARDS IN LADY HARDINGE HOSPITAL

525. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if there are separate wards for free and paying patients in the Lady Hardinge Hospital; and, if so, on what basis fees are charged for paying patients;

(b) if there are specially reserved rooms for paying patients, and whether these patients are permitted to have their relations and private nurses staying with them during treatment in the hospital;

(c) if Government are aware that there have been complaints by the public about the neglect of poor and free patients both inside the wards and in the Out-patients Department, and what steps Government have taken or propose to take to avoid discrimination in the treatment of free and paying patients; and

(d) if there is a non-official Board of Visitors for this hospital; and, if so, the personnel of the present Board, the number of meetings per year held by the Board and the number of visits to the hospital paid by each member of the Board in a year?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes: fees are charged according to the income of the family of the patient.

(b) Yes; in the Cottage Wards relatives are permitted to stay with the patient, and also private nurses if the patient is willing to pay for them.

(c) Government have seen no such complaint and are not aware of any neglect of poor-patients or of unfair discrimination between free and paying patients.

(d) There is no Board of Visitors, but there is a Governing Body which contains a considerable non-official element. For information regarding the composition of the Governing Body and its Executive Committee I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the statement laid on the table of the House in answer to question No. 134 asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai on 7th November 1944. The Governing Body met twice and the Executive Committee eight times in 1944. No record is kept of visits paid to the College and Hospital by members of the Governing Body and Executive Committee.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: With regard to (d), may I know if the members of these bodies visit the hospitals at any time?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I cannot answer that. No record is kept of such visits.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Is it not one of their duties to visit the hospitals?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes. I suppose it is.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask, Sir, if the Government are aware that there is a scarcity of private nurses in Delhi and that therefore great inconvenience is caused to the public, if wealthy women engage special wards in the hospitals as well as engage private nurses?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that the paying patients do not pay sufficient for the maintenance of these beds, will Government take steps to abolish these wards or beds for paying patients?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am not prepared to admit the premise on which my Honourable friend bases his question.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask what proportion of the total cost of the maintenance of the beds is paid by the paying patients?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I must ask for notice.

LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE STUDENTS

526. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) the number of students in the Lady Hardinge Medical College, Province-wise;

(b) if it is compulsory for all students to live in the hostel of this college; and, if not, the supervision by College authorities over the students residing outside;

(c) if any member of the staff lives and boards with the students in the hostel;

(d) the arrangements made by the college authorities for the care of the residential students regarding accommodation, food, health and conduct; and

(e) if Government receive terminal reports of the health and conduct of the students of this college; and, if not, why not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A statement showing the number of students in the College, according to Provinces, is laid on the table of the House. There are also students from Indian States.

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

(c) Yes. The Warden resides in the Hostel.

(d) Adequate living accommodation is provided for the students. Messes are run by student Committees under the supervision of the Warden. In case of illness students are treated by senior members of the Hospital staff and admitted to Hospital if necessary.

The Warden supervises the conduct of the students.

(e) The answer is in the negative. It is not considered necessary for Government to call for such reports.

Statement showing Province wise the number of students in the Lady Hardinge Medical College.

Name of Province	Number of Students
Punjab	33
United Provinces	14
Bombay	6
Sind	36
Delhi Province	30
Bengal	2
Central Provinces	9
Madras	1
N. W. F. P.	5
Orissa	1

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask whether any member of the staff boards with the students and has the same food as the students have?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I have no information on that. The Warden resides in the hostel. I do not know where she has her meals.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member himself or any one deputed by him make a personal inquiry into the manner in which the conduct of the inmates of this hostel is properly safeguarded?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: In connection with some questions in the last Session of this House, we made considerable inquiries and we were quite satisfied.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask how the Government ensure that the students have a balanced diet in this college?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: This is an institution run by an autonomous governing body and Government have nothing to do with ensuring that the students have a balanced diet.

CALLING FOR RETURNS OF PURCHASE AND-SALE FROM PIECE-GOODS DEALERS IN THE PUNJAB

527. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the textile control order returns of purchase and sale were called for from the piece-goods dealers in the Punjab for the years 1938, 1939 and 1940;

(b) if the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, whether the returns were called for from the piece-goods dealers in the Lyallpur Town; if so, whether the Honourable Member will lay the same on the table of the House; and

(c) whether the Honourable Member proposes to give the reasons why the licence for sale of woollen goods, woollen yarn and fine cloth was granted to a Muslim dealer in preference to Sikh dealers whose returns were far above the returns of the Muslim dealer who got the licence?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No such returns have been called for by the Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As no returns were called for, the question does not arise.

INDUSTRIAL DELEGATION TO AUSTRALIA

528. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) the main purposes of the Industrial Delegation to Australia;

(b) whether it is being officially sent by Government and whether Government will pay their expenses; and

(c) whether the Delegation will be authorised to negotiate any Pact with the Australian Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Fostering contacts between industrialists of the two countries.

(b) No. The Government are only providing necessary* facilities to the industrialists to visit Australia. The Australian Government, however, has been good enough to have them as their guests during their stay in that country.

(c) No.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS PLACED WITH THE IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

529. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state if information is now available in respect of starred question No. 242 put by me on the 10th November, 1944, regarding Government contracts placed with the Imperial Chemical Industries?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answer given to Question No. 242 on the 8th February 1945.

IMPORTED FILMS

530. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the total amount of films, both positive and negative, imported into India during the five years before the war?

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

(b) What is the reduction in such importation during the war and how much of the imported films are given to the civil population and how much used for Government purposes during the war period?

(c) What attempts have Government made for securing the manufacture of the raw material for the film industry in this country?

(d) Have any proposals been put to Government for this purpose? If so, what are the proposals?

(e) Is it a fact that Government have refused licence to a company, which proposes to manufacture films in this country? If so, on what grounds?

(f) Is it a fact that no panel has been set up by the Planning and Development Department for the film industry? If so, do Government propose to do so now?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). I presume the Honourable Member refers to raw cinematograph film. A statement is laid on the table showing the total imports of such film of all sizes and varieties during the years 1934-35 to 1943-44 and, so far as information is available, the quantities used for Government purposes. Separate figures are not available for different varieties.

(c) The matter is receiving Government's earnest attention.

(d) No.

(e) First part: No.

Second part: Does not arise.

(f) The film industry has been included specifically among the industries for which Government in the Planning and Development Department have decided to set up Panels. It is hoped to set up this panel shortly.

Statement of imports of raw cinematograph film during the years 1934-35 to 1943-44.

Year	Total Quantity imported Feet (in round thousand)	Quantities used for Government purposes Feet (in round thousand)
1934-35	60,101	...
1935-36	60,670	...
1936-37	67,832	...
1937-38	75,327	...
1938-39	74,215	...
1939-40	82,953	...
1940-41	70,020	...
1941-42	92,510	352
1942-43	86,553	3,422
1943-44	78,758	9,247

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the very serious inconvenience caused to the film industry in India, may I know what is the considered policy of the Government regarding this? If there is another war in the next ten years, should not the Government take steps to manufacture raw materials for film industry in this country and not leave the industry in India depend upon imports?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If there is another war in the next ten years and if this question is asked then, the Government of the day will be able to give a complete answer to that.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to part (e), what is the answer?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The first part of the answer is: "No" and the second part "Does not arise". We have not refused licence to anybody.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member aware that a company had made an application for being registered and that Sir Alan Lloyd turned it down?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: In one case, I know that an application was not merely concerned with the production of films, but with a variety of other trade and industrial activities and it might be the case. But I am

sure there is no company which has been refused licence for production of films only.

RECENT PRIVY COUNCIL RULING RE GRANT OF BAIL TO THE ACCUSED BY HIGH COURTS

†531. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to the recent Privy Council ruling published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 6th February, 1945, regarding the power of High Courts in India as to the grant of bail to accused who are permitted to appeal to the Privy Council against their convictions?

(b) If so, has it been brought to his notice that that power does not lie in the hands of the High Courts but in the hands of the Legislature to confer that power on the High Courts?

(c) Does the Honourable Member propose to introduce a Bill or ask for an Ordinance for the purpose, or get the High Courts that power in some other legal manner? If not, for what reasons?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) When an official report of the judgment becomes available I propose to consult Provincial Governments and High Courts on the question whether legislation should be promoted.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF SUPERVISOR OF RAILWAY LABOUR, CALCUTTA

†532. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supervisor of Railway Labour, Calcutta, has submitted to the Government his annual reports on the working of (i) the Payment of Wages Act, and (ii) the Hours of Employment Regulations subsequent to 1940-41; if so, whether these reports have been published in full or part and, whether the Honourable Member will be pleased to lay copies thereof on the table of the House; and

(b) if the reply to the last portion of part (a) above is in the negative, whether the Honourable Member proposes to supply the following information in a tabular form for each Railway, separately, for the financial years 1941-42, 1942-43 and 1943-44:—

- the amount of fines inflicted on the Railway staff;
- the total number of cases in which fines were inflicted;
- the total number of irregularities detected in the working of the Payment of Wages Act;
- the total number of irregularities detected in the working of the Hours of Employment Regulations;
- the nature of instructions issued to the various Railway Administrations to avoid a repetition of such irregularities;
- the nature of representations made by the Labour Supervisor to the Labour Department of the Government of India on points where a conflict of opinion existed between the Supervisor and the Railway Administrations or the Board; and
- the decision given on points referred to in (vi) above?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Since the year 1940-41, annual reports on the working of the Payment of Wages Act and the Hours of Employment Regulations for the years 1941-42 and 1942-43 have been submitted by the Conciliation Officer (Railways) and Supervisor of Railway Labour. As I informed the Honourable Member in answer to his unstarred question No. 43 on the 10th February 1944, Government have decided not to publish these reports in view of the acute shortage of paper. They have, however, now decided to issue a press note in respect of the reports for the year 1942-43 as also in respect of future reports until such time it is found possible to renew the previous practice of publishing them.

(b) Such information as is readily available is being compiled and a statement will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

COMPOSITION OF EMPLOYEES' DELEGATION TO THE TRIPARTITE (LABOUR) CONFERENCES

†533. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees' Delegation to the Tripartite (Labour) Conferences or Standing Committee is composed of representatives of—

(i) the Indian Federation of Labour;

(ii) the All-India Trade Union Congress; and

(iii) other workers;

(b) which industries and workers are included in category (iii) of "other workers" and how their representatives are elected or nominated;

(c) if the representatives of "other workers" are nominated by Government, whether it is proposed to discontinue the practice; if not, why not; and

(d) on what basis and considerations Government nominate these delegates, and whether the Provincial Governments have any hand in such nominations; if so, to what extent?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). Category (iii) relates to labour interests not adequately represented on the two all-India labour organisations, viz., the All-India Trade Union Congress and the Indian Federation of Labour. The nominations are made by the Government of India after taking into consideration suggestions received from Provincial Governments. It is not the intention to discontinue the practice at least for the time being. Such nomination is necessary at the present stage of development of workers' organisations in the country.

ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT TARIFF BOARD

534. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) the steps taken towards setting up a permanent Tariff Board;

(b) the nature of the steps taken to manufacture machinery for various industries; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to import machinery from abroad?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) This question is under the consideration of Government.

(b) An industrial panel is being constituted to examine this question and make recommendations to Government.

(c) Licences are granted for the import of machinery from abroad to meet the essential requirements of the country regard being had to the limitations imposed by shipping space and supply difficulties in the exporting countries. As regards requirements for the post-war period, industrialists have been instructed to register their requirements with the Chief Controller of Imports so that necessary assistance may be given by Government to secure the goods from the supplying countries, whenever possible.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the difficulty in obtaining shipping space in war time, when will the consideration of the question regarding manufacture of machinery in India be completed by Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The whole question is under examination, not only machines but also other aspects of requirements of trade and industry in the country.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Have the Government of India come to any decision as regards the policy, whether they approve of the manufacture of machinery in this country or not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think the Government have declared their policy over and over again that whatever is possible to be produced in this country, the Government will spare no efforts to do that, but it is no use coming to an axiomatic general policy consideration without regard to the difficulties about requirements, raw materials, resources and other interests.

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

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that this question of the establishment of a permanent Tariff Board has been hanging fire for the last ten years?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not know it was hanging fire, it might be hanging, I do not know.

HEAVY DUTY ON IMPORT OF COTTON BORNE BY INDIAN MANUFACTURERS

535. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether it is a fact that very limited quantities of Egyptian cotton are released for Indian consumption and that East African cotton prices are higher than parity?

(b) Is it a fact that the Indian manufacturer has to bear the heavy duty on the import of cotton and that it was stated when this duty was imposed that the purpose was to stimulate the production of finer strain of cotton?

(c) Have Government any information as to the subsidy, which it is proposed by the American Government to give for the export of American cotton or as to the special price which they propose on the export of cotton held by the Government of the United States of America?

(d) Have Government considered the effect of the special handicaps to Indian industry in the matter of cotton and the special advantage to the United Kingdom industry in the matter of cotton and the resulting benefit of the price factor in favour of the United Kingdom?

(e) What precautions do Government propose to take in order to safeguard the capital and labour engaged in the textile industry in India against the United Kingdom textile goods which may be dumped in this country through export credits and export subsidies in addition to the advantage shown in part (d) above?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) The Honourable Member presumably refers to the additional import duty of one anna per lb. imposed under the Cotton Fund Ordinance, 1942. As regards the objects for which the Fund was created the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the *Press Communiques* issued by Government on the 26th January 1942 and the 29th January, 1942, copies of which I am placing on the table of the House.

(c) It is understood that under the United States of America cotton export subsidy programme announced on November 11, 1944, a subsidy of 4 cents per pound is granted on all cotton exported which is of a staple length of 15/16 inch or less.

(d) If the Honourable Member is referring to the additional duty of one anna per pound on raw cotton imported into India as a handicap, I may point out that the Indian cotton textile industry is in a position to pass it on to the consumer. I am not clear to which "price factor in favour of the United Kingdom" he is referring.

(e) Government are not aware of the grant of any export credits or export subsidies to the United Kingdom manufacturers.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

RELIEF FOR COTTON CULTIVATOR

Special Fund Created.

Ever since the breach of trade relations with Japan, the Government of India have been giving close attention to the effects on the cultivator of cotton of the cutting off of the most important markets for certain of the lower grades of raw cotton produced in India; and they recently decided to create a special fund which will enable them to undertake measure for the relief of the situation.

They have in view not merely immediate steps to steady the market by making purchases of raw cotton of the types concerned as suitable occasion arises, but also, in order to improve future prospects, arrangements for the financing, in co-operation with the Government of the Provinces and States concerned, of measures designed to assist the cultivator to change over from short staple cotton to other more useful crops, whether cottons of longer staples or entirely different crops, preferably food grains.

"B. S. Khehar"

"Commerce Department."
New Delhi, January, 26, 1942.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
PRESS COMMUNIQUE
COTTON CULTIVATORS' RELIEF FUND
Additional Duty on Imported Cotton

[28TH FEB. 1945]

The Government of India very recently issued a Press Communique announcing their decision to form a special fund to be used for the relief of cultivators of short staple cotton. The fund is to be created from the proceeds of the additional duty of 1 anna per lb. on imported raw cotton which has been imposed by an Ordinance issued today.

The Government of India wish to emphasise that the accounts of this fund will be kept separate from the general accounts of Government and that the imposition of the duty is a temporary measure.

Their intention is to remove the duty when they are satisfied that the amount in the fund has become sufficient to meet all the liabilities that will be incurred in pursuance of the objects for which it was created.

"B. S. Khehar".
Commerce Department.
New Delhi, January, 29, 1942.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government seen the text of the export credit scheme and the export subsidy scheme which we saw in the Press?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If the Government have seen it, then may I ask what steps, if any, Government are taking in order to see that the textile industry in India, however, prosperous it may appear at the moment, will be safeguarded against goods landed very much cheaper than the cost price?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I said once before that immediately this matter came to our notice, we have taken all possible active steps not only to know the position but also to discuss this position with others who can discuss this matter with us. I understand the whole question is being discussed at the next meeting of the International Cotton Advisory Committee in which Government will be represented and so far as I am concerned, the textile industry, has not yet made any complaint from the African and Egyptian point of view.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: While discussing this matter, will the Government also take into consideration the consumers interests, because the consumers are now paying three times the normal price which they ought to pay?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If my Honourable friend will only read the history of the Industries and Civil Supplies Department for the last fourteen months he will find that it is in the interest of the consumer that it is functioning.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: But the figures given by the Honourable the Finance Member in reply to my question show that the price of manufactured cotton goods is even now $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the price which prevailed in 1938, and though the price of cotton is much less, yet the price of piece goods is still much greater.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If my Honourable friend had compared the price which was prevailing in 1901, he would have found the price to be ten times greater. Surely that is not the basis of comparison.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member please give me a direct answer? May I know if anything has been done to reduce the price level? The price level, according to the figures given by the Honourable the Finance Member is $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the price which was prevailing before.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am afraid the Honourable Member misunderstood the explanation given by the Honourable the Finance Member. I am here referring to textiles. So far as textiles are concerned, we have succeeded in reducing the price level at least to half of what it was in 1943.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I was also talking about textiles.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am saying that we have reduced the price by half.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Is it not a fact that so far as textiles are concerned, the Government of India, in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, is a Branch of the Bombay Millowners Association?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I categorically deny it, and I consider it defamatory if it was said outside the House.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know when the Government expect the subsidised goods to arrive in this country?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not expect subsidised goods at all.

"BLUE PRINT" FOR THE FUTURE OF BURMA

536. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please make on the floor of the House a detailed statement on the "blue print" for the future of Burma?

(b) Is it a fact that the Honourable Member received a letter from the Council of the Imperial Citizens Association? If so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if the letter expresses that the "blue print", if accepted, would create mischief and would not be for welfare of Burma nor its happiness?

(c) Will the Honourable Member state all facts regarding this letter, and does he propose to take the Central Legislature into his confidence before he decides on the "blue print"?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) The 'blue-print' is the report of the Burma sub-committee of the Conservative Imperial Affairs Committee, London, and contains suggestions in regard to the future of Burma. It is not an official document and does not contain the views either of His Majesty's Government or of the Government of Burma.

(b) Yes.

(c) *First Part:* The letter contains the view of the Council of the Association on the 'blue-print'. I lay a copy of the letter on the table of the House for the Honourable Member's perusal. A copy of the letter has been forwarded to His Majesty's Government.

Second Part: The 'blue-print' is not a matter for the decision of the Government of India and the question therefore does not arise.

Copy of letter dated the 1st February 1945, from the Chairman, The Imperial Indian Citizenship Association, Sohrab House, 235, Hornby Road, Bombay, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commonwealth Relations, New Delhi.

Re. "Blue Print" for the future of Burma.

I am desired by the Council of this Association to convey to the Government of India their views on "Blue Print" for Burma which has been prepared by the Imperial Affairs Committee of the Conservative Party and signed by Peter Macdonald, its Chairman.

2. Briefly the main recommendations of the Committee are :—

(a) "When Burma is fully re-occupied there should be a period of reconstruction of fixed duration. During this period authority should rest with the Governor, with whom would immediately be associated a Council of representative Burmans, to assist him in work of reconstruction."

(b) At the end of six years Burma will have "full self-government subject to a treaty on defence and external relations between the Imperial and the Burmese Governments."

(c) The Blue Print Provides for a commercial treaty giving "reasonable security to British nationals engaged in the industrial and commercial rehabilitation of Burma."

(d) Under the plan, British firms operating in Burma would be "entitled to compensation for material loss or damage arising out of the war or the enemy occupation but full compensation should only be paid to firms that are willing to restart their operation on a satisfactory basis."

(e) On the subject of Currency, "this Committee agree that if the present arrangement for the management of the Burma currency by the Reserve Bank of India should be terminated the management of the currency should be entrusted to an *ad hoc* currency authority preferably a Burma Currency Board. The link between the Burma Currency and the Indian rupee should be maintained in the interest of the close trading relations between the two countries."

(f) The defence of Burma is an integral part of the defence of S. E. Asia and the necessary naval bases, military establishment and Air Force stations should be provided for under the treaty between H. M.'s Government and Burma."

(g) The local defence and internal security will remain a responsibility of the Burma Government.

(h) Every possible facility for the training of Burmese personnel should be provided in Imperial establishments

(i) It proposes the exclusion from the Burmese Dominion of the territories occupied by the Shans, Chins, Kachins and Karens "until such time as they clearly express their desire to join in".

3. Before separation from India in 1935, Burma was encouraged to believe that all her ills were due to her connection with India. Burmese were told that they were backward industrially, politically and educationally because she was a province of India and that if that state of affairs continued Burma would cease to be Burma. The Council do not believe that Burmese are happy under the Japanese rule but they feel that if the recommendations of the "Blue Print" are accepted, the pre-war artificial prejudices against Indians will reappear which by no means will contribute to Burma's future welfare and happiness. It will not help Britain, Burma or India if those who are responsible for the future of Burma are not benefited by past experiences.

4. The authors of the "Blue Print" have made a deliberate attempt to placate the Burmese at the expense of the non-British interests. They propose to compensate British capitalists for all their losses, but the Indians who suffered more than the British are not to be compensated. Apparently, according to the "Blue Print" Burma is to be treated by Britain as her special preserve by wiping out legitimate Indian interests in the country. On a close study of the recommendations it is abundantly clear that its authors are more anxious to keep Burma safe for British vested interests than to do justice to the children of the soil or to safeguard the rights of British Indian businessmen and workers who were in Burma before the War.

5. Several attempts have been made in the past to elicit a clear and definite declaration of policy from the British Government on the Burma question including, of course, the status of Indians in that country, but no satisfactory declaration has been made so far. If, however, the British Government are to base their policy on the recommendations of the "Blue Print", the Council have no hesitation in recording that such an action on their part will be considered by well-wishers of the British Commonwealth of Nations as violating all established standards of inter-nationals justice and fair-play. The British Government cannot do worse than to accept its recommendations.

6. The Council of Association understand that negotiations are going on at present between the Government of India and the Government of Burma for evolving an Agreement in connection with the subject of immigration and other vital matters. The Council would, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government of India the necessity of consulting such bodies as are interested in all questions connected with the status and position of Indians in Burma before any final Agreement is arrived at and that no Agreement should be concluded in connection with these vital matters without the approval of the Central Legislative Assembly.

7. The Council fears that persons known to be not friendly towards Indians in Burma like Sir A. Watson and others have already started a tirade against them. Recently he is reported to have stated :—

"The re-building of Burma is a task beyond the capacity of the Burmese. She will require expert and financial help. That help must be given by Britain. But she fears India might endeavour to help her neighbour in the re-building of her industry and agriculture and solemnly declares that any such move on the part of India will be unfair to the Burmese who in these years of freedom have developed the strongest prejudice against exploitation by Indians."

The Council are not aware of the sources of Sir A. Watson's inspiration to make such a startling statement. It seems that he is trying to prejudice British public opinion against Indians in Burma. The young Burmese now in India have repeatedly expressed a desire to live on friendly relations with their great neighbour, India. The Burmese Refugees' Association recently stated :—

"We have no desire that the Indians should be kept out merely to give Britain a monopoly of the exploitation of the 'undeveloped resources' of Burma We do not

desire that Indian capital forthcoming for employment in Burma should be subject to any discriminatory control."

Both Sir Paw Tun, First Adviser to the Governor of Burma, and U Tin Tut, in Charge of the Post-War Reconstruction Department, have made it clear that they would welcome the closest ties of alliance and friendship between Burma and India and only recently U Tin endorsed the public statement made by the Governor of Burma at the Conference held in March 1944, that there was no intention of treating Indian business enterprise in Burma differently from British enterprise.

India does not want to exploit Burma for her own selfish interests; she offers her friendly co-operation for the regeneration of an unfortunate neighbour. So far as Indians are concerned they do not want any special rights and privileges in Burma. But there is an unanimity of opinion in the Country that the rights and privileges which Indians will have in Burma shall in no way be less than those granted to Britishers and other foreigners.

8. It was recently reported that the Governor of Burma and his advisers would shortly visit England for conference with the Secretary of State for Burma in connection with the reconstruction work to be started as soon as Burma was reconquered. The Council of Association feel that India's case should not go by default and that representative Indians who are fully acquainted with the Indian interests in Burma should be invited to place India's point of view before the Secretary of State for India who is also the Secretary of State for Burma.

9. Since the "Blue Print" is a policy making document, the Council of the Association request the Government of India to forward their views on it to H. M.'s Government before the final policy on the future of Burma is formulated.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: In view of the fact that there has been a discussion on this subject in the House of Commons, will the Honourable Member arrange for a similar discussion in this House?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I will consider the matter.

RICE AND PADDY DESTROYED BY GOVERNMENT IN NORTH BIHAR

537. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a press interview of Mr. E. C. Ansouge, Food adviser to the Bihar Government, published at page 2, Column 4, of the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 8th February, 1945;

(b) whether it is a fact, as stated therein that a large quantity of rice and paddy had been destroyed by the Government in North Bihar;

(c) who purchased this grain, from where, when, and at what price; who examined it and passed it as fit and when (please give full details); and

(d) whether Government have made any enquiries about this matter and what action they have taken or contemplate to take in this matter so as to prevent its recurrence?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). A full statement of facts was given by the Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen, Director General of Food in the Council of State on the 15th November, 1944. A copy of the statement is placed on the Library table.

RECALLING OF MR. K. C. MAHINDRA

538. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state if it is a fact that Mr. K. C. Mahindra has been asked to wind up his work and to return to India?

(b) Have Government seen the report in the Press that His Excellency the Viceroy does not like the idea of increased Indo-U. S. A. trade after the war?

(c) What is the policy of Government with regard to trade between India and the United States of America after the war, and do Government propose to give an assurance that no restrictions of any kind, direct or indirect, will be placed on the full growth of such trade?

(d) What is the reason for the continued restriction on provision of dollars accruing to India from exports to the United States of America for purchase in that country?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the *press communique* issued this morning.

(b) Government have seen the press report referred to by the Honourable Member.

(c) It is too early yet to envisage the post-war economic conditions that are likely to influence the trade policy of the country. The Government will, however, have the best interests of the country in view in all such matters.

(d) Shortage of dollars for meeting dollar import requirements of the sterling area countries.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the prospective trade between India and the U. S. A. is going to be reduced because the Government of India have now put an official and not a business man in charge of the purchase mission?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not agree that putting an official in charge will reduce the business; it might increase.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With reference to part (b), what is the actual position of the Government of India if this particular press statement is not quite correct?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I cannot say: it should be answered by the Honourable Supply Member or the Honourable Information Member.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: With reference to part (d), is the Honourable Member aware that Egypt has made a satisfactory provision in regard to the supply of dollars for her needs from the 'Empire Dollar Pool', and is the Honourable Member going to take any steps to persuade his colleague the Finance Member to make a similar arrangement for this country also?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not aware of what arrangements have been made by Egypt, but we are constantly looking at this question to see how better provision can be made.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask whether Mr. Mahindra was asked to go or whether he himself offered to go?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The *press communique* quite clearly explains that it is a result of the policy which is necessary that this arrangement has been made. For more details I think my Honourable friend should ask the Honourable Supply Member.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether Government do not consider it wise to refute the feeling which is in this country that this man was asked to go because he was assisting Indian industrialists to buy machinery in the U. S. A., which Government did not approve?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I deny the allegation, but I think the Honourable Supply Member will be able to answer that question.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEMES

539. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state how many hydro-electric schemes are at present functioning in India?

(b) What is the amount of power generated by each of them?

(c) How much of this power is used for industrial purposes?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) 34 excluding private, industrial and military installations.

(b) It is not possible to give information about individual stations. The total energy generated by all the stations is approximately 1983 million K. W. H.

(c) About 56 per cent.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEMES

540. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Labour Member please state how many other hydro-electric schemes have been considered?

(b) How many of them are going to be dealt with by (i) the Government of India, (ii) the Provincial Governments, and (iii) the Indian States?

(c) What will be the total horse-power of these schemes?

(d) How many of them have been already sanctioned by the Government of India?

(e) For how many of them is machinery either under negotiation or under order?

(f) What is the approximate date when they are expected to function and make power available?

(g) Which of these schemes will be the first?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) A large number of schemes have recently been considered; several of them are in various stages of investigation. Plant requirements for 31 have so far been notified to the Secretary of State.

(b) (i) Under the present constitution, development of Hydro Electric Schemes falls within the purview of the Provincial Governments. The Government of India are, however, rendering them such assistance as is asked for through the Central Technical Power Board which they have recently set up for the initiation, co-ordination and pushing forward of electricity development schemes.

(ii) and (iii). Of the 31 schemes mentioned in reply to part (a), 14 are being dealt with by Provincial Governments, 13 by Indian States and 4 by private concerns.

(c) Approximately 6,70,000.

(d) 28 schemes requiring plant before the end of 1947 have so far been approved by the authorities concerned.

(e) Seven.

(f) Between the end of 1946 and 1949.

(g) The Mohammadpur Hydro Electric Scheme of the U. P. Government will probably be the first to start functioning out of post-war schemes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that the Government of India are unduly strict with regard to hydro-electric projects which are submitted to them from the Provinces and from the States?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not suppose there is any ground for believing that they are more strict than the necessities of the case require.

Mr. Manu Subedar: By what date does the Honourable Member expect most of these projected hydro-electric schemes to function?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I said that; between 1946 and 1949.

ELECTRICAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

†541. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member state why a copy of the report produced by the Electrical Commissioner with the Government of India has not been placed in the library of the House?

(b) Has the Policy Committee, in connection with power, reported?

(c) If so, will a copy of their report be made available to the Members of the Legislature?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Presumably the Honourable Member refers to the proceedings of the Technical Power Conference of which the Electrical Commissioner was the Chairman. The report is under print and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House as soon as the printed copies become available.

(b) and (c). Presumably the reference is to the second meeting of the policy Committee held on 2nd February 1945. The Record of the meeting is being finalised and copies will be placed in the library of the House in due course. The Record of the first meeting of the Committee is already available in the Library of the House.

CERTAIN ORDER OF THE RATIONING CONTROLLER, DELHI

542. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if his attention has been drawn to the issue of the *Daily Tej*, dated the 2nd February, 1945, giving news about the circulation of an order by the Rationing Controller, Delhi, requiring every "establishment" holding ration permits to deposit security either in cash or in the shape of National Saving Certificates not later than the 10th February, 1945, and to sign an agreement on a one rupee judicial stamp, which agreement is not enclosed with the said

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

order although it is written in the said order that the agreement is appended herewith?

(b) Is he aware of the public opinion regarding the validity of the order referred to in part (a) above?

(c) Will he please state the action that he proposes to take against this order?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes.

(b) I have seen some criticism in the press.

(c) The matter is under examination.

CLERICAL STAFF OF CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, KASAUJI

543. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state the present strength of the clerical staff of the Central Research Institute, Kasauli, and the present scale of their pay?

(b) Is the present scale of pay the result of a fresh revision or an amalgamation of the three previous grades?

(c) When were these three grades sanctioned by Government? Were they originally separate or on a time-scale of pay? And if in the latter case, why were a good many clerks not allowed to continue after reaching the maximum of their lower grades?

(d) How many of these clerks had to stop without getting any increment and for how many years?

(e) Was this fact taken into consideration while fixing pay at the time of amalgamation of the three existing grades? Was any representation made by the aggrieved members to the Director in this connection? If so, with what result?

(f) Do Government propose to do something to make good the loss sustained by them as a consequence of the stoppage of their increment?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A statement showing the required information is laid on the table of the House.

(b) The present scale for clerks is the result of amalgamation of three separate grades which existed previously.

(c) The three grades for old entrants were sanctioned in 1920 and those for new entrants in 1934. These grades were originally separate. The last part of the question does not arise.

(d) Sixteen clerks (including two now retired) received no increments for periods ranging from 1 year and 9 months to 16 years and 9 months, up to 28th February, 1942, when the scales were amalgamated.

(e) Information is being obtained, and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(f) There was no stoppage of increments and no question of compensation for loss arises.

Statement showing the present strength of the clerical staff of the Central Research Institute Kasauli, and the present scales of pay.

Permanent staff	Pay for old entrants	Pay for new entrants
1 Office Superintendent	200—10—300	180—10—240.
1 Head clerk	120—8—200	110—5—160.
20 Clerks	50—2—70 EB—3— 85—EB—5—110	45—2—65—EB—3— 80—EB—4—100.
Temporary staff		
4 Clerks	60—3—75	
1 Stenographer	100—5—175	

OVER-TIME PAY FOR STAFF OF CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, KASAUJI

544. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: (a) Has the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands sanctioned any over-time pay for the staff of the Central Research Institute, Kasauli, and is that applicable to all members?

(b) Why is it not sanctioned for the ministerial staff?

(c) Is the staff entitled to work over-time after the prescribed hours? If so, what are the daily timings and duration of such periods every month?

(d) Do Government propose to give reasons for sanctioning over-time pay for one section of the staff and ignoring others in the same buildings?

(e) Is there any new unified time-scale of pay sanctioned by Government for its personnel which may be availed of by the permanent staff?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A consolidated over-time pay equivalent to twenty-five per cent. of basic pay has been sanctioned for all non-ministerial permanent pensionable and non-pensionable superior establishment, and all permanent inferior establishment, temporary staff and inferior servants paid from contingencies.

(b) and (d). The nature of their work is different.

(c) The staff is required to work over-time as and when the state of work makes it necessary. It is not possible to give information regarding daily timings and duration of periods during which over-time is worked as they vary from time to time.

(e) A unified scale of pay has been sanctioned for temporary Central Government clerical employees working in certain places. In places where the unified scale is applicable permanent staff have the option to elect to draw it for the time it is in force.

HILL-ALLOWANCE FOR STAFF OF CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, KASAUJI

545. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether there is any hill-allowance sanctioned by Government for its employees in Kasauli? Is that also allowed to the staff of the Central Research Institute? Has any representation been made to Government and with what result?

(b) Is there any hill-allowance for those stationed in Simla? If so, why there is no such allowance for those in Kasauli?

(c) How do the prices of essential commodities and the cost of living in Kasauli compare with those in Simla?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (c). The information is being collected and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(b) The staff of certain offices of the Government of India classed as migratory are entitled to allowances when in Simla. The staff of the Central Research Institute at Kasauli, not being migratory, is not entitled to those allowances.

ASSOCIATION OF STAFF OF CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, KASAUJI

546. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether there is any association of the staff of the Central Research Institute working for the benefit of its employees? Did the staff ever apply to the Director for permission to start such an association?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The reply to the first part is in the negative and to the second part in the affirmative.

HOUSE-RENT AND WINTER ALLOWANCES FOR STAFF OF CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE KASAUJI

547. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether there is any house-rent allowance or winter-allowance sanctioned by Government for the staff stationed in Simla? If so, is it also allowed to the staff of the Central Research Institute at Kasauli?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The answer to the first part is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, KASAUJI

548. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state the present income and expenditure of the Central Research Institute at Kasauli?

(b) If there is a surplus, will Government consider the proposal to revise

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

the present scale of the staff in order to bring it to the level of the other attached offices of the Central Government?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A statement showing the receipts and expenditure of the Institute for 1943-44 is laid on the table of the House.

(b) No. The pay of the staff is fixed with reference to the nature of their work and responsibilities and not with reference to the financial results of the working of the Institute.

Statement showing the receipts and expenditure of the Central Research Institute, Kasauli, for the year 1943-44

	Rs.
Total income	12,04,712
Total expenditure	4,77,589

INDIAN MINING ENGINEERS (GEOLOGICAL SURVEY) AT KODARMA

549. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the total number of Indian Mining Engineers employed under the Stores and Purchase Section of the Geological Survey of India since 1943, at Kodarma and their scale of pay?

(b) Is it a fact that the cases of Indian Mining Engineers for increments have never been considered, though the work done by the Indian Mining Engineers is of the same nature as that done by the European Mining Engineers whose cases have been recommended for increment by the Supervisory Field Officer?

(c) Is it a fact that none of the European Mining Engineers had any previous experience of Mica mining and still they have been entrusted with the task of giving instruction to the various mica mine owners as to how to develop the mica mines?

(d) Is it a fact that the Indian Mining Engineers though with better experience of Mica mining draw only Rs. 450, whereas European mining Engineers draw Rs. 800 or in some case Rs. 1,200? Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for this discriminatory treatment?

(e) Is it a fact that Government issued an order to the Director, Geological Survey of India, to suggest the name of some Indian Mining Engineers for the post of Supervisory Field Officer at Kodarma in 1943? Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the recommendations of the Director, Geological Survey of India, regarding the above?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons, in detail, which led to the appointment of a European with only two years experience of mica factory work, as Government Inspector of Mica though there were Indians with twenty years of experience of mica factory and their cases were even recommended strongly by Mr. F. F. Watts, an American member of the Mica Mission?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Five Indian Officers since 1943. At present 3 Indian Officers—Scale of pay Rs. 200—15—500.

(b) No, the Government of India have sanctioned a time-scale of pay for all mining engineers.

(c) No. The European Mining Engineers are University trained Mining Engineers and have had very considerable and wide experience of mining, the principles and application of which are no different for mica than for any other mineral.

(d) No. The pay of Mining Engineers is fixed with reference to their qualifications, experience and previous conditions of service which vary with individuals. If European Mining Engineers draw higher rates of pay it is on account of their greater experience and responsibilities.

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

(f) The Government of India have made the appointment after taking into consideration all the factors, and they have no information regarding Mr. Watt's recommendations.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: With reference to part (c), may I know if the Honourable Member has been in any mica mine himself?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Of course I have.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (d), how is it that one Mr. Crossfield has got an increment of Rs. 700 in a period of two years, in preference to more qualified Indians?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have said that the Europeans have better qualifications than the Indians.

IMPORTATION OF FOREIGNERS TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

550. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if it is a fact that a number of Europeans and Foreigners are being imported and new posts being created in the Archaeological Department of the Government of India? If so, how many of them are (i) Englishmen, (ii) Australians, and (iii) South Africans?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. Dermot Casey, has been brought over here from Australia to take charge of the school run by the Archaeological Survey of India at Taxila? If so, what are his qualifications, special or otherwise?

(c) Is it not a fact that several Indians are best fitted to hold the job which is in the charge of Mr. Dermot Casey?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No.

(b) Mr. Dermot Casey was appointed temporarily for six months from the 15th September to assist the Director General in conducting the school of technical archaeology for Indian students at Taxila. Mr. Casey has wide experience of modern methods of archaeological excavations and has previously been associated with the present Director General in the conduct of excavations.

(c) No Indian with the necessary experience in modern archaeological methods was available.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I would like to add that there is another European officer working at Taxila in an honorary capacity.

Mr. K. S. Gupta: Is Mr. Dermot Casey the younger brother of the Governor of Bengal?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I understand that he is.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How many Indians he has superseded?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I should like to add that the Governor of Bengal had nothing to do with the appointment.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Except by way of a psychological pressure!

AIR SURVEY BY ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

551. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if it is a fact that an air survey was made by the Archaeological Department? If so, when was the survey conducted?

(b) Is there any report of the air survey made? If so, would it be placed on the table of the House?

(c) Is it a fact that several new sites of the famous Megalithic remains in Madras are revealed by such survey? Will Government improve the sites of the famous Megalithic remains to attract people from far and near to appreciate the historical and pre-historical geography of India?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) to (c). Information has been called for and will be furnished to the House when received.

STEPS FOR SAFEGUARDING INDIAN INTERESTS IN BURMA TRADE

†552. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) What steps has the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations taken to safeguard the interests of Indian merchants in the Burma trade?

(b) Is it a fact that the Burmese territory liberated from the enemy is under military control?

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

(c) Is it a fact that European merchants are getting every kind of facility to visit the place and to organize business, whereas Indian Merchants and their agents are not given the same facilities?

(d) Have Government accepted the "Blue Print for Burma" according to which there is going to be a deliberate attempt to exclude Indians from the trade of Burma as far as possible?

(e) What trade facilities have so far disclosed themselves?

(f) Have Government made any survey of the same?

(g) Have they received any report? If so, will they circulate this report to members of the House?

(h) Do Government propose to grant facilities for an authoritative deputation of the Federation of Indian industry and commerce to visit liberated Burma with a view to submitting to Government proposals for possible trade?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a), (e), (f), and (g). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given in this House on the 21st February 1945 to part (d) of Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya's starred question No. 448, regarding trade with liberated parts of Burma.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The "Blue Print for Burma" is not an official document and the question of its acceptance by the Government of India does not arise.

(h) Conditions in the liberated areas are not at present sufficiently stabilised to permit entry of representatives of private trade.

REMOVAL OF BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS FROM IMPERIAL LIBRARY, CALCUTTA

553. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state whether rare and valuable books and manuscripts belonging to the Imperial Library were removed from Calcutta as a precautionary measure? If so, when and where were they removed and how many are they in number?

(b) In whose immediate custody are they being kept, and is proper care being taken of them for their preservation in a good condition?

(c) Are they available to scholars? If so, on what conditions?

(d) Have these books, etc., and the condition of their storage come under inspection from time to time since their removal from Calcutta, at the hands of any responsible officer of the Government of India not immediately connected with the Imperial Library? If so, who have made these inspections and when, and what reports have been made about the condition of these books and manuscripts?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes. The most valuable publications of the Library, numbering about ten thousand, were removed from Calcutta in February 1942 as a precautionary measure and deposited with the Aligarh Muslim University for safe custody.

(b) The books are in the charge of the University Authorities. The Government of India have taken necessary measures for their proper care and preservation.

(c) Not at present. The latter part does not arise.

(d) No inspection of the books has been carried out by any officer of the Government of India not connected with the Imperial Library. This is the responsibility of the Imperial Librarian and he pays periodical visits to Aligarh for this purpose.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member has said that the Government of India have taken necessary steps for the proper care and preservation of these books. May I know what these steps have been?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, I am glad to give the Honourable Member the information he has asked for. They are at present contained in some 300 boxes lined with galvanized sheet soldered at the top to make it air-tight and each box contains from three to five pounds of naphthalene balls as a safeguard against insects.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Do I take it then that the books have remained in their original condition for the last three years; and if so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to assure this House that the condition of packages is sufficiently air-tight to protect the books against deterioration.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I understand that that is so. I am not prepared to say that none of them have been opened. I think it is possible that occasionally a book has had to be taken out, but I understand that the packing is in excellent condition.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that these books, which are kept in the Aligarh University, are examined periodically—every month—by one officer of the Imperial Library, an officer of the University Library, and one other officer to see that the books are properly kept. A report is given periodically.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I was not aware that it is done once a month, but generally what the Honourable Member says is correct.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Do I take it that all the packages are opened once a month?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Certainly not.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Packages cannot be opened every month; they are carefully examined from outside.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Only the outside of the packages are examined: is that the position?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, Sir.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member prepared to accept the responsibility for any deterioration that may take place as a result of the attitude of the Government in this matter?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Department certainly accept responsibility in this matter.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member depute an expert to find out by opening some of the books at random as to whether the books have already not deteriorated?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am not prepared to do so. We are perfectly satisfied, and we hope that very shortly we shall be able to return the books to the library.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: May I ask if the Honourable Member will consider sending these books to Delhi instead of to Calcutta?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That raises a different matter. The Imperial Library is located in Calcutta, and I think we should certainly return them to the Imperial Library at Calcutta.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: The Imperial Library was located at Calcutta because the Government of India was located there. Now that the Government of India have shifted their headquarters to Delhi, will the Honourable Member consider shifting the Imperial Library also to Delhi?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That raises quite a different question.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: When does the Honourable Member expect to return the books to the Library?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It is in the hands of the Governing Body of the Imperial Library and I believe they had a meeting yesterday. This was one of the items on their agenda, but what they decided I do not yet know.

RICE AND WHEAT SUPPLIED TO BENGAL GOVERNMENT FOR CALCUTTA

554. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state the total quantity of rice and wheat supplied by the Central Food Supply Department to the Bengal Government for supply to Calcutta proper and industrial centres attached to Calcutta in 1943-44 and at what price?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the total quantity of *aus* and *aman* paddy purchased and made into rice or rice purchased by the Government of Bengal in 1943-44 and at what price?

(c) What surplus was left after a year's consumption by Calcutta consumer and Bengal consumer of rice at the end of December, 1944?

(d) What is the quantity of *aman* rice, purchased by the Government of Bengal in January and up to the 15th February, 1945?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Supplies of rice and wheat to Bengal arranged by the Central Government were as follows:—

235,470 tons of rice between 1st November 1943 and 2nd November 1944; and 469,127 tons of wheat between 1st April 1943 and 30th April 1944, I regret that I cannot undertake the compilation of a statement of prices, as these varied considerably according to the season and the source of supply.

(b) The total quantity, in terms of rice, purchased by the Bengal Government during 1944 was over a million tons. Details about the varieties purchased and the prices are not available.

(c) The total stocks in the hands of the Bengal Government at the end of 1944 was over half a million tons.

(d) The Honourable Member will appreciate that it is not in the public interest to disclose this information at this stage in the season.

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS RICE WITH BENGAL GOVERNMENT

555. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Is the Honourable the Food Member aware of the fact that the Government of Bengal is in a position and desire to export the surplus rice out of India, if permitted?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if rice or paddy in *mofussil* has been purchased by the Government of Bengal at the rate of Rs. 4 and Rs. 5 per maund, at the most? If so, does he propose to reduce the price of rationed rice from Rs. 16-4-0 to Rs. 9 from the next month?

(c) What steps is the Honourable Member contemplating to take to reduce the price of rice all over Bengal and does he propose to fix the price according to the quality of rice?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) and (c). I am not aware that purchases have been made at the price quoted. The issue prices of certain coarse varieties of rice have already been greatly reduced and the question of fixing prices according to quality is under consideration.

SCHEDULED CASTES EMPLOYEES OF CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

556. *Mr. Piare Lall Kureel: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of members of the scheduled castes employed in the Central Public Works Department as Executive Engineers, Sub-Divisional Officers and Subordinates in the permanent, temporary and work-charged staff, separately;

(b) whether it is a fact that none of the temporary incumbents of the posts of Subordinates belonging to the members of the scheduled castes were confirmed as permanent staff during the year 1944; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take to secure a fair representation of the members of the scheduled castes among the permanent staff of the Central Public Works Department?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). The number of permanent and temporary Executive Engineers in the Central Public Works Department is 12 and 55 respectively. Two of the temporary Executive Engineers are members of the Scheduled Castes. There are no officers of that community among the permanent Executive Engineers and there are no posts of Executive Engineers borne on the work-charged establishment.

The rest of the information required by the Honourable Member is not readily available. It is being collected and will be supplied to him as soon as possible.

(c) Under the orders regarding communal representation in the Public services, one out of every twelve vacancies (other than vacancies filled by promotion) is set aside for members of the Scheduled Castes. These orders, which

are generally applicable to all classes of posts in the Central Public Works Department will secure a fair representation for members of the Scheduled Castes, in that Department.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask whether the Scheduled Castes are reckoned as one of the minorities so that their share comes from 33 per cent?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: They are a separate category.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Then if you put them in a separate category, how will the percentage of 33 per cent., reserved for minorities, be affected by this category?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is not affected at all; it is quite apart from that.

RE-PUBLICATION OF THE "NATIONAL HERALD"

557. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) whether any application was received by Government from the Managing Director of the *National Herald* of Lucknow, asking for permission to resume publication of the paper;

(b) if the Government of India did actually grant the requisite permission and even allotted a quota of newsprint;

(c) if it is a fact that the communication conveying the said news was stopped by the United Provinces Government who insisted on the reconsideration of the matter by the Government of India; and if the previous permission was thereupon cancelled;

(d) what exactly the considerations were that impelled Government finally to withhold permission;

(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) if Government propose to reconsider their decision in this matter?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). No.

(d) Government regret that it is not in the public interest to give the information asked for.

(e) Yes.

(f) No.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I know if the Honourable Member's Department is interested in the politics of a paper or in the amount of newsprint available?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We are not interested in the policy of the paper. The system followed is that we are not only seeing to the paper position but also to the opinion of the different authorities who are responsible for the provincial administration. It is as a result of a consideration of all these factors as also from time to time taking the advice of the Newspaper Advisory Committee that decisions are taken on such matters.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is it a fact that the Government of India decide the matter, like the one mentioned in the question, for themselves, or do they follow the advice given by the Provincial Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: When referring to any special questions, our policy has been to consult the Province in which the newspaper is published as also to consult from time to time on such matters as are brought before the Newspaper Advisory Committee, and as a result of all these consultations decisions are taken.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know whether in this matter the Government of the United Provinces brought pressure on the Government of India not to permit the paper to resume publication?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: There was no pressure but certainly the views of the Provincial Government are always considered.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: At what stage during the correspondence did the United Provinces Government come in?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not prepared to disclose the details of the views received from the Province.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Was the advice received by this Government based on political considerations?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not for me to answer beyond what I have said.

NEWSPAPER CONTROL ORDER AND NEWSPAPERS ALLOWED TO START OR RE-APPEAR

558. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies 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 that applied for 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?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) 90.

(b) and (c). Collection of the information asked for will involve an expenditure of time and labour which Government do not consider justified in present conditions.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the Honourable Member's reply to parts (b) and (c), am I to take it that the figures are very very large?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As regards the papers that have asked for permission to restart, I may state that immediately the paper shortage began, there was a demand all over India to start papers.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With regard to parts (b) and (c) were the views of the Newspaper Advisory Committee sought in regard to the special applications made for newsprint?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Not in every case.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What was the advice rendered by this Committee in regard to the *National Herald*?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not prepared to disclose the nature of the advice received by Government.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know whether the grounds on which the permission is refused include political considerations?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, Sir.

REMOVAL OF THE SIGN BOARD OF THE "NATIONAL HERALD"

559. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) if the Regional Food Controller of Lucknow has his office in the same building at Lucknow as the Associated Journals, Limited, the proprietors of the *National Herald*;

(b) if the Food Controller asked the Sign Board of the *National Herald* to be removed;

(c) if it was pointed out to him that under the Indian Companies Act, it was essential for a company to have such a board on its premises;

(d) if the provisions of the Defence of India Rules were used in order to requisition more rooms in the said building and get the Notice Board removed;

(e) if Government will inquire whether these rooms were needed for the Food Controller's Office; and

(f) if they propose the delivering back of the rooms and the putting up of the Sign Board?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a), (b), (c) and (d). The Government of India have no information.

(e) and (f). The Regional Food Controller is an officer of the Provincial Government, and not of my Department.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the Government have called for information after this question was received?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, Sir. We have no concern in the matter.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I take it that as the Department does not function in the Province at all? Is it not a fact that the Provincial authorities derive all their authority from the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, Sir.

INTRODUCTION OF ENGLISH MEDIUM IN HIGHER SECONDARY CLASSES IN DELHI

†560. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether it is a fact that with the introduction of the new educational scheme in the schools of Delhi, the medium of instruction in the Higher Secondary classes has been changed into English?

(b) Are Government aware that the Delhi Province Teachers' Association had passed a resolution protesting against this innovation?

(c) Are Government aware that the Board of Higher Secondary Education had also passed a resolution to the same effect in support of the one passed by the Delhi Province Teachers' Association, which ultimately received the sanction of the Chief Commissioner, Delhi?

(d) Are Government aware that the Superintendent of Education has not given effect to this resolution so far?

(e) Do Government propose to give consideration to the resolutions of the Delhi Province Teachers' Association?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Resolution passed by the Board of Higher Secondary Education, Delhi, related to a change in the medium of examination and not that of instruction. This resolution ultimately received the sanction of the Chief Commissioner, Delhi.

(d) The Resolution was subsequently reconsidered and amended by the Board. It is being given effect to in connection with the examination of 1949.

(e) Resolutions of the Delhi Province Teachers' Association are given due consideration by the Central Government.

SYLLABUS FOR SECONDARY CLASSES IN DELHI

†561. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to say if it is not a fact that the syllabus prescribed for the teaching of secondary classes in Delhi is spread over three years without specifying any particular portion of the syllabus for the different years?

(b) Is it a fact that the Education Board of Delhi have laid down that only M. A.'s can teach in the highest of the secondary classes, that is, in class XI, and that a graduate teacher can teach only up to classes IX and X?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes, except for those subjects where it has been considered necessary to prescribe syllabuses on a yearly basis.

(b) Yes.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS OF TEACHERS FOR CLASS XI IN DELHI

†562. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether Government are aware that at the end of the rules framed by the Recognition Committee of the Board of Higher Secondary Education, Delhi, regarding the minimum qualifications of teachers for Higher Secondary class, there is a note to the effect that old experienced graduate teachers fulfilling certain conditions should be considered competent to teach class XI in schools?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Head-masters and teachers entitled to the privilege under this exemption 'note' and the number of those who have actually been granted the exemption in various subjects other than 'Physical Science' and 'Lower Mathematics'?

(c) Are Government aware that the Education Board, Delhi, insists on the school managements making new appointments of M.A.'s and M.Sc.'s for class

XI even though such schools have on their staff graduate teachers who duly fulfil the conditions laid down in the exemption 'note' aforementioned?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, do Government propose to instruct the Education Board not to compel such managements to make new appointments?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes.

(b) The maximum number of graduate teachers who could be considered for this concession was 69. Of these 26 have been granted exemption under the rule.

(c) Yes, whenever the Board consider it necessary. Exemptions are granted at the discretion of the Board; the 'note' referred to by the Honourable Member is *permissive* and not obligatory.

(d) Government do not consider it necessary to issue any instructions to the Board in the matter.

LICENCE TO TAJMAHAL PICTURES OF BOMBAY

563. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state on what grounds he has given licence to one Tajmahal Pictures of Bombay, when this concern had already closed its business and even offices in March 1942?

(b) Is it not a fact that several Producers having produced pictures in 1942 are still waiting in suspense for their license from his Department? If so, which are they?

(c) Does his Department consult the Film Production Licence Sub-Committee of Bombay before allotting the raw film to Producers? If so, how many cases are still pending such disposal?

(d) Is it a fact that a licence has been given to one Sadhana Bose, who has never produced a single picture? If so, on what merit?

(e) How many cases have been recommended by the Film Production Licence Sub-Committee of Bombay and submitted also through the Government Nominee of the Advisory Committee to his Department for licensing, and which are they?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) As far as our information go, Tajmahal Pictures did not stop their business from March 1942 onwards. They were granted a licence because Government were satisfied that they could not actually produce a picture after their last picture in February 1942, despite their active intention and preparatory action for doing so and that considerable hardship would be caused, if a licence was not granted to them.

(b) *First part:* Film licensing is based on production record of producers in financial years and not calendar years. If the Honourable Member is referring to that part of calendar year, 1942, which falls in the financial year, 1942-43, the reply is in the negative. If on the other hand, reference is to that part which falls in 1941-42, it is not possible to meet the requirements of producers of this class as a whole in view of the insufficiency of raw stock. The producers concerned have already been informed of this and therefore the question of issuing licences to them is not pending in the Department.

Second part: Does not arise.

(c) *First part:* It is presumed that reference is to the Film Advisory Committee. This Committee is consulted from time to time on matters pertaining to the film industry as a whole including the general question of allotment of raw films to producers, arising out of the working of the Film Control Order.

Second part: The question is not clear to me.

(d) *First part:* Yes.

Second part: On Mrs. Sadhana Bose's merits as a well-known *danseuse* whose record of contribution to the exposition of the Indian Dancing is worth preserving.

(e) I am afraid the question is not clear to me.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: What is the composition of the Committee to which the Honourable Member has referred?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Its members are selected from the Film business.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: This means that only those people who have got vested interests meet to give decisions?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not on every matter but on general questions of policy they are consulted.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: That policy is laid down by people who have vested interests?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: They never lay down the policy. They are consulted. The Government does that.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Does the Honourable Member mean that whatever advice is given by that Committee is not accepted by the Department?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Not necessarily. We have to give it consideration. We have to see to the interests of all concerned.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Is it not true that Government have made a distinction between producers who have a studio and those who have not and that there is great discontent on account of this arbitrary denial of raw films to certain people?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As a matter of fact this is one of the most difficult tasks which the Department has to face. At the time when this function began there was so much shortage and so much demand that quite a good number of people could not get their requirements. We have tried to help them. But with individual questions, it is open to everybody to take a different view. So far as I am concerned, I am quite satisfied.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member referred to the Committee attached to his Department. Is it not a fact that at a recent meeting of that Committee, certain members complained of the arbitrary character of the decisions given by the Honourable Member's Department in certain individual cases?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not prepared to disclose the nature of the advice received.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Ah! ah!

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: ... and it is quite easy for my friend to say "Ah", and pick out any individual case and say that he is not satisfied.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it a fact that personal visits paid by film stars to officers of this Department have determined action in many cases?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not so, Sir.

(At this stage several Honourable Members interrupted.)

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

LIENS ON NEW DELHI QUARTERS OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS TRANSFERRED TO CALCUTTA AND BOMBAY

564. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that allotment to Government servants of Government quarters at New Delhi is made according to seniority in service which is reckoned from the date of a person's continuous appointment at New Delhi/Simla;

(b) whether such persons transferred to Simla hold their liens on quarters at New Delhi during the period of their transfer;

(c) whether Government laid down recently that officers transferred to the Branch Secretariat at Calcutta are also allowed to retain liens on Government quarters at New Delhi whereas those transferred to Attached Offices will not be eligible for this privilege;

(d) whether it is a fact that the staff transferred to Calcutta with the office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department, was allowed to retain liens on their quarters at New Delhi and were allotted quarters on their return to Delhi;

(e) whether it is a fact that the period of break in the continuous employment of certain persons employed in the Central Public Works Department which occurred on account of their transfers to places other than Simla has been condoned on their re-transfer to Delhi, as a special case;

(f) whether it is a fact that the Central Government servants transferred from Delhi to Calcutta, Bombay, etc., in the interest of service are not allowed to hold liens on their quarters at New Delhi and on their return to New Delhi are considered not to be continuously employed for the purposes of allotment of quarters; and

(g) whether Government propose to accord such persons the same treatment as is accorded in the cases mentioned in parts (c) and (e) above?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes.

(b) Persons transferred to Simla on or before 10th November 1942 retain liens on quarters occupied by them in New Delhi but those transferred to Simla after that date temporarily are allowed to retain liens for a period of one year from the date of their transfer.

(c) Yes.

(d) Two members of the staff of the Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department, were allowed to retain the quarters allotted to them in Delhi for the period of their stay in Calcutta which was less than one year.

(e) Yes, but the break in such cases was under one year.

(f) Central Government servants are allowed to retain liens on their quarters if the Departments concerned certify that the individuals will return to Delhi within a period of one year.

(g) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (f).

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

PRODUCTION CESS ON COAL MINES

565. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if Government have levied a Production cess of Rs. 1-4-0 on portion of coal despatched from mines in British India?

(b) Is the cost of recruiting unskilled labour from Gorakhpur, Ballia and other districts of the United Provinces and their maintenance at the coal fields defrayed out of the proceeds of the cess?

(c) What is the Contract Form the labour (including women) have to sign? Will Government place on the table of the House a copy of the order under which this labour is recruited and their contract form?

(d) What is the machinery to recruit them?

(e) Where are they usually stationed?

(f) What was the approximate number of this labour at the various coalfields on the 31st December, 1944?

(g) Have separate camps been established for them? If so, are latrine and bath-room conveniences provided?

(h) How many batches have been sent by now and what is their numerical strength?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes.

(b) The expenditure is initially met by Government. A part of it is recovered from mine owners and the balance is recouped from the Production Cess Fund.

(c) No form of contract is signed by labourer who verbally agree to serve for a period of 6 or 12 months.

(d) Labour Supply Depot, Gorakhpur, run by the Government of the United Provinces.

(e) Coalfields in Bengal and Bihar and Singareni colliery in Hyderabad.

(f) (i) Bengal/Bihar coalfields. 15,400.

(ii) Singareni Colliery. 2,500.

(g) Yes, latrines are provided in most camps and will soon be provided in all, but not bath-rooms. Adequate water supply is however made available.

(h) The total number of labourers despatched is:
Bengal/Bihar coalfields. 37,000.
Singareni collieries. 5,000.

MEDICAL AID AT COAL MINE WORKERS CAMPS

566. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to say if there is any provision for rendering medical aid to the coal mine workers at their camps?

(b) If so, has any schedule been drawn up for maintaining any minimum stock of medicines and surgical instruments at such camps? What is the number of medical staff and their qualifications?

(c) Is there any arrangement for the treatment of venereal diseases at these camps?

(d) Is any record maintained of the incidence of sickness?

(e) If so, what is the total number of cases of malaria and venereal diseases from the beginning of these establishments of the labour camps up to the 31st December, 1944?

(f) Is there any arrangement for periodical medical examination of the workers?

(g) If so, what are the diseases most prevalent which these examinations show and their percentage?

(h) Have any deaths taken place? If so, how many and due to what reasons?

(i) Is there any supervision machinery for the Medical Department of the Camp? Does the local Civil Surgeon visit the camps and treat serious cases? Are serious cases taken to Civil Hospitals?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes.

(b) An adequate stock of medical supplies and surgical instruments are kept at each camp. One graduate in medicine is in charge of each camp with more than 1,000 labourers; while one licentiate in medicine is in charge of each camp with less than 1,000 labourers.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(e) The camps are spread over a large area and it has therefore not been possible to collect the information in the time available.

(f) Yes.

(g) Anaemia. In this case also time is required to collect the statistics asked for.

(h) Yes, 156 up to end of last December. The majority of deaths is due to natural causes. A small number is due to accidents at work-sites.

(i) Yes. A post of Chief Medical Officer of the Directorate of Unskilled Labour Supply has been sanctioned. In view of the special provisions made the local Civil Surgeon does not visit the camps. Serious cases are taken to Civil Hospitals.

RATIONS AT COAL MINE WORKERS CAMPS

567. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if the workers living at these mining labour camps are provided with rations directly by Government or through a contractor?

(b) Is each worker allowed to draw his ration separately or are the rations given in bulk to a gang of fifty men?

(c) Is it a fact that labour are usually supplied short weights by the contractor?

(d) Can this labour purchase their rations from the Local Government Ration Shops or Depots? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Workers in mining labour camps are issued rations by Government through a contractor under the supervision of Group Officers.

- (b) Rations are issued weekly in bulk for each gang;
 (c) No.
 (d) No; as they are issued free Government rations.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENTS AT COAL MINE WORKERS CAMPS

568. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that corporal punishment is being given to the workers at these coal mining labour camps? Does this apply to men and women both?

- (b) Does any machinery exist for the redress of these workers' grievances?
 (c) Are the Labour Welfare Adviser to the Government of India and his Assistants or the Coal Mines Welfare Commissioner and the officers under him empowered to look after the welfare of these workers or conduct inquiries into their grievances? If not, why not?
 (d) If so, who investigates their complaints?
 (e) Is any record maintained of these cases?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) No. There are no women's camps.

(b) Yes. The workers can approach the Deputy Director Labour Supply (Coal) for redress of grievances.

(c) No. The Labour Camps are looked after by the Deputy Director Labour Supply (Coal) and his staff.

(d) Chief Liaison Officer and the Group officers of the Unskilled Labour Supply Directorate.

(e) If cases are submitted in writing, the records are kept in the office of the Deputy Director Labour Supply (Coal). Oral complaints are dealt with on the spot. Where considered necessary records are kept.

RESTRICTION ON SIZE OF LETTER PAPER FOR PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE

569. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please refer to his answer to starred question No. 606 on the 20th November, 1944, regarding restriction on size of note paper for private correspondence and state:

(a) if the restriction imposed on the size of Note-paper used for correspondence applies to any paper on which letters are written or only to papers with printed letter-heads;

(b) if the object of the restriction is to prevent persons from writing long letters or only to enforce that each single sheet used by them should not be larger than the prescribed size; and

(c) if more than one sheet of the prescribed size is permissible for any one single letter, and, if so, how many sheets?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The restriction imposed on the size of letter paper applies irrespective of whether it is blank paper or has a printed letter-head.

(b) The object is to avoid waste in the use of paper.

(c) There is no restriction on the number of sheets of the authorized size which can be used for any single letter.

LIST OF TITLES FOR INDIAN NATIONALS

570. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please refer to his replies to starred questions Nos. 604 and 605 on the 20th November, 1944, and state:

(a) if the list of thirty-six titles given was a complete one;

(b) if the titles of C.S.I., C.I.E., and various medals and bars in connection with the title called Kaser-i-Hind not mentioned in the said list, are being still awarded; or if they have been withdrawn;

(c) if he will please give the various titles in full, stating whether the different orders are 'exalted', 'eminent' or 'honourable' and show where 'C' stands for 'Commander' and where for 'Companion'; and

(d) the authorities entitled to make recommendations for the grant of titles?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes.

(b) The Honours specified by the Honourable Member do not carry with them the right to the use of any title such as 'Sir' or 'Rao Bahadur' before the name. They are still awarded.

(c) A list is laid on the table.

(d) The grant of titles is a prerogative function and it is for the Crown to decide from whom recommendations should be received.

Statement

List of various titles in full, showing which orders are 'exalted', 'eminent' or 'honourable' and where 'C' stands for 'Commander' and where for 'Companion'.

1. The Most Honourable Order of the Bath—

Knights Grand Cross	G. C. B.
Knights Commanders	K. C. B.
Companions	C. B.

2. The most Exalted Order of the Star of India—

Knights Grand Commanders	G. C. S. I.
Knights Commanders	K. C. S. I.
Companions	C. S. I.

3. The Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire—

Knights Grand Commanders	G. C. I. E.
Knights Commanders	K. C. I. E.
Companions	C. I. E.

4. The Royal Victorian Order—

Knights Grand Cross	G. C. V. O.
Knights Commanders	K. C. V. O.
Commanders	C. V. O.
Members	M. V. O.

5. The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire—

Knights Grand Cross or Dames Grand Cross	G. B. E.
Knights Commanders	K. B. E.
Dames Commanders	D. B. E.
Commanders	C. B. E.
Officers	O. B. E.
Members	M. B. E.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

COTTON YARN AND TEXTILES OF FINER COUNTS

24. Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please make a statement showing:

(a) the total capacity of the Indian textile mills to produce yarn and textiles of the finer counts;

(b) the average quantity of such yarn and textiles that are actually being manufactured at present;

(c) the quantities of cotton yarn and textiles of finer counts that have on an average been imported into India during the period immediately preceding the outbreak of the war;

(d) the quantities of such yarn and textiles that have been imported in each of the last six months and the prospects of their importation being maintained approximately on the present level or increased in the coming months; and

(e) the quantities of cotton yarn and textiles of the finer counts that have been exported from India during each of the last six months, and the policy

of Government in the maintenance of the export of these varieties of cotton yarn and textiles in the coming months?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) 25 million pounds of yarn and 125 million yards of cloth per month, taking 36's and above as fine counts.

(b) 19 million pounds of yarn and 62 million yards of cloth per month.

(c), (d) and (e). The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the house later.

REGISTRATION OF NEWS BY NEWS AGENCIES AS NEWS BULLETINS

25. Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state if it is a fact that news sent by news agencies either by post or by telegram or by Air are to be registered as News Bulletin for the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944? If not so, what is the fact?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No registration of news sent by news agencies by post, telegraph or air has been prescribed under or for purposes of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944. If the news sent is in the form of a news bulletin, such bulletins are covered by clause 10 (a) of that Order and cannot be started without the authority in writing of the Central Government if they were not being regularly issued during the period immediately preceding the 7th November, 1942.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

CYCLONE IN MAURITIUS

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) whether there has been a big cyclone in Mauritius and caused great loss to the poor Indians residing in Mauritius;

(b) the extent of the loss suffered by the poor Indians there; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of giving them some help for helping the people in distress?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) and (b). Information has been received that two severe cyclones passed over Mauritius on January 16th-17th and February 1st-2nd. There were 21 fatal casualties and 44 persons were injured. Severe damage was caused to property and a large number of Indo-Mauritians were rendered homeless, particularly those dwelling in unsubstantial houses in the agricultural districts.

(c) The Government of Mauritius are providing relief by distributing building material and have set up Central and District Committees to raise funds and assist in cases of hardship. The Government of India are urgently considering the question of sending a cargo of rice to the island.

AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan). Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the proposed amendment of Standing Orders.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—RAILWAYS

DEMAND No. 1—RAILWAY BOARD

Mr. Zahid Husain (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,65,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Railway Board'."

This supplementary demand is based on the information that has been supplied to the Honourable Members of the House through the Budget papers. The reasons for these excesses have been given briefly in the book of Supple-

mentary Demands, copies of which have been supplied to Members. Detailed reasons have been given in the memoranda which were placed before the Standing Finance Committee. Copies of those proceedings also have been supplied to the Honourable Members of the House. All these supplementary demands have been approved by the Standing Finance Committee. I do not want to say anything more, because it is not usual to give detailed reasons after supplying all the information along with the Budget papers.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,65,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Railway Board'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I find that the details in regard to this extra expenditure have been given on page 6 of the report of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways. The reason given is: Appointment of additional temporary officers: 5 Directors, 7 Deputy Directors, 6 Officers on Special Duty, 1 Planning Officer and 5 Superintendents. I asked the Honourable Member who has moved the Grant to give me an idea as to who were the people appointed. I did not want the names of the officers but I wanted to know how many were Europeans and how many Indians. Here is his reply which I shall read and I am much obliged to the Honourable Member for the information. Of the 5 Directors appointed 3 are Europeans; of the 7 Deputy Directors 2 are Europeans and the one Planning Officer is a European and I suppose the post carries a fat pay. We people have been trying to impress upon the Government the necessity for Indianisation and at every stage we find when new people are recruited the majority of them on the higher grades are Europeans. I would like to know this. I understand that most of these officers have been people who have been already in Railway service and that no man has been imported from outside this country. I hope I am correct when I say that. If that is so, may I know whether any Indian has been superseded in any of these posts? There is one Planning Officer mentioned, and in this connection I would like to know whether this appointment is with regard to the post-war planning which they contemplate and about which they said that their plans were far ahead.

Another matter which I want to raise on this as well as with reference to some other demands is this. Paragraph 3 gives us the reasons for this increase. As compared with the original Budget the revised estimate shows an increase of 5.82 lakhs. It is because of this revised estimate and the consequent larger sum necessary *viz.*, 5.82 lakh more, that they have come forward for a supplementary grant of 6.65 lakhs. May I know the reason for this difference?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): I just want to have elucidation on one point in connection with the Budget. It is on page 6, item No. 7, paragraph 3. You have provided a lakh of rupees for the supply of essential commodities to the staff. May I know whether you are supplying these commodities to the officers of the Railway Board or to the staff?

Mr. Zahid Husain: It is only intended for the staff.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I want to know what is the authority or who is the person that appoints these additional Directors and other officers. Are such appointments made in consultation with the Federal Public Service Commission? Or is it only persons who have been in service who have been promoted and, if so, have men in lesser ranks been appointed to their places?

As regards this dearness allowance I want to know whether it is paid to the entire staff, including the Members of the Board, or it is confined to those persons that draw salaries below a particular minimum?

Mr. Zahid Husain: I might explain the position regarding the method of filling these posts which arise in the Railway Board. For these posts we require officers with experience and officers who have proved their merit on Railways

[Mr. Zahid Husain]

generally. They are not posts, which can be filled on grounds of mere seniority. They are posts which have to be filled on the basis of the records of the officers. Therefore there is no question in these cases of any supersession of any officers. When you make any appointments by selection naturally you select the best officer available. During this war the Railway Board has expanded and the number of officers has increased but the figures clearly show that as a result of this expansion the Railway Board has been Indianised to an extent which, to my mind, should be a source of satisfaction to the House. Our temporary officers are 41 in number, out of which only 12 are Europeans. They are not exactly temporary officers but permanent officers occupying temporary posts in the Railway Board. These selections are made on the recommendations of the General Managers of Railways and on the basis of the past record of the officers which are available in the Railway Board; their appointments have to be approved by the Government of India, which means in certain cases personally by the Honourable Member in charge of Railways and in the case of certain higher appointments by His Excellency the Viceroy.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Which are the appointments which need the approval of the Viceroy?

Mr. Zahid Husain: Appointments of Directors.

As regards the discrepancy to which my friend Mr. Chettiar has referred, 5.82 lakhs and the amount for which we are actually asking, generally, some variations occur between the time when the figures are placed before the Standing Finance Committee, and the time when the figures are finalised. These are small differences which occur on the basis of the latest information available at the time when the budget figures are finalised.

As regards the loss on the supply of essential commodities to staff, Rs. 1 lakh, as I have told my friend, Dr. Sir Zia Uddin, this is in respect of supplies made to non-gazetted staff not drawing a pay of more than Rs. 500 per mensem.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, this question of loss on supplies of essential commodities is analogous to the supplementary demand that has been made by Government today.

Mr. Zahid Husain: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The point is, there were speeches on the Opposition side, and then the Honourable Member replied because nobody else got up to speak. I cannot allow Prof. Ranga to speak now.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I suppose I can oppose the motion.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,65,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Railway Board'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 2—AUDIT

Mr. Zahid Husain: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,29,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Audit'."

This grant is entirely under the control of the Auditor General.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,29,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Audit'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In reply to the previous demand the Honourable Member said that generally there are discrepancies between the accounts given and the grants taken. I suppose the Standing Finance Committee sanction only the amounts that are asked of them, and how can you ask for more grants than for what you give accounts. This matter becomes much worse in this case because here the Budget estimate—I read from para. 4,

page 10—exceeds the revenue estimate. As compared with the original budget, as the expenditure in the current year is now expected to be Rs. 2.45 lakhs more. The main reasons are. The reasons are there. Then a supplementary demand for Rs. 2,29,000 only is asked for. There must be some exactness between the grant asked for and the account given. Otherwise what is the use of submitting accounts and asking for grants from the Standing Finance Committee for Railways. It is very bad procedure to ask for sums much more than sums for which accounts are given. I would suggest to the Finance Commissioner for Railways to reconsider the way in which things are being done till now, and to ask only for grants for which he gives accounts, and if he has an excess, ask for an excess grant later on. I think it is very wrong in principle to ask for grants much above the amounts for which accounts are given. It is something like a lump sum grant which we take. It is not accounting. You must ask for supplementary grants only for amounts for which you can give accounts, and if in any case you find later on that more money is necessary take it by way of an excess grant later on. This is wrong procedure which must be condemned, and I would like to know what he thinks of the suggestion which we have made in this matter.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I myself had some difficulty when I saw that the money sanctioned and put down in the Standing Finance Committee's report did not tally with the figure in the budget, but the figure was very small and I thought it was due to clerical error. But the explanation which has been given by the Financial Commissioner for Railways explained the whole position. The figures that were laid before the Standing Finance Committee were figures on a particular date, and subsequently when they went to the press there were some changes in the expenditure, sometimes more, sometimes less. The difference in this case is a very small figure which is not of very great importance, but one thing which I would very much like is that when these changes occur and there are differences between the figures asked for in your demands and the figures recommended by the Standing Finance Committee, that might be indicated in a foot note. I would have saved half an hour of my time had this note been given. I only request that these changes, when they occur, should be indicated by a foot note.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I oppose this demand on a question of principle, and that is with regard to the loss incurred on account of supply of foodstuffs to the staff at concessional rates. The Honourable Member said that those who draw Rs. 500 and above are not entitled to these concessions. I would like to point out that those who get salaries of Rs. 250 and more should not be entitled to these concessional supplies at all. The other day the Honourable Member in charge of Railways told us that he could not think of increasing dearness allowances to his low paid employees because they were already being given all these various concessions—concessional supplies and so on and so forth. My point is that they are getting much lower dearness allowances.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): How does it arise?

Mr. Zahid Husain: As I said before, this grant is under the control of the Auditor General, and the rules which are enforced in other Civil Departments are applicable to this grant. To the best of my knowledge, concessions regarding foodstuffs are confined to people drawing up to and not more than Rs. 300 under this grant. Dearness allowances are paid at the same rates as in other Civil Departments.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My suggestion is that all those people who get more than Rs. 250 should be charged ordinary market rates, and those who get less than Rs. 250, or preferably a much lower sum, should be given the advantage of these concessional rates. Then Government would be able to minimise their loss. They could, however, assure those getting over Rs. 250 the supplies of these commodities at stated periods at specified places as they are doing even now. The only thing is they should not extend concessional rates to these people who are very well paid, because in other directions also they are getting

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

more dearness allowances than the lower paid employees. I do not see any reason why these highly paid persons should be subsidised. If they can save sums in this way, then it is much better that the money should be given to the lower paid officials, either by larger supplies or by greater dearness allowance. I would like the Honourable Member to consider this matter not only in this small context but also in the context of the whole of his Department.

Then he will find that he will be given greater satisfaction to a larger number of his own employees who are paid so much less by extending to them these concessions on a larger scale than is at present possible. In fact there is a case for charging a little more than ordinary cost price to all those people who are very highly paid and gaining money thereby, and using that money in subsidising the consumption of food for these poorer employees of theirs.

Mr. Zahid Husain: Sir, the question of the limit up to which this concession regarding food-stuffs should be given was discussed at length by the Standing Finance Committee as well as by the Public Accounts Committee. At one time (it was only for a short while) concession of food grains was given to all officers at concession rates along with the non-gazetted staff. As a result of discussion in the Standing Finance Committee and the Public Accounts Committee, it was decided to restrict the concession to staff drawing a pay of not more than Rs. 500 per mensem. We made a calculation and found that we saved a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs out of a total expenditure of the order of Rs. 8 to 10 crores. Orders restricting the concession to people drawing not more than Rs. 500 were issued and the Standing Finance Committee and the Public Accounts Committee both were satisfied with these orders. I have nothing more to say.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What about the discrepancy?

Mr. Zahid Husain: As regards the discrepancy, it may be due to two reasons: either because variations occur between the time when the matters are considered by the Finance Committee and the time when figures are finalised; these discrepancies are brought to the notice of the Standing Finance Committee at a later stage. But in these particular cases, the discrepancies are due to the fact that the explanation to which the Honourable Member has referred is a complete explanation covering both voted and non-voted expenditure, while the vote is required only for voted expenditure. Taking for instance the Railway Board Demand, while the explanation was for 5.82 lakhs the supplementary vote is for 6.65 lakhs as a result of savings in the non-voted appropriation. If the Honourable Member will look at the figures at the top, he will find that there is really no discrepancy. I am afraid my Honourable friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad made the same mistake in spite of his being a mathematician: if he will look at the top he will find that there is no discrepancy at all. That is where the figures are given.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): He was looking at the bottom the whole time.

Mr. Zahid Husain: If he looks only at the voted figure, he will find that there is no discrepancy.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,29,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Audit'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 3.—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE

Mr. Zahid Husain: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,32,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,32,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, I have looked at the top and the top is not very enlightening. I will look at the bottom now; and I would ask the Honourable Member to let me know whether they will consider the advisability hereafter, while submitting grants to the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, to separate these two things—voted and non-voted, so that

Mr. Zahid Husain: It is given at the top; again may I refer you to the top?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I referred to the top: the top is there; it requires a little mathematics.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Some substance at the top!

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Which many of the Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches lack. I have looked at it and I would suggest two things; the Honourable the Finance Member will, I hope, agree with me. Firstly, that they should take as supplementary grants from the Standing Finance Committee for Railways only the exact amount for which they show accounts, when the accounts are submitted to them: in case they require anything more—it must be the same.

Mr. Zahid Husain: It is the same.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Then, if it is not the same and if the Government finds that there has been any reason for any over-expenditure, it must be brought only as excess grants later on. You cannot bring a motion for extra amount before the Standing Finance Committee.

The second point is this: this amount shows the voted and non-voted expenditure, but I would like them to show it clearly in the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee that really so much is voted and so much is non-voted, so that the things will be clear not only at the top but also at the bottom.

Mr. Zahid Husain: Sir, I may explain that all these supplementary demands which are being placed before the Assembly have been approved by the Standing Finance Committee. The proceedings which the Honourable Member is studying should be read as supplemented by further proceedings, in which any variations that occur are explained and the approval of the committee is obtained to these variations also. So there are really no discrepancies between the amounts which we are placing before the House and the amounts approved by the Standing Finance Committee.

As regards any simplification which may be necessary in order to make the position perfectly clear to the Members of the House and the members of the Standing Finance Committee, I will look into the matter; and in case the Standing Finance Committee considers that any improvement is necessary in the presentation, we will certainly consider it.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,32,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 5.—PAYMENTS TO INDIAN STATES AND COMPANIES

Mr. Zahid Husain: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 29,82,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Payments to Indian States and Companies'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 29,82,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Payments to Indian States and Companies'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 6-A.—WORKING EXPENSES—MAINTENANCE OF STRUCTURAL WORKS

Mr. Zahid Husain: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,76,98,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Maintenance of Structural Works'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,76,98,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Maintenance of Structural Works'."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is extraordinary how the Government comes forward with a supplementary estimate for such a colossal sum as 6 crores 86 lakhs 98 thousand. It shows how lax has become the railway financial control over their budgeting as well as their expenditure. They do not seem to have any kind of an idea how their income is going to turn out or how their expenditure is being incurred in their different railways and different departments. Their revised estimates also are found to be off the mark by huge sums. They may say it is all due to the war. It may be due to the war so far as those items which are directly connected with war are concerned but I cannot understand even with regard to such items as write-off of the capital cost of dismantled lines, write off of the capital cost of assets abandoned before 1924-25 and also increase in contribution to railway staff benefit fund, contribution to provident fund (that is in regard to increases)—in regard to decreases also—new minor works and so on—how they could have failed to make proper estimates either at the time they make their first budget or even at the time when they take into consideration their revised estimates. On any and every item they seem to have felt quite free with public revenues, and inclined to dispose of them as they like. They make a sort of rough approximation, ask their different spending sections and departments in railways to give them some convenient round figures and to give them complete freedom later on to make any alterations they like, to come back again to the Government with their revised estimates and they also give them freedom over these revised estimates, because the obliging Government is here to go to the Legislature and get the necessary funds sanctioned, whenever it may be. This has got relevance to the observations made by Mr. B. Das the other day that the present Railway Budget does not present a proper picture at all to the House or to the country and the Honourable Member has considerably under-estimated his revenues and that observation is borne out by these figures.

In regard to expenditure and revenue, the Honourable Member does not seem to have come to grips at all with railway finances. He does not seem to know, or if he knows he does not come here and tell us how much he is going to get as income, how much he is going to spend on these various items of expenditure. At any moment, he seems to be at liberty to think of a new scheme. Only the other day we were told that they had changed their policy in regard to dearness allowance three or four times and therefore the provision in this respect was bound to go up. But there are various other items in which huge sums of money are involved such as write back of the cost of military sidings initially charged to capital—2 crores 87 lakhs. They seem to have changed their policy in regard to this question, namely, whether it should be charged to capital or whether it should be charged to revenue in the course of the year. Repeatedly we suggested to the Railways as well as other departments that they should not make such major decisions in regard to change of policy—whether they are to charge any particular expenditure to capital or to revenue—in the course of the year. On the other hand, they should come to a decision specially in regard to these big matters fairly early, anyhow before they introduce the Budget. Thus, they should take the House into their confidence and give an opportunity to the House to know the facts as they are and to express its opinion. But the Railways seem to be persisting in their bad procedure of changing their opinion in regard to big questions of policy such as has happened in this particular case, involving a big sum.

For everything they make an excuse of the war. The war may be a very good excuse but that is no reason why they should not attempt to gain some control over these railway finances which seem to be slipping out of their fingers.

The whole Railway Budget at this rate is *tamasha*, it is more an illusion than a really substantial financial document which is expected to give us a really definite and reliable picture of the state of things so far as railways are concerned. They ask us to go to the Railway Finance Committee Proceedings. I have gone to these proceedings and even the Railway Standing Finance Committee does not seem to have been helped or assisted by the department in coming to grips with this matter and understanding the problems and the facts presented to them. I feel extremely sorry for my colleagues who serve on the Standing Finance Committee, because within the time at their disposal it will not be possible humanly for any one to unravel the mysteries of this write off, write back and the additional allowances and the new decisions taken and new items of expenditure actually brought up in the garb of old items of expenditure. There is some control to the extent to which these proposals go before the Standing Finance Committee, but I expect the Honourable Member in charge of this to give us an assurance that whatever may have happened in the past, at least in regard to the future, from this year's Budget at least, they will try to achieve a more reliable control over the railway finances than they have been able to achieve till now.

This is one of the reasons why we wanted the Financial Commissioner for Railways not to be kept under the authority of the Railway Member but to be kept directly under the authority of the Finance Member, so that he may be able to exercise his individual and independent judgement in regard to financial control. This is an old question, I admit but it is a question that ought to be considered again and again until Government are able to come to a right decision and they are able to invest the Financial Commissioner for Railways with much more independence than he has been able to achieve so far.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member need not expatiate on that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Until we are able to insure that, it will not be possible for us to have tight enough control over the railway finances. With these observations, I expect the Honourable Member himself and not the Financial Commissioner to give us an assurance that he will consider this question, and to bring out financial control in a more realistic manner than he has been able to do till now.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: With reference to the points raised under this particular head, may I draw the attention of the Financial Commissioner to item No. 6(i) about the dearness allowance. I do not understand exactly what the explanation is. Has he fixed definitely, as far as the railways are concerned, that they will get dearness allowances up to a salary of Rs. 500?

Mr. Zahid Husain: We are talking of food-stuff concessions, and not cash allowances. My Honourable friend seems to be referring to dearness allowance paid in cash.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Provision for dearness allowance, at increased rate. I want to know up to what salary is dearness allowance given. Is it given up to Rs. 500? That is the point on which I should like to have information. The next point is with reference to item (ix) under head 6 on page 30 of the Standing Finance Committee proceedings:

"(ix) No provision made next year for the write back from capital of the cost of military sidings."

I should like the Honourable Member to make a statement at some stage about the arrangements that the Railway Board made with the Military Department about capital and non-capital expenditure, about the work that we do for the military service, as well as about deciding what we have to provide in this particular item.

The third point is with regard to the provision made to write off the cost of the dismantled lines of Bengal Nagpur Railway and Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway. This question also is an important one. I should like to know the policy of the Railway Board in regard to this matter. From what fund the cost of the dismantled railway lines should be written off. When a line is

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad]

dismantled, the capital is reduced and that capital must be paid off by some fund. My contention is that this fund which should pay the cost of dismantling a line should be the reserve fund of railways. That is really the proper item and not revenue. Whenever you dismantle a line and pay the cost of dismantling, that is really not a charge on one particular year. It ought to be paid by the reserve fund so that it will be spread over a series of years. I made a suggestion at the time of the general discussion that when you dismantle a line, the capital ought to be written off against the total capital of railways. We all agree with that. From what this should be written off? My contention is it ought not to be written off from revenue. You cannot put another burden on any particular year; it ought to be spread over a certain number of years. The only fund against which you can write it off will be the reserve fund minus the accumulated depreciation under that particular head. Suppose the value of a dismantled line is a lakh of rupees. Against this one lakh you have got an accumulated depreciation fund, say, Rs. 2,000. Then this sum of Rs. 2,000 ought to be taken from the depreciation fund which is really the share of that particular capital and Rs. 98,000 ought to be paid out of the reserve fund, neither by depreciation fund nor by revenue account. In my opinion it is not correct to pay the entire cost of dismantling a line from revenue of one particular year.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, I want to raise two matters, both of some importance. I want to refer to item (ix) on page 30 which relates to the demand which he has moved—write back from capital of the cost of military sidings, etc. I want to know two things with regard to this: Firstly, what is the arrangement they have come to with the military department, as to what portion of the cost of the military siding should be debited to military expenditure and what portion to civil railway expenditure. I find that the understanding which they have arrived at between the military and the railways, is given on page 2 of the Report of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways. That is the memorandum by the Railway Board regarding the incidence of cost of works executed during war. This refers to certain rules contained in paragraphs 1102—1107 of the State Railway General Code, Vol. I. I would suggest to the Honourable Member that he should present to the House in readable figures and language the understanding which they have arrived at with the military authorities. On what basis, the expenditure involved on military sidings and military expenditure will be allotted to military expenditure and what portion would actually be debited to railways. It may be said that we need not be very punctilious about this apportionment of expenditure to the military because after all a large portion of the military expenditure must, in the long run, be apportioned to Indian revenues. I should like to warn the Honourable Member for Railways over this. A time may come when we may have to claim a portion of military expenditure from other people; and if year after year, we go on writing off large portions of expenditure under railways and under other civil heads, which certainly ought to have been allotted to military expenditure, then we will be suffering in the long run when we try to claim a good portion of the military expenditure from others, may be England, may be other countries. So, it will be unfair to the Indian revenues and to the Indian people if you put large amounts of expenditure which ought really to be allotted to military expenditure, to civil expenditure and think that in view of the fact that we are having large incomes, largely illusory as he says, that they can be written off now from the revenue account of railways. So, Sir, I should like the Honourable Member to submit to this House the principles on which allotments are really made.

Now, Sir, I come to the cost of structural works. Here he talks of inflationary element in expenditure on works as one crore and odd. I tried to look carefully as to how they try to arrive at inflationary value as distinct from real value. In para. 2(b) on page 136, it is said:

"For the purpose of charges to capital and the depreciation fund, with which this demand deals, the expenditure incurred after 1942-43 on works constructed at the cost of railways will be reduced by 50 per cent. by charge to working expenses."

In short, this means that the Railway Board and the Financial Commissioner for Railways think that inflationary value is only about 50 per cent. They have actually said so in another place. I ask him to examine whether 50 per cent. is real inflationary value. As far as we know, we are also doing some construction works. From my experience I can say it is 300 per cent. or 400 per cent. more than the actual value of pre-war period. If I know things aright, I think the railways are paying much more than ordinary persons do, and not only that, having experience of some of the construction works going on in my district, I can say this. About eight months ago, a station was built; next time, six months later, I found that that station was demolished and again, three months later, when I go there, I find that there is another station in another side of the same station. The accounts for all these will come under maintenance and construction of works. There the inflationary value is certainly not 50 per cent., but it must be 300 per cent. I think the Honourable Member is giving the Railways a bad deal when he thinks that the inflationary value is only 50 per cent.

Now, Sir, I would refer to the Sankara Ayyar's Committee report about this matter. That Committee was asked to prepare the list of assets of railways. They were asked to prepare a rate of depreciation of those assets and the House will be surprised to know that the Committee reported that there were no accounts kept of the structural works and consequently no rates of depreciation could be fixed. Is it not absolutely shameful—I do not want to say anything more—that in a big concern like the Indian railways no proper accounts should be kept? And how do you arrive at any rate of depreciation when you do not know the assets, their age, their durability and other particulars? The assets will be shown at an inflated figure for this reason that you spent 5 lakhs for a building today and tomorrow it may cost only one lakh. And this 50 per cent. of the expenditure which you want to write off as the inflationary element is not at all sufficient. The profits which are shown in the railway budget are not real, not only because 60 per cent. of the income of the Indian railways is illusory and only in accounts, but the money that they are spending today is much more than what will be spent in normal times; and what you write off as inflationary element today is much less than what you ought to. Out of the 32 or 42 crores income which is shown in the railway budget, really 20 crores and more must be written off for this inflationary element. I therefore, request the Railway Member to consider this matter and work it out as in practical life, see the cost of things and then come to a proper conclusion as to what the inflationary elements in the present structural works are. In my opinion it is much more than 50 per cent.; it is nearly 200 or 300 per cent. Sir, if the Honourable Member is not able to reply to these points today because he may not have any figures with him, I request him to consider the matter and submit to us a note later on.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): Sir, I take it that this debate would serve as a warning as much to Government as to the members of the Standing Railways Finance Committee who have recommended these sanctions. And it is a matter of deep regret that departments of Government are vying with each other to break their own record of incompetence, incapacity and lack of control over the spending sections of their departments. Sir, orthodox finance seems to have taken to the winds long ago and I am afraid even war would not serve as a matter of excuse for coming up to the Legislative Assembly with supplementary demands to the tune of nearly 6½ crores, i.e., about half the actual original grant itself.

Sir, I think there is a sort of distinction between supplementary grants and excess grants, and I have been under the impression—subject to correction by the financiers who have so ably mismanaged the situation—that a supplementary grant is a grant which you ask the Assembly to give in advance of actual expenditure, and an excess grant is one which you have incurred and ask for sanction of the proper authority. If I am correct in that interpretation I should like to know from the department when this reason for exceeding the original grant

[Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty.]

arose in the matter of expenditure and why it was that the estimates for supplementary grants were not placed duly before the Railway Finance Committee at least for their scrutiny and sanction. The particular demands for which the Financial Commissioner has come to the Assembly were placed before the Railway Finance Committee on 30th January, 1945, evidently after the whole amount had been spent. Is that a matter of satisfaction either to the department concerned or to the Honourable Members of this House who have to put up with this kind of discourtesy? Evidently Government are sure to get sanction whenever they might care to put these demands before the Assembly, and even if they do not care to put them before the Assembly they are sure to go scot-free. Probably some comments may be made by the Public Accounts Committee after the lapse of two or three years, and the Public Accounts Committee itself would take another six months to pass some remarks, which are at best of an obituary nature.

Sir, it is not so much the amount that is perturbing the Honourable Members of this House, because during this war time we have got to think in colossal astronomical figures; and I think for the last three or four years we have become accustomed to these large figures. But what worries us is the method by which these grants are put before the Assembly or to the Railway Finance Committee and the reckless manner in which they are spent, absolutely oblivious of all regulations, even the free regulations of war time, not to speak of orthodox regulations of peace time. It is from that point of view that I make these observations and I hope that this debate will serve the purpose of even reminding the members of the Railway Finance Committee and the Standing Finance Committee to be more particular about the way in which their sanction is obtained by means of putting up figures with notes which require explanation of a more elaborate kind and which certainly cannot be easily understood during one sitting. Sir, I am afraid we must enter a protest against this kind of thing.

Mr. Zahid Husain: Sir, I shall deal with a few technical points that have been raised during the debate. My Honourable friend Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad inquired what limits are imposed for the purpose of dearness allowance on the railways. There are four zones,—X, A, B and C. The limits of pay up to which dearness allowance is admissible are Rs. 250 in X, Rs. 200 in A, Rs. 175 in B and Rs. 150 in C. So we do not give dearness allowance, as he presumed, up to the limit of Rs. 500 or so.

As regards sidings, under the rules which have been in existence for a very long time, the arrangement between the War Department and the Railway Department has been that while the cost of recoverable materials is borne by the Railway Department, all other expenditure is borne by the War Department. We bear the expenditure of those materials only which can be recovered later in case lines are dismantled and used for good purpose; while all other expenditure is borne by the War Department. These rules stand and if we insist on asking the War Department to bear the entire expenditure our position would be that while we are very willing to retain the entire revenue that comes to us from military traffic, we are not prepared to bear any expenditure which is necessary in order to carry that traffic. That would be, to my mind, an indefensible position. Now under the rules expenditure which is charged to the estimates of the railways has been borne in the past under capital account. But when we reviewed the position we came to the conclusion that these sidings must be regarded as temporary, because the whole position will have to be reviewed at the end of the war and it is likely that most of the sidings will be dismantled. Some of them will probably be retained but it is impossible to decide now which of them would be retained and which of them would be dismantled. It was on this view that we came to the conclusion that the entire cost borne by the railway estimates should be charged to revenue; and the position was fully explained in the speech of the Honourable the War Transport Member

and in the explanatory memorandum, and it came under discussion on the motion relating to the finances of the railways. The same applies to the Works Expenditure where we propose to charge an amount of a little over one crore, sixty lakhs to Revenue. My friend, Mr. Chettiar, thinks that we ought to charge more than 50 per cent. Sir, we have looked into the question and we think it would be unjustifiable to charge anything more than 50 per cent. to Revenue.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: From which point of view?

Mr. Zahid Husain: According to the experience of Mr. Chettiar, the actual cost should be much more, but our experience does not concede with his.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: It is unjustifiable from every point of view.

Mr. Zahid Husain: We have made comparisons with the expenditure that we incurred in the past and we think that 50 per cent. is about right. We placed this before the Standing Finance Committee and obtained their approval.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Of course, that you have done.

Mr. Zahid Husain: As regards budgeting, I feel flattered when I am told that we should be able to predict unpredictable events. If the actual items to which these excesses are due are looked into in detail, I feel that it will be agreed that most of them, nearly all of them, could not be foreseen.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Sir, may I ask one question with regard to these sidings, and the division of their cost between the Railways and the War Department? I heard the explanation during the budget discussion which is repeated by the Honourable the Financial Commissioner of Railways today. It is rather an important matter when sidings are being put in to such an extent as is necessary for war purposes. When there was no war, the principle might have been fair and correct, but today how do you estimate the cost when a siding is put in? What will be the value of materials when the siding is pulled up? You do not know when it is going to be done, and so how are you going to value the materials which are to be debited to the Railways?

Mr. Zahid Husain: Present day costs.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: But they will deteriorate by the time the sidings are pulled up. If you put the present day cost, you are not paying the proper value of the materials which you will receive when the sidings are pulled up. Who will make up that difference? Will the War Department make up that difference or the Railway Department? If the sidings are pulled up immediately, they may be of some value, but if they are pulled up ten or twenty years hence, their value will be very much reduced. The Railway Department therefore stand to lose. I would like that matter considered and some ratio fixed when you are paying for goods that you are likely to receive some years hence. It is a simple issue.

Mr. Zahid Husain: I might briefly explain that so long as these sidings are there and remain in existence, the War Department has to pay the cost of maintenance, depreciation and also interest, so that the question of any loss to the Railway Department does not arise. But at the time when they are dismantled and the War Department say they have no use for these sidings, we will take over the materials at the depreciated cost. It may be that there may be some small difference between the depreciated cost of the material at that time and the depreciated cost at present day prices, but it is impossible to estimate the difference now. It may be negligible. (Interruption.) The difference will be very small; it may not exist at all. At the same time, supposing the difference is in favour of the Railways, would it be justifiable for the War Department to make a claim against us? It is hardly necessary to make a claim against another Department for an item which is not likely to be very large, and that is why we have agreed to bear the cost under the rules without asking for any special adjustment on this account.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: You will be paying for the depreciated value?

Mr. Zahid Husain: Yes, Sir.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Then how do you know what that depreciated value is today when you have to adjust your accounts just now?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, the Honourable the Mover asked that I should personally answer one or two questions. In particular, he indicated that in his view the Standing Finance Committee did not get sufficient time to go into all the details of the figures, and another speaker asked why the figures were not placed before the Standing Finance Committee somewhat earlier, that is to say when it became apparent that a supplementary grant would be necessary. Answering the last question first, the biggest item under this heading is in connection with the cost of military sidings and the inflationary element, and the action which the Government ultimately recommended was in actual fact much influenced by the action of the Standing Finance Committee itself which at its meeting on the 19th of December considered the position of the Railway depreciation fund and desired to place on record their concern at the excessive rate at which the depreciation fund was being depleted and to bring this to the notice of the Government. Government had already got the matter under notice, but that decision confirmed Government's determination to deal with this whole question systematically and thoroughly in the course of this year's Railway Budget. In consequence, there were two further meetings at which full details were put before the Standing Finance Committee. The preparation of a Budget—even a Railway Budget, which is a much smaller thing than a General Budget—is a very complicated matter which has to be done in a very limited time. We should like ourselves to have much more time to examine the figures and browse over them and consider them before the Standing Finance Committee, but under the system of budgeting you just cannot do it. I should only be too glad myself to have much more time to study the figures. In actual fact, I don't mind telling the House that I only got the full figures, which were placed before the Standing Finance Committee on the 29th and 30th of January, a few days, almost a few hours, before the Standing Finance Committee itself got them. If you are going to have an up-to-date budget, that is the process which must be followed. If you are content to budget on the figures for, say, the half year ending September, it would be much easier, but that is not what the House wants. If the House wants the most up-to-date figures it can get, as I believe it really does, then obviously it has to deal with them rather more speedily than any of us would like. It is inherent in the situation itself. The suggestion is also that we do not give the House an opportunity to see the figures and to give an opinion. I do not honestly see what further we can do in this matter. We place the fullest possible figures before the Standing Finance Committee. We discussed them on three occasions in so far as time permitted, and the reports and the full figures are placed before the House who have an opportunity to debate them in general discussion, to move cut motions and again consider them on supplementary demands and the House has already considered and in principle approved the policy which is involved in this question of military sidings.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Question!

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Well, a full debate has taken place.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: It has not been approved on a specific motion!

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The policy has been discussed and the grants have been made for the next year and this relates to the current year, which is consequential.

I frankly do not see what we can do to place fuller figures or arrange for much fuller discussion of the figures either in the Standing Finance Committee or in the House. But if the Standing Finance Committee has any suggestions to make we are naturally willing to consider them and we will certainly try to clear up any points which are not clearly set forth in the papers placed before Members in the House.

The Honourable Mover asked that we should have more reliable control. One of the later speakers recognised that close budgeting in war-time was extremely difficult and my friend the Financial Commissioner drew attention to particular items on these supplementary demands and pointed out that in fact it was not possible a year ago to budget very closely. Take the first item. The expenses there arose out of acts of Nature—washing away of ghats on the river bed or threats from the river to wash away important bridges. Nobody can foresee that sort of expenditure until it becomes necessary. There are other items of the same nature. In the second item, relating to the construction of technical staff quarters, the expenditure was included in the budget last year and not being expended went to reduce the same budget head last year and so has been thrown forward this year. Obviously all these headings are not things which one can foresee. In particular the biggest item of all arose out of a decision of major policy arrived at only after discussion on the Standing Finance Committee at its last meeting. The policy was in process of formation in December and January and the final conclusion was reached on the 13th-14th February, the day before the Budget.

I think if Honourable Members will consider the matter they will realise that it is neither possible to be much more accurate in war time or to give a longer time to the Standing Finance Committee to consider matters.

One further question raised was the position of the Financial Commissioner. It was suggested that he should be under the Finance Department. Well the arrangement is that the Financial Commissioner is Adviser to the Government of India in the Railway Department. But as in the case of all other departments, the Financial Adviser, in this case the Financial Commissioner, has a very special relation with the Finance Department and keeps in regular touch and advises the Finance Member with regard to railway finances, just as he advises the Railway Member.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You control him. He is subject to your control.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: He is in my Department. He is in special relation with the Finance Member and he watches the Railway finance from the point of view of the Finance Department as well as from the point of view of the Railway Department.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): So he controls you?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Controls us both!

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That, Sir, explains the position to the best of my ability.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: On a point of order. We may meet at 5 p.m. instead of 2:30 p.m. because on the Budget day we have never met in the afternoon.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is no point of order. The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,76,98,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Maintenance of Structural Works'."

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. Abdul Qaiyum (One of the Panel of Chairmen) in the Chair.

DEMAND NO. 6-B.—WORKING EXPENSES—MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY OF LOCOMOTIVE POWER.

Mr. Zahid Husain: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 19,99,47,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Maintenance and Supply of Locomotive Power'."

[Mr. Zahid Husain]

Out of this large amount 17 crores 72 lakhs relate to locomotives, part of the cost of which is being debited to revenue according to the special procedure, of which the House is aware.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 19,99,47,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Maintenance and Supply of Locomotive Power'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In this also the question that I would like to raise is about Depreciation. They think that 40 per cent. is the extra price that they are paying today and so they want to write it off in the actual current expenses. We would like to know the basis of their figures. The real price of a locomotive is calculated on comparison with its pre-war price, its power and its durability. The pre-war price they can readily have for comparison. But two other elements must come in if they were to make a proper valuation and they are the power of the locomotives, whether they are much above the capacity of the pre-war engines and their durability. As regards durability we understand that war products always are more flimsy and less durable than the pre-war machinery and the Honourable the War Transport Member in his speech said that they have arrived at this figure of 40 per cent. as being the extra amount that they pay for the war-time products. In the memorandum which was supplied to the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, on page 5 of the proceedings on the 13th and 14th February 1945, it is said:

"For all locomotives 40 per cent. of the cost will be debited to revenue and the balance will be regarded as the cost incurred for the purpose of allocation. The Government have found in their dealings with industry that a contribution of 40 per cent. towards capital costs is considered sufficient by proprietors of factories to undertake expansions to meet Government demands."

That by itself does not explain anything. It can be explained only when power and durability are also taken into consideration along with cost. Now, Sir, I want figures regarding the cost of the present locomotives, the cost of the pre-war locomotives and how the present ones compare with the pre-war locomotives. Without taking into consideration all these three factors you will not be able to arrive at a proper cost of depreciation or at the figures of cost which are really paid extra in the war time period.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member for War Transport was himself confessing that he was not having enough time to scrutinise all these figures, and naturally he could not be expected to give sufficient time to the Standing Finance Committee and at the same time study these figures.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: What was the Honourable Member saying?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That the Honourable Member was getting these papers too late and therefore he did not have sufficient time before he went to the Standing Finance Committee.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is the Financial Commissioner for Railways who presides over the meetings of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Quite right. The Honourable Member was speaking for himself. He was replying to our observations in regard to the earlier demand. Sir, he was asking us to believe that railway budgeting was going on nicely or rather not too badly. But I want to know one thing. Wherefrom did he get this 19 crores, 99 lakhs, which he has paid towards the cost of these new rolling stock. He says that it was received subsequent to 1942-43. Did he specifically make provision for this sum when he presented his budget for 1942-43 and later on in 1943-44? I do not think so. Then wherefrom did he get this money with which he was able to pay for the locomotives? Presumably it was from the surplus that he was able to get out of that particular year's railway accounts. He did not make provision for this expenditure at all but he did make provision for certain receipts and when he calculated his receipts

perhaps he did not expect such a huge surplus and when he actually got the surplus he paid this money out of that surplus. It can only mean that. Either he under-estimated his revenues for that year to the tune of 20 crores or the Government had disguised or concealed this expected surplus of 20 crores when they framed the budget. They came to the House, presented a budget and asked for an increase in fares and freights and told the House that they did not expect to get as much as 20 crores surplus and when they realised this surplus of 20 crores in the course of that year, they thought of purchasing all these locomotives. Otherwise if they were to pay for these locomotives wherefrom are they to pay? Was it from capital or was it from working expenses? Here was an unexpected or concealed surplus and so they decided in favour of paying for the locomotives from this concealed surplus and then they come to the House and say that they had paid for all these things without the authority of the House and ask us to give our authority saying that at this stage it can only be done on a supplementary grant. I want to know whether the Honourable Member was so completely helpless as he wants us to believe when he was making the budget that he did not anticipate that he was going to get these 20 crores surplus. Later on he himself says that these were received subsequent to 1942-43 but that he had already placed orders for them either in the United Kingdom or England. So he knew that the locomotives were going to come, whether during that particular year or later, and it is possible for him to say that he did not know for certain when. But he certainly knew that he had placed these orders and when he placed the orders against what sum did he do it? Was it to come from the Reserve Fund or from the ordinary railway incomes or from what source? Did he expect to pay for them from the surplus of 20 crores when he placed these orders? I want to know, Sir, his reply.

When he placed these orders he should have come to the House and told them that he had placed these orders but that he was not quite sure whether they would be fulfilled by the manufacturers concerned during the particular year or the next, that he was expecting a surplus of 20 crores and since the date of delivery of the locomotives was indefinite he proposed to place this sum of 20 crores in the Reserve Fund, so that he would be able to pay for these locomotives if and when they came to be delivered. Supposing they were not delivered during that year, the Reserve was always there and during the next year he would have paid out of that, but he did not do anything like that at all. He came to this House with a sort of a balanced budget, and told us that as there was going to be a surplus, he had made provision for what was to happen to that surplus. He got the approval of this House for his budget and went back, and, mind you, last year he came to the House asking for an increase in railway fares and rates, but, thanks to this House, he was prevented from imposing all those additional burdens. If he had been allowed to do so, he would have imposed another burden, may be, easily Rs. 20 crores, and would have found himself in possession of that additional Rs. 20 crores surplus. Then, after placing orders either in England or in America for the benefit of the manufacturers there, he would have sprung another story. He would have given a fine story like this: I am placing orders for some thousands of carriages in order to relieve congestion of third class passenger traffic, and in that way would have secured the assent of the House. He would have done it, but he could not do it, he was not allowed to do that. To the extent, however, he was allowed he was able to find himself in possession of not only this Rs. 20 crores, but very much more also, because the House has already voted for him Rs. 6,76,000. May be, he is coming with many other demands: there is a demand here for Rs. 76 lakhs, another for Rs. 2,38,000, another for Rs. 2,51,000. All this money he was able to get he must have got either from the last year's budget or the previous year's budget, he could not have got it with a magic wand. That is why I say this Government plays ducks and drakes with Railway Finance as well as General Finance of the country, and so far as this Member is concerned, I can only say, with all the seriousness I can command, with the sense of responsibility that I can command, that he does not seem to know the A, B, C, of his War Finance so far as the Railway Budget is concerned. H

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

seems to be fathering the baby of somebody else, who that somebody else is we do not know, anyhow the budget is prepared, he is asked to bring it and place it before this House. Whether he is having any lot in this budget we do not know, but the budget is being prepared and placed before this House in such a manner and it is guided or misguided into voting such funds for him as would leave for him not less than Rs. 30 crores as surplus. This I consider to be a very bad budget, and I hold the Honourable Member for War Transport to be entirely responsible for this jugglery. That is why there have been all these criticisms which the Honourable Members have been making, namely, that this year's budget is thoroughly illusory as figures given there cannot be depended upon at all, that there is a disguised surplus in it, and that the Honourable Member will again be faced with a huge surplus, if not a huge surplus a considerably big surplus, at the end of this year also. Sir, with these remarks I enter my emphatic protest against this bad budget which both the Honourable Members opposite have placed before this country, if one is to judge from the figures they themselves have supplied us today.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I am a very ignorant man; but as I find that a fairly large amount of money is involved—about Rs. 20 crores—I should very much like to know what is the procedure adopted in such cases. So far as the motion is concerned, it clearly says that the supplementary sum of money is being asked for to defray the charges which will come in course of payment. Now, so far as I know, 'will' is future tense; and I want exactly to understand whether this sum of Rs. 20 crores will be paid during the next 31 days—today is 28th February, and to-morrow March begins—or that these Rs. 20 crores have already been paid. Does the supplementary grant really relate to the future, as the language of the motion denotes, or whether all this expenditure has already been met and that on the last day these supplementary grants are put before the House in the expectation that the same shall be granted? I hope I am clear. I want the Honourable Member opposite to tell me exactly whether the money has already been paid or whether it is going to be paid; and if it has already been paid, then what exactly does the word 'will' in the motion mean? As I put before the House, 'will' denotes the future, and not the past. I want to make sure that the Honourable Member has not come to the House asking for the condonation of payment already made; and that he has actually come to the House asking for a grant which will actually be paid after the motion is passed. Frankly, I cannot believe that all these large sums of money will really be paid during the next month. I have a suspicion that they—or at least large portions thereof—have already been paid; and that we are asked to put our seal of approval on the payments made in the past on the plea that they will be actually made in the future. I am asking a straight and honest question, and expect a straight and honest reply.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I do not agree with my Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga, that there is something very confidential in the budget, and that there are certain figures which have been concealed from the Members of the Assembly. The budget is not like the counting of a person who was engaged to keep some accounts so that he may not embezzle anything. The man was put on the top of a tree and a soldier was placed underneath with a gun to shoot him if there is any embezzlement. He began to count—3 plus 5, 8; 8 plus 7, 15; 15 plus 8, 23; and of this 3 is there and 2 is carried away. So, this budget is not a budget of that kind. There is nothing in this that is confidential. Of course every budget requires some study. In the case of their accounts in regard to military sidings, their principle is perfectly sound—that the military ought to pay the full cost, minus the materials which might have recovered after it has been dismantled. But from what fund should you advance the money? You should not advance it from revenue but from borrowing or capital, so that you clearly know that this money has been borrowed for a certain purpose, and the moment it is dismantled the price of the materials sold may be adjusted and the balance debited to the military department. I think that this particular sum ought to have been paid from borrowing and not from revenue.

They may pay it out of the revenue for a couple of years but it should be recovered from the Army Department. That is the only point I wish to make.

Here I shall take up the memorandum that has been referred to. It says here on page 137:

"It is therefore proposed to restrict the debit to the depreciation fund to an amount equivalent to the credits thereto for the items treated as replaced, to meet from the Railway Reserve the arrears of depreciation represented by the difference between the debits to the Depreciation Fund as proposed above and the original cost of the items replaced, and to charge to working expenses the difference between the original cost and the replacement cost of a like asset."

The principle asserted here is, I think, correct and sound and I do not criticise it because when you have an article and replace it, that is the correct principle to adopt. Suppose I have a pair of spectacles costing me Rs. 100 and the amount under depreciation fund is about Rs. 50 and then I want to purchase another costing Rs. 150, it is fair that this Rs. 50 should be recovered from the depreciation fund and the balance of Rs. 100 ought to be paid from revenue and not by borrowing because the fundamental principle we ought to adopt is this: that whenever any expenditure can yield revenue then meet it by borrowing i.e., capital expenditure. If by any expenditure you improve the traffic and provide better facilities and comforts but there is no yield in revenue, then always meet it from revenue because in that case revenue expenditure is expenditure which does not yield any income and capital expenditure is expenditure which always yields income.

Now, I come to the next point—the money you have advanced for engines. It is very desirable that it ought to be paid from revenue and I think it is very sound. Whatever we may have advocated about the accounting in peace time it is exceedingly difficult in war time to keep it up. We must give some allowance that people do not know when commodities would be arriving during the war; it is very difficult therefore to put it to the revenue of any particular year because in that particular year the things may not have come. We have to wait till these things are received; and therefore under war conditions, the criticism of some of my honourable friends cannot hold good. Another thing is that we cannot disclose the fact of how many engines have been ordered during the war, we can disclose it to the Assembly and the Standing Finance Committee when they have actually arrived; till then they have to be kept confidential: once they have arrived there is no risk in divulging these things and bringing them in the regular budget. Under war conditions, the Railway Board and the Financial Commissioner cannot do otherwise than what they have done now.

As regards engines, I have already expressed my opinion during the general discussion of the Railway Budget and on the cut motions and I need not repeat them now—namely, that it is very doubtful whether the purchase of these engines is a good bargain: my information is—and I want the Honourable Member to get up and say if I am wrong—that these engines cannot be used with safety to the passenger traffic: they can only be used for goods traffic; and then again the life of these engines, instead of having normal life of 70 years is only about 15 to 20 years—certainly not more than 20. I was aware of this before but on account of war conditions I did not say anything; but now that it has come on the floor of the House I do not mind expressing my opinion, that these things ought to be examined very carefully; and if my information is correct, then we should stop importing engines of this type and wait till after the war, when we can get engines of the type we got in the past.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: Sir, the Railway Board's memorandum on the allocation of the cost of railway assets built or acquired during the war is, in one sense, a revealing document of the mentality behind the preparation of the railway budget by the Railway Board. I could see in between the lines how the mind of the Railway Board works. Its paramount policy is to be as disobliging as possible to its customers and as secretive and as least communicative as possible, so far as the Members of the Assembly are concerned. I

[Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty]

am only sorry that a shrewd business man who is now the head of that department should have also fallen a victim to these methods of the Railway Board and the bureaucracy. He, more than anybody else, can easily discover the methods by which figures can be concealed from the public eye and the sanction of deliberative assemblies of this type could be easily snatched. I am afraid his busy commercial life has made him rather take the present moments as those of leisure than of real work. That is why these things have escaped his otherwise vigilant attention.

Sir, they start on the basis of the expected actuals of the previous year's budget. In doing so, while they know that their revenues are exceeded and their estimated expenditure has gone down, they would not divulge that fact but merely put that aside, so that the public and the Assembly might be under the impression that they have to find the money required from current revenues rather than from the surpluses which they expect in the previous year. In preparing the current budget, they take particular care to underestimate revenue

and overestimate expenditure and to see if possible that no money is given to general revenues beyond what is compulsorily expected of them, so that the Honourable the Finance Member might be at full liberty to keep up high taxation and they themselves would go in for increase of railway rates and fares, denying at the same time even the ordinary amenities to passengers, whether they belong to the first class or the third class. This seems to be the policy of the Railway Board. You can easily see in this memorandum that the previous year's surpluses were not taken into account, that the current year's expenditure was over-estimated and the revenues were underestimated and any surpluses that were available from the previous year's revenues were debited to the cost of working expenses on the plausible ground that expenses during war time must naturally be taken into account and be debited to working cost instead of merely over capitalising. Under that plausible plea they went on debiting almost practically 75 per cent. of the surplus towards the working cost and even curtailed the share of the general revenues from the railway revenues, so that this evening the Honourable the Finance Member would say that the contribution which he expected from the railways has gone down and that his own expenditure has increased. Therefore there must be increased taxation. So far as the railway finance is concerned, while they debited every possible surplus to the working cost, which in certain circumstances might be justifiable, they did not make any serious attempt to build up a fund to satisfy the grievances of the third class passengers and I am surprised to see that the Railway Finance Committee which has usually taken, all that has been said by the Railway Board, for granted, in this matter at least, added a rider to their Resolution making reference to the question of building up a reserve for the amenities of third class passengers. After some discussion it was decided to postpone the consideration to the following day. I do not know what happened on the following day. Evidently that has been dropped. I understand that there was no meeting afterwards. That is the way they want to treat third class passengers. Only the other day Mr. Jamnadas Mehta drew pointed attention to the smallness of the amount provided for third class passengers' amenities. In 1935, the then Transport Member exhibited a third class railway compartment for the approval of the Members of the Assembly, as if those compartments were coming in in three or four months time. It is now ten years since and not a single compartment of that or any other type has arrived and still every year you pass a Resolution or a cut motion drawing the attention of the Government to the necessity of providing more amenities for third class passengers. Every year it is neglected. This year there is a large surplus. The possibilities of getting more revenue have not disappeared and are likely to continue even this year and yet no sincere attempt has been made to alleviate the grievances of third class passengers. A deliberative assembly like this is intended to see that the grievances of the public are not ignored either through ignorance or carelessness. Here we see a deliberate attempt not to give anything to third class passengers.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: On a point of order. To which portion of the Supplementary Demand for the Maintenance and Supply of Locomotive Power is the Honourable Member referring?

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: Sir Edward Benthall wants to meet me on a technical point. Even there he cannot be successful, because you find a provision here for part of the cost of rolling stock, subsequent to 1942-43—17 crores 72 lakhs. It is not on a technical point that I want to meet my Honourable friend. I want to know what he has done for the third class passengers when his finances are in such a prosperous condition. Has he become so callous as not to mind these things? Why should the Railway Board always make it a policy to throw dust in our eyes and get money away from us? We can only co-operate with you in your good governance of the country. We cannot always be like C.I.D. men watching the criminal acts on the people of this country at every moment. I hope there will be a change of mentality in the conception of the duties of the Railway Board and of the War Transport Member. He is particularly there to serve the public and to ask for money for serving the public. If he makes it a point to keep people in ignorance of all the manipulations of the accounts and of the way in which he may dispose of the surplus by over-debiting to the working cost instead of meeting urgent demands to improve the condition of the third class passengers, then I am afraid no Assembly can possibly check that kind of action. If it is possible for us, I think we must record a strong protest against these things by recording a dissenting vote at least on one motion.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On a matter of information. The last item refers to 17 crores odd—Debits to revenue of part of the cost of rolling stock received subsequent to 1942-43. In the purchase programme of rolling stock, some portion of the cost of new rolling stock purchased is debited this year to revenue and the rest of the amount is distributed over subsequent year's revenue. That is what I understand so far as this item is concerned. I find, now, that the new rolling stock that is purchased is in substitution of some that exists. From the speech of the Honourable Member when he introduced the Railway Budget, I thought that this was an addition to the existing rolling stock. Now that he charges this to revenue and shows it as one of our assets, we must find it among the assets when we look into the assets of the Railways. Otherwise if it is not included in the assets, it might be possible for any subsequent Railway Member or the Administration to write this off as having been worn out. Then there would be no opportunity for the Assembly or the public to know what has become of this amount, if it does not find a place in the capital at charge. The Honourable Member said when he introduced the Budget that he does not want overcapitalisation and therefore he does not want to charge against capital the new stock that he now purchases and to that extent he has relieved. But there must be an account showing capital which we have invested whether the amount is for the time being taken from revenue of that year or by fresh capital, that is added—we must know what the assets are. Is there any account preserved of this 17 crores and odd which are spent? Are they added on to the existing capital?

Mr. Zahid Husain: Sir, I find myself in a rather difficult position; the ground that has been covered by Honourable Members who have spoken on this subject is so vast and so extensive that it is difficult to deal with all the questions that have been raised in the course of a brief reply to a discussion on supplementary demands.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Twenty crores is a big sum. Take your own time. There is no hurry.

Mr. Zahid Husain: I will deal with some of the questions that are relevant to this supplementary demand. The most important item here is naturally the one relating to locomotives, amounting to 1,77,24,000. This liability arises out of our programme of purchase of rolling stock costing about 94 crores. This rolling stock purchase had to be made in order to carry traffic in connection with war. It was not open to us to refuse to purchase this rolling stock. As a matter

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of fact, it was essential to maintain the war effort of the country as well as civil economy of the country. It was not open to us to insist on any other types of rolling stock. The manufacturing capacity of America and England is allocated according to certain priorities and according to certain rules. It is not open to any country to demand that it will get only particular types or particular varieties of things. We have to take whatever is offered to us.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: We do not manufacture locomotives.

Mr. Zahid Husain: That is past history. I am only describing the present position. If we followed the existing rules for the purpose of allocating the cost to capital, revenue and depreciation fund, what would be the result? The result would be that the depreciation fund which stands today at 98 crores would be reduced to the negligible figure for railways of 36 crores. Also capital would be debited to the extent of 15 crores. Actually on examining the whole position, we found that there would be little addition to our wagon capacity or tractive effort of locomotives. But there would be a very large debit to capital under certain rules which were framed not to deal with the situation that has arisen today but with peacetime conditions. Should we have allowed these debits to depreciation fund and consumed the fund, so that we should have nothing left to rehabilitate the railways at the end of the war? Should we have allowed this debit to capital and watered it down, so that at the end of the war when revenues go down, we should find ourselves in a position of over capitalisation? We are earning large sums of money, but those large sums of money are being earned as a result of our assets including rolling stocks being consumed at a very rapid rate. It was necessary therefore to make a special procedure in order to relieve the depreciation fund of the danger with which it was threatened and also to avoid overcapitalisation of railways. I maintain, Sir, that these measures were absolutely necessary in the interest of the country and people who think that they should not have been adopted do not devote considerable time to the matter.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Question.

Mr. Zahid Husain: The question was asked by my Honourable friend Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar whether we have taken adequate account of the fact that these items of rolling stock are probably poorer in quality. Sir, if my Honourable friend had read the various memoranda that were presented to the Standing Finance Committee, he would find that this question was discussed and we have taken adequate account of that fact. The poorer quality of rolling stock would be reflected in the form of lower life for stocks. Such lower or shorter life has been taken duly into account in the formula for the purpose of allocating expenditure to depreciation fund and revenue.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In which page is it? How have you arrived at 40 per cent. formula?

Mr. Zahid Husain: Forty per cent is a different formula altogether. As a result of applying the formula based on additional tractive effort or additional wagon capacity, we found that there is very little debit to capital and therefore that formula of 40 per cent. will be effective only when there is a very large increase in wagon capacity or tractive effort.

My Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa asked me the exact significance of a supplementary vote. What happens after a Budget is passed? The Executive Government has certain powers, which are recognised under all constitutions, of transferring provision made under one head to another in the same grant, so that if we have any excess expenditure under one head, and there is a saving available under certain other head, it is open to the Executive Government to transfer the saving from one head to the other head under which the excess occurs. Occasions arise in which certain liabilities have to be faced which are inevitable in character. If they are not accepted immediately, either you have to stop the administration or you have to face a serious loss of efficiency. Take the case of railways. Supposing there is more traffic to cater for. Would you advise the Railway Board to wait until the Legislature meets in order to spend

more money on coal? Or would you allow the Executive Government to meet the liability and then come before the House and explain the position? There are certain items which are not inevitable, for which it is necessary that the vote of the House must be taken before any liability is incurred. There are others which are inevitable and they must be faced immediately they arise if the administration is to continue.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: On a point of explanation, Sir? I was not making any grievance of what has happened. Because the word "will" has been used in the motion, I only wanted to know whether all these payments *will* have suddenly to be made during the next 31 days or whether they have already been made. My Honourable friend seems to think that I was trying to blame the Department for having done this, that or the other.

Mr. Zahid Husain: I was not at all suggesting that you threw any blame on the Department. On the other hand, I was trying to explain the present position.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: The Honourable Member was angrily asking: Should this not have been done; should not that be done; and so on.

Mr. Zahid Husain: As regards the language of the formula, it is only formal language recognised under the constitution. I do not know whether there is any particular significance attached to it. I have explained the position in which supplementary demands arise. Well, for example in this case, with regard to the sum of Rs. 1,77,24,000 it is a question of adjustment between the Railway Department and another Department. This large sum has not yet been met. This can be met only if the Legislature has voted the demand.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is there any compulsion that the future tense alone should be used?

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The Honourable Member is not giving way.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Under the Standing orders, we have framed this language.

Mr. Zahid Husain: Now, Sir, my Honourable friend Sir Zia Uddin asked whether these engines which we are obtaining for goods services can be used for passengers. I think the Honourable Member for War Transport explained that these locomotives can be used for passenger services. Their tractive effort is naturally greater because they are intended for goods. Their speed would be less but they can nevertheless be used for passenger services.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Don't use them in the train in which I am travelling because the margin of safety is very poor!

Mr. Zahid Husain: Now as regards the information which we supply, I really feel that we have never been secretive in the matter of information which has been supplied in the various documents. As a matter of fact the information is perhaps more than can easily be digested. But it is very complete information. We look into it with extreme care and take all measures to see that nothing material is omitted from the documents that are given to the Honourable Members of the Legislature.

Now, as regards the recommendation of the Standing Finance Committee which it made in its meeting of the 14th February for making specific appropriations from revenue surpluses towards the reserve for the purpose of lower class amenities, I remember it was explained by the Honourable the Railway Member in reply to a certain cut motion that this recommendation will be taken into consideration and the whole matter will be placed again before the Standing Finance Committee. In case there is any improvement in the surplus during 1944-45 and 1945-46 we will place the matter before the Standing Finance Committee next year, and the question of making a specific provision will be taken into consideration.

Certain Honourable Members have charged us with manipulation of accounts. As I have explained, we give complete information in the documents that are supplied to Honourable Members. I do not know whether there is any evidence of manipulation of accounts. Manipulation of accounts would be

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adjustment of the accounts without disclosing the reasons and without giving full details. If we make certain adjustments we place the whole information before you through the documents that are supplied to the House.

Another question that was asked was whether these locomotives are being treated as additions to the stock or are being treated as being on replacement account. This point also was explained in the speech of the Honourable the Railway Member. All these items that are being purchased are being treated on replacement account. But in order to meet the heavy traffic which we have to carry at the present moment we are not scrapping the items which are treated as replaced. This is not removed from the ordinary normal practice of railways. These old items will be scrapped after the war when the traffic begins to go down. Sir, I have nothing more to say.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore cum Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I should like to ask the Honourable Member a question arising out of his statement. Since he mentioned of this rapid depletion of assets by overworking, I should like to know whether the department have examined the possibility of increasing the percentage of the allotment towards depreciation and consequently the amount allotted to the depreciation fund.

Mr. Zahid Husain: The Honourable Member is aware that the Convention Committee looked into this question in great detail and made certain recommendations which were given effect to last year, as a result of which we are contributing two crores a year to cover the extra depreciation due to the war.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The question is

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 19,99,47,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Maintenance and Supply of Locomotive Power'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 6-C—WORKING EXPENSES—MAINTENANCE OF CARRIAGE AND WAGON STOCK

Mr. Zahid Husain: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,51,85,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Maintenance of Carriage and Wagon Stock'."

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,51,85,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Maintenance of Carriage and Wagon Stock'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, here also the main thing that I would like to raise is about the debit of 1 crore and 80 lakhs. In this there are two matters; one is for the extra price which they pay for the war-time manufacture of wagons and carriages and the other is the depreciation which they are unable to make good and the repairs which they are not able to make good because of the present war-time conditions. About the first I hear this is the calculation they have made. For wagons all expenditure in excess of 150 per cent. of the cost of wagons in 1938-39 is proposed to be debited to revenue. And now I refer to the second item. On page 7 of the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways of the 13th and 14th February 1945, they say that due to war-time conditions they are not able to make the necessary repairs which it is necessary for them to make but which they are unable to make owing to war-time conditions. This is what they say:

"The Government have in this connection considered also the question of the extent to which the maintenance of railway equipment is being postponed owing to the difficulties created by the war. 'Maintenance' in this context should be understood to be the maintenance chargeable to working expenses. For renewals chargeable to Depreciation Fund appropriations are being made to the Fund the balance of which will be available after the war for overtaking the arrears."

I should like to know to which of the two sections this refers. It must be composed of these two items,—the cost of the postponed repairs which they must make today but which they are unable to make owing to war-time conditions to which they refer in paragraph 11 on page 7 of this small book, or it must refer to the extra price which they are paying on account of the war owing to the urgent orders they had to place with the United States. I should like to know to what this item refers and how much of each has gone to make up this item.

Then there is another matter that I should like to raise. This refers to the maintenance of carriages. Can they give also by way of cost how much has been spent on the repairs of First and Second Class carriages and how much on the Third Class. It is a very crucial question for some of us who have to travel in the ordinary carriages. The War Transport Member of course has his luxurious saloon fitted with all comforts, but for poor people like us who have to travel in ordinary carriages it has become absolutely impossible. The third class compartments are not at all attended to by way of repair, the windows do not open properly or fix. They fall on your head, the latrines are in disrepair and you cannot even close them properly. The whole thing is extremely bad, and it is high time that Government keep separate accounts of these. Separate accounts will help every one. It will be a pointer and will explain where the mistake has been made, and they will find to their own conviction how in comparison with the higher classes the third class has been sadly neglected. Government seem to think that all that we say is nothing but stories. But it is nothing but the absolute truth, and I want them to give us separate accounts if they can. Can the War Transport Member get these accounts? Can he give me separate figures for maintenance?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am afraid I shall require notice for that.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I am giving him notice today and I shall be satisfied if he can get a statement prepared showing these figures separately and circulate it to this House in any way he likes, so that we may be able to know that the third-class passenger is attended to in proportion to the money that he contributes.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If the Honourable Member will put down a question, I will do my best to answer it.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: We have to do only a few questions a day, and then you must have proper notice and so on. If the Honourable Member can take this as a notice of this question it would serve my purpose. He has got his staff here who can put this down for him.

Now, I come to the other point. This point is the same as the last point that I raised with regard to locomotives. With all the erudition and the cleverness with which he understands the subject—I do not want to deny him that knowledge—he has not been able to make me understand what he meant. He referred to the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee. I do not read every page of it, but will he refer to me the page in which there are calculations by which he has arrived at the figure of 40 per cent.

Mr. Zahid Husain: I have got a long statement ready. In case the Honourable Member is interested, we will be able to present this statement to him.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I shall be glad if he will send this to me. I do not think the Honourable Member would like me to go to the Secretariat for this statement.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): After all the Honourable Members have to meet somewhere.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: If he arrives at a conclusion by this process, it seems to me to be very arbitrary. There must be some basis by which they should arrive at a certain figure.

While dealing with this matter, I would also refer to the very poor way in which the assets have been made. I would like to read just a few lines from that very illuminating report of the Sankara Aiyar Committee: It is illuminating for the fact that it gives nothing and it is illuminating for the fact that it

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is unable to give anything. If accounts are kept in such a way that you are able to find nothing that is a matter on which you can congratulate yourself as something very glorious—I have no objection—but the Honourable the War Transport Member should think twice before making such statements. I will read just a few lines:

"The recommendations of the Depreciation Fund Committee of 1922-23, were based on economic, or functional life of each class of assets, by the application of statistical data, after making due allowance for altered circumstances then obtaining. It would seem from the report of that Committee that statistical data were either available on the railways or could be easily collected . . ."

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The Honourable Member cannot read out long extracts.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, I am not in the habit of reading long extracts. I will read just a few lines more which I hope will be enough for the Honourable Member to understand what I mean:

"The Committee considered that similar statistical data would also be indispensable for the present investigation and therefore indicated their requirements to the Railways and asked them first to collect the information more readily available so that it could be discussed in the first round of their visits to the Railways."

They made enquiries from the various railways whether that statistical data was available:

"The Committee's enquiries from the G. I. P., B. B. & C. I., M. & S. M., S. I. and N. W. Railways revealed that with the exception of the Mechanical Department, the statistical information required, the existence of which was implied in the report of the Committee of 1922-23, was not there. No regular statistical records were introduced when the Depreciation Fund was instituted in 1924. The information required would, therefore, have to be collected from estimates and registers of works scattered over various Districts and Divisions."

This is the report of the expert committee which they themselves have appointed; they said that they could not do it. The Government is very clever and they said, "You shall not do it". So they have postponed it till after the war and God knows when they will take it up again. In the meantime they will go on multiplying the capital investments and God knows whether there are 900 crores of assets in this country in respect of Railways. Nobody knows that; no calculations are made; nobody has checked these figures; no depreciation has been fixed, and how they are going to do it is beyond me to say. No commercial concern will allow this sort of thing. No shareholder will allow this if it is a commercial concern. "So we would like to know these figures and how they have arrived at these figures."

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I entirely agree with what my Honourable friend has said about the depreciation fund. I have been pressing this point all these years and I pressed it in the Depreciation Committee, namely, the calculation of depreciation fund and the life and the strength of the article. You cannot calculate that. Supposing you ask me, "What is the life of your motor car?" What can I say? Can anybody tell that? It depends on the way in which it is used. If it is in the hands of a good driver and cleaner, its life will be longer.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Average life.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I said further that this attempt is as useless as it is impracticable to obtain, and that is the reason why I have been advocating time after time for the abolition of this depreciation fund altogether. It is the root cause of all the financial intricacies that we have before us. If you follow the simple principle, we will be better off, namely, every expenditure which yields revenue should be debited against the capital expenditure and the expenditure which increases comforts, which really improves the traffic, but does not bring in any revenue, ought to be put under revenue. If you had adopted this principle, all your difficulties would have disappeared and the criticism of my Honourable friend, Mr. Chettiar, will not be here today and probably I would have been saved many speeches which I have been delivering in this House during the last so many years.

The other point which he has raised—and quite correctly too—is the difficulty of the third class passenger. I entirely agree with him, but unfortunately the contagion has spread to the first class also. Travelling in first class now is as uncomfortable as travelling in third class before the war. If you go to a first class compartment, you will find that there is no light, there is no peg, if you enter the bathroom you find it is absolutely dark, it has no mirror, and, above all there are so many passengers that the bathroom door is blocked.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Abolish first class.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I have been advocating that there should be only two classes—upper class and lower class—and not four as at present.

An Honourable Member: There should be only one class.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: If there is only one class, it would be better still.

As regards the particular expenditure under this item, I did not see any reason anywhere for creating the office of the Director-General of Railways, Calcutta Area. Not that I am against having such an office—probably it may be necessary—but we have not seen its justification by Finance Committee. I can quite understand that you have ordered the engines, but the creation of an important post like this is a thing which cannot be done under emergency powers of the Railways and without the advice of the Finance Committee. I think in this case the permission of this House should have been obtained.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think that has been dealt with in Supplementary Demand No. 3 which has been passed!

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Since it is mentioned in the report, we ought to have had a memorandum about it. In the whole of the discussions not a single member of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways has spoken so that we could be enlightened on the subject. All we have had is the printed report of the Standing Finance Committee. You ought to supply us with better information so that we can intelligently vote and exercise our right in a useful manner. At present we have to take for granted the opinion of our colleagues in the Standing Finance Committee.

It is desirable when an important action is taken that it ought to be reported in the form of a statement or a resolution. We do not want to stop the good working of the railways, but it is desirable that the House should be taken into confidence in all these important measures. If you do that you will get the support of this Assembly and that means public goodwill. We had an example of the Road Trust Board. That is a point on which the opinion of the House ought to have been taken before embarking on the scheme. The point that my friend emphasizes, and I do the same, is that in any measures where you deviate from the settled policy, you should take the House into confidence and I can assure you that the House will give you full support because we are anxious to see the railways progress as it is our biggest national asset.

Mr. Zahid Husain: Mr. Chettiar asked a question regarding deferred maintenance. That is not mixed up with any item under this supplementary demand. What is proposed in connection with the maintenance is that a portion of the general reserve should be considered as ear-marked for overtaking areas of maintenance at the end of the war in case it is found necessary to obtain any assistance from the reserve. It was explained that maintenance is being postponed in a very limited field.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Can you give me the cost of the deferred maintenance?

Mr. Zahid Husain: We propose that a sum of five crores should be ear-marked for deferred maintenance up to 1944-45 and two crores a year thereafter subject to revision in the light of conditions obtaining from year to year.

Some questions have been asked about the Depreciation Fund Enquiry Committee. The report has not yet been examined and we have not yet reached any conclusion, but it is our intention to resume the enquiry as soon as the

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conditions are favourable and it is possible to detach officers for the purpose of undertaking the enquiry and for the purpose of collecting statistics and data which must be supplied to the Committee for the purpose of enabling it to discharge its duties. The enquiry committee has found that the railways are not maintaining the necessary data in regard to various categories of assets but it did find that data is being maintained for the assets of the mechanical department which covers rolling-stock, locomotives and machinery, which comprise the largest proportion of the assets of the railways. So although I would not claim that the conditions are as satisfactory as they should be, they are not as unsatisfactory as they are sometimes painted.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: But how to judge it without figures?

Mr. Zahid Husain: Data are being maintained for assets of the maintenance department which covers rolling-stock and machinery. This covers the largest proportion of the total assets of the railways.

With these remarks I commend the motion to the House.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,51,85,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Maintenance of Carriage and Wagon Stock'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 6-D.—WORKING EXPENSES—MAINTENANCE AND WORKING OF FERRY STEAMERS AND HARBOURS.

Mr. Zahid Husain: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,87,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Maintenance and Working of Ferry Steamers and Harbours'."

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,87,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Maintenance and Working of Ferry Steamers and Harbours'."

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: You will find that this is due to the heavy repairs caused by excessive use of the engines. The Standing Finance Committee on page 67 of their report . . .

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I take it that the Honourable Member is dealing with Demand No. 6-D relating to the working of ferries and not of engines—page 8 of the supplementary demand!

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Anything that the Honourable Member says is relevant to anything! That is our experience.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: About ferries I have one thing to say. When you embark on such a scheme of ferries, that is really the co-ordination of the water services with the rail. The question of rail, road, water and even air services should be discussed together. This is similarly linked up with the problem of railways taking the responsibility of running the water services. So I think this is also a question to be associated with the general problem of transport.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,87,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Maintenance and Working of Ferry Steamers and Harbours'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 6-E.—WORKING EXPENSES—EXPENSES OF TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT

Mr. Zahid Husain: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,38,44,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Expenses of Traffic Department'."

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,38,44,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Expenses of Traffic Department'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, there is a reference to 'handling charges': I would like to know what are these charges? I find that in the coming year's Budget it has been further increased.

Mr. Zahid Husain: It represents charges paid to contractors for loading and unloading of goods. Naturally their rates have increased owing to war conditions.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are these charges not recovered from the people who receive the luggages?

Mr. Zahid Husain: So far as goods are concerned the goods rates are supposed to include handling charges.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,38,44,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Expenses of Traffic Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 6-F.—WORKING EXPENSES—EXPENSES OF GENERAL DEPARTMENTS.

Mr. Zahid Husain: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 76,58,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Expenses of General Departments'."

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 76,58,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Expenses of General Departments'."

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In the Explanatory Memorandum in the explanation that is printed below it is stated "Additional provision has been found necessary on all railways mainly for the benefit of dearness allowance, engagement of additional staff and for raising the minimum pay of staff". I want to know what was the minimum before and by how much it was raised?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, I want to know what these General Departments are. Under this heading there are many items such as management and control of Boards of Directors, Agents and General Managers' offices, Accounts and Audit Departments, Stores Department, Medical Department, Watch and Ward Department, the cost of the Order Police, etc. Why are these things jumbled up under one Head. Medical and Police should be separate. I would suggest that some of these departments should be separately accounted for and separate accounts given. That would be the proper procedure.

There is an expense for London Boards. What are these London Boards? I do not know whether any of our railways still maintain London Boards.

As regards police, there is reference to contribution towards the cost of Order Police and additional police for the protection of railway property. As far as I remember the Honourable Member in reply to a question the other day said that these police were imposed in 1942 and they are being gradually reduced owing to improved conditions. Now, I find that in 1945 they are spending more on the Order Police. I would like to know whether the time has not come when the police which were requisitioned in 1942 at the time of the August disturbances should be withdrawn gradually and the money spent on this particular item reduced.

Mr. Zahid Husain: There are three categories of staff on the Railways—Gazetted, Subordinate and Inferior staff. This refers to subordinate staff, which includes clerks, station staff, and so on. The minimum pay varies from

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railway to railway but generally it used to be Rs. 30 and it was raised by Rs. 10 subject to a maximum of Rs. 40.

As regards various departments being collected together under one demand, I must say that I am not responsible for collecting them under one demand. This was done possibly as a result of the Resolution passed in 1924 when railway finance was separated from general finance and a Standing Finance Committee was appointed. This Committee was expected to examine the question of the demands which should be placed before the Legislature. This was the set-up agreed upon at that time and I believe it must have received the approval of this House. We have a separate demand for each major department like the Traffic Department. There are two demands for one Mechanical Department. But the departments under this demand are comparatively small ones and probably therefore from the point of view of convenience it was decided to collect them under one demand. If it is the desire of the House that this should be looked into again, we will place the matter before the Standing Finance Committee and take their views on the question.

As regards London Boards, the accounts of all company-managed railways which belong to the State were incorporated in our accounts. Therefore the London Boards exist in our accounts also but they will disappear now from 1945-46, because there is no major company-managed railway managed from London now.

As regards protection of Railway property, there are two kinds of establishment that are engaged for ensuring the safety of railway communications in India. Police provided by Provincial Governments and our own establishments. There were schemes on all Railways and they were given effect to from varying dates. According to the figures before me, the police provided by

4 P.M. Provincial Governments has cost Rs. 22,47,000 in 1942/43, Rs. 21,86,000 in 1943/44, Rs. 26,40,000 in 1944/45 (revised budget), and will cost about Rs. 24 lakhs next year. The 1944/45 figure contains some arrears thrown forward from 1943/44, and the actual expenditure properly relatable to that year is less than Rs. 26 lakhs 40 thousand. There has been some reduction in numbers, but we have not got accurate information at present; that reduction has been swallowed up by the increase in the costs of the establishments. Now, taking our own establishments in 1942/43 we spent about Rs. 11½ lakhs, in 1943/44 Rs. 26½ lakhs, and in 1944/45 Rs. 12 lakhs. We keep the matter under constant review, but until the war ends, it will not be possible to make a very large reduction in the police provided by the Provincial Governments; but we have been able to make very large reductions in the establishments financed by Railways themselves.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: If I may point out a contradiction, he said that the police were reduced, but that the cost has increased. The note on the other hand says, 'additional police for the protection of railway property in the conditions created by the war'. This specifically says that the number has increased.

Mr. Zahid Husain: I apologise for this loose wording.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 76,53,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Expenses of General Departments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 6-H—WORKING EXPENSES—EXPENSES OF ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Zahid Husain: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 76,74,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Expenses of Electrical Department'."

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 76,74,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Expenses of Electrical Department'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Details are given on page 115 of the Proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee's Meetings of 29th and 30th January, 1945. I find two items there for which I would like to have an explanation:

"Cost of wireless equipment being mainly a throw forward from 1943-44 in which year provision was made for this in the Capital programme—Rs. 25½ lakhs."

What is the wireless equipment referred to, and for what use?

"2, Increased expenditure on repairs to electric coaches, plant and installations, signalling materials, train lighting equipment, replacement of battery sets, etc."

I am surprised that there is an extra provision for train lighting. We do not find any lighting at all in the trains. In huge compartments we find one 5 candle power bulb. Even in the higher classes latrines are not lighted, and the Honourable Member said that he had not received bulbs.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: More intensive use, the note says.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I am not able to see how you spent extra money on lighting equipment. Possibly as he said, no bulbs were purchased or lost, but in the accounts we read 'spent on bulbs'.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I would like information on two points. (1) 76 odd lakhs has been spent under this heading, for electrical and other goods. Was any portion of this manufactured by the Railways themselves? (2) Where, if any, and to what extent these stores were produced in India?

Mr. Zahid Husain: As regards wireless equipment, after the disturbances of 1942-43, it was decided to establish wireless communications between important stations as an alternative means of communication for use in emergencies. According to the usual practice of Railways this equipment was treated as a charge to capital, although strictly speaking, under the rules, it should have been treated as a temporary work required only for the emergency and therefore debitable to revenue. We have therefore decided now, after looking into the question, to debit it to Working Expenses. The question whether wireless communications should be established on Railways as a permanent means of communication has not yet been considered and decided.

As regards lighting equipment, we make our best efforts to do whatever is possible, and we have been ordering large quantities of bulbs and other equipment, and we hope to improve the position as far as possible.

As regards manufacture in our own workshops in India, I am not able to make any statement regarding electrical equipment, but I know generally that Railway workshops have manufactured a very large number of spare parts, components, etc., which used to be imported before the war.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What about bulbs?

Mr. Zahid Husain: As far as I am aware, bulbs are not manufactured in our workshops, but are manufactured in private workshops in India.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 76,74,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Expenses of Electrical Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 10-A—WITHDRAWAL FROM RESERVE.

Mr. Zahid Husain: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,17,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Withdrawal from Reserve'."

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,17,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Withdrawal from Reserve'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: This matter has been creating some sort of doubts in the minds of many of the Members of this House. While the Railway Member or people who go along with him may think that the management of the finances of the railways is satisfactory, there are others who have misgivings. The real reasons for the misgivings are these. Looking at the figures on paper one may think that the railway finances are very well off and we are getting a lot of money and we are paying to the general revenues as we never did before—32 crores. But the reason for the misgivings are these. As the Honourable Member accepted it himself, the income figures are largely illusory. The reason is that they are never received in cash but by way of adjustment. If I remember correctly, the figure he gave was that about 60 per cent. of the traffic in India today is military. Most of it is paid by way of adjustment; and naturally when we talk about bloated receipts it arises out of these illusory receipts. But the debits are real. Why do we call them real? The 92½ crores of rupees which you have paid and are bound to pay for the locomotives is real—every rupee of it must be paid. The few crores of rupees that you have to pay on the orders for wagons placed outside this country are real. And all the money you have spent on the maintenance of the works, and on your highly paid officers is all real; and now I ask this House to consider whether the allotment you are making to reserves for the future is sufficient for a good commercial concern. That is a matter which we raised a few minutes back—about the depreciation that ought to be allowed for structural works, the depreciation that ought to be allowed on locomotives, the depreciation that has to be allowed on wagons—if they are all on a rational basis and if we can say with courage that we will meet what is going to come to the railways in the future—it may be depression like the one we had after the last war—and whether the Railway Member and the Financial Commissioner can say "We have done well". Considered from that point of view I want you to think it over whether we have really considered well. I ask them, what is the rationale of writing down 40 per cent. of the monies spent on locomotives as an extra war time payment? I have not been satisfied with it. The Honourable Member says that he will satisfy me—I hope he will; but in my opinion it is not a proper value. Again, what about wagons? The standard that he has set before himself—about 150 per cent. over the value of 1938-39 as the proper cost of the present wagons—that also I am not able to understand the reasons as to how he arrived at that figure.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Actuals.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I would like the Member to give us figures instead of mere *a priori* statements as to the rational with which they have arrived at those figures. As regards structural works, the extra value is put at 50 per cent. of the present value, as being the higher price they paid for war time buildings. I say from daily experience as a layman that this is absolutely insufficient. We are building at 300 per cent. of pre-war levels of cost; and if you say 50 per cent. above pre-war prices is sufficient, you are wrong and you are deluding yourself and you are trying to shut your eyes to facts. If you calculate your depreciation properly you are afraid to arrive at a figure at which large profits will not be left. But I warn you. I want you to be rational; I want you to have proper statistics and good accounts, and then whatever has to be met, we shall have to meet.

Now, I come to the question of reserve. I understand, subject to correction—I have not read the book which my Honourable friend, Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad has given me—that there are two reserves in the railways. One is the Railway reserve and the other is the depreciation fund, which is also a reserve. I do not know—and I wish that they will give in some portion of their reports hereafter—the figures of the current depreciation fund and of the railway

reserve fund somewhere in their books—I have not been able to find it in any of these books.

Mr. Zahid Husain: Explanatory Memorandum.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I am thankful to you—I did not go through it as carefully as I ought to have. I would like to know what reserve you have in the railway reserve fund. I would also like to know something—laymen as we are—as to what purpose you want to take monies from the railway reserve for, and for what purposes you want to take money out of the depreciation fund. Our assets are about 900 crores; our reserve, if I remember aright, will be 92 crores at the end of the war; the railway reserve is—how much?

Mr. Zahid Husain: Expected to be about 30 crores at the end of 1945-46.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: That is about 120 crores in both the reserves. Out of these have to be met also the deferred renewals which you have not repaired to date, which the Honourable Member has calculated at 5 crores till now and 2 crores per year. I would like him to consider all these things together and to say whether he feels that the railway reserves are kept at their proper levels. Also, whether their assets, which they have not been gone into, are really today equal to 900 odd crores, which are the capital sunk over these railways. It may be all right for the Railway Member to come forward today with surpluses. But he must remember these are not the results of his efficient working, but the results of four or five causes, namely: one, you have cut down your own trains; two, the competing agency, the buses, have been cut down; three, the military traffic is the biggest traffic you are having; four, all these controls are being kept in Delhi, and they keep a large amount of people from going to different parts of the country. These are things which will disappear suddenly at the end of the war, and what will you be left with? All the railways will be rotten; all third class compartments will be rotten; all the first and second class compartments will be rotten; the lines will all have been overworked and will need large repairs; in addition you will have these war time locomotives and wagons which are short lived and their renewals will come up much quicker than otherwise. The result will be in a few years after the war, with depression working on one side, the road traffic coming in on the other side and destroying your traffic, and your own enlarged traffic—the result will be you will find everything rotten, and when you want to repair all these things you will not have any money. It will not then be a case of contribution to the general revenues, but I am afraid the general taxpayer will have to pay even the interest charges on these 900 crores. We have made it before and I am afraid we may have to do it again, judging by the way in which Railway finance is being managed today. Then after 15 years it will be said, when everything gets rotten, when the locomotives and tracks are bad and everything requires repair and you do not have money and when the Honourable Member perhaps has retired and left matters in charge of Indians—he will say that the blame for the rotten working of the railways is due to having Indians at the top. I have no doubt that if some unthinking Englishman were to make a statement like that, we can only say that you have given us a rotten heritage and your working has been very bad. I seriously contend that the way in which the finances of the railways are managed is not proper and the future of the railways after the end of the war is not as hopeful as it should be.

One word more. I should like him to consider these things. When this bureaucratic administration does a thing, it tries to stick to it and says it is best under the circumstances. They would not like to change it. I hope that this foolhardy attitude would not be adopted by the business man who has taken office today. I hope he will consider these things and bring about a change at least by the time he presents his next budget before this House.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: This particular demand vitiates the very purpose for establishing a reserve fund. The very idea of a reserve fund is that you build up some reserve during boom time in order that it may be available to you during the time of depression. We hear all the time that the railways are

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.]

a public utility concern and my friend the Railway Member pressed upon us something more, that we are also a business concern. I agree with him and if it is a business concern, you ought to build up a reserve which may meet your difficulties during the time of depression. In the depression of 1930, we had to follow strict economy. We had retrenchment, we reduced salaries, we reduced the scale of promotion and we raised the customs duty by 25 per cent. and upset the whole economic structure of the country. The Railways ought to be above these vicissitudes and changes and they followed the methods of business concern. This was also the recommendation of the Wedgewood Committee, that we ought to build up some reserve during the boom period so that it may be used during the time of depression. My friend Sir F. E. James persisted on one occasion that this reserve ought to be 10 per cent. of the capital, that is 100 crores. Now, what is the meaning of spending from your reserve fund during the boom period? It must come from other sources. I am sorry that we should be asked to vote for withdrawal from the reserve. As my friend pointed out, by the end of the year, it will be in the neighbourhood of 30 crores. It really falls very short of 10 per cent. of the capital at charge. Any withdrawal during boom time is not justifiable. It is not in keeping with the object of the reserve fund. It is not in keeping with the claim that the Railways have always put up, that they are a business concern. When depression comes, there should be no retrenchment and no difficulty in running these trains. My friend who is a business man ought to know that in the depression of 1930-31 only those businesses flourished which had built up a reserve and which could be used in times of difficulty. Those that had invested in assets which could not be sold at a moment's notice came to grief. This principle ought to be adopted in the case of railways. They should have sufficient reserve to meet the cyclic period of 6 or 7 years of depression which comes at regular intervals. If you look into the history of railways from 1857, you will find that they always had a cycle of boom and a cycle of depression. Any attempt to use up the reserve during the boom is not a correct policy and it is against the recommendations of the Wedgewood Committee.

As regards the point raised by Mr. Chettiar, it is unfortunate that the Acworth Committee came to India in 1922. Sir William Acworth came to India after his experience in Australia and of the German railways after the war. If the committee had been appointed in 1930, its recommendations would have been very different. It is unfortunate that they advised to restore depreciation in spite of its abolition in 1875. The time will come when we shall find ourselves in a series of financial conundrums. The basis on which we started and our blessings of the convention of 1924 were in the wrong direction and the time will soon come when they will have to be revised. I do not object to the expenditure but the money should not be debited to the reserve fund. The boom will not go on for many years and then the depression is sure to come. With a reserve of 50 crores, I would have given you 3 crores, but as things are, I oppose the motion.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: It is with some trepidation that I speak on this motion. I am not inclined to be unduly pessimistic about the position of the Railways as my friends Mr. Chettiar and Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. After all, I believe the recommendations of the Wedgewood Committee have been strictly followed with particular emphasis this year and a considerable portion of the cost of materials bought is debited to working expenses instead of to capital. I thought that the Railway Board and the War Transport Member did really a wise thing in debiting more than the ordinary proportion of the cost of materials to working expenses, so that the excessive cost that we are paying during this war period may be counteracted by larger debits to depreciation and other working expense accounts. So far as the receipts from the military are concerned, my friend Mr. Chettiar said that it was all a paper adjustment. Now, Sir, I believe that every transaction is a paper adjustment. If there is a credit from the military to the railway finance, there must naturally be a debit in our defence budget which we will see in course of time. Therefore, Sir, so

far as railway finances are concerned, it is really actually an entry of credit, whether that credit is in the shape of goods or in the shape of paper money, which is the only money that is now current with us. If there is going to be a general depreciation in regard to value of paper money, there will be depreciation also including railway surplus. So, I do not think there is much point in saying that receipts from defence expenditure is not a substantial and reckonable entry so far as our railway finances are concerned. In my opinion, it is as much a credit item as the receipt from passenger traffic or goods traffic outside military operations. So far as debit to purchase of goods and structural constructions, I think they have been prudent in making a larger provision for depreciation. My fear is that by stressing too much upon the whole thing being debited to working expenses, they in their usual unsympathetic attitude towards public grievances will get greater support from our arguments; you said all this money should be debited to working expenses or to depreciation fund, and so there is no money for giving more amenities or more facilities for passengers. It is from that point of view that I am afraid this argument might be used. So far as railway financial condition is concerned and the railway finances are concerned, I should rather think it is better than in previous years and I find large sums towards depreciation reserve fund are very prudently made.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I am not so hopeful as my Honourable friend who spoke just now. I hope that a majority are in my favour. Sir, I am not merely addressing myself or addressing the House on the political aspect of this question. I treat it more from a commercial point of view, from the point of view of a businessman or of a shareholder of a company who would ask the managing director to account. The Honourable Member for War Transport wanted the entire Indian population to feel as if they are the owners of this asset and that we are the directors of that company. The Honourable Member himself is the managing director. I shall now address myself from this standpoint. Now, Sir, let me say that after nearly 100 years of administration of this asset, we are aware that we have got a debt of 899 crores. What is the capital at charge? The capital at charge is an unknown figure. It has been said to be 799 odd crores. What is the present worth of this capital at charge? If we have the present worth in rupees, annas and pies calculated up to date and then add to it depreciation, then we will have a capital at charge. But here both depreciation and present worth are unknown quantities. If in an equation, out of three, two are unknown, how are you to get the third? That is our present position. After nearly 100 years, is it not necessary to take the analogy of any company? Would we not wipe out the whole debt and also build up a huge reserve? The debt is there. The Wedgewood Committee, in their report, say that every year, there should be allotted some five crores towards amortisation of debt. That has not been done. That has never been done till now. The present allocation is between reserve and depreciation and I personally would say, if there is a conflict between setting apart certain funds which are surplus in a particular year to the reserve or the depreciation fund, then I will preserve the depreciation fund, because reserve is intended for paying off interest every year. So far as depreciation is concerned, it is for the purpose of replacement. It is no doubt true the question therefore will be into which pocket belonging to the same administration money is to be put in—the administration as a whole is neither undergoing a profit or undergoing a loss. Therefore, we need not be too ticklish about the question as to whether reserve ought to be built up in preference to depreciation or depreciation fund must be overloaded in preference to reserve. Both mean the same thing. If the reserve is not sufficient there, we will draw from depreciation fund. In one year or other, we will borrow and pay our interest. That is the present situation. What we have to address ourselves to is whether the situation as a whole, the administration of the asset as a whole is on a sound basis. I honestly differ from what the Honourable Member for War Transport has been saying all along and from what he addressed us in his opening speech on the Budget. Our present position is far from sound. There is a huge debt over this asset. We do not know what

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exactly it is. The asset, as Mr. Chettiar said, may be wholly rotten, the railways are rotten, the wheels are rotten, the coaches are rotten, everything concerning the railways are rotten. All these together, if they are scrapped, may not fetch even ten per cent. of the capital at charge. Therefore 800 crores and odd are our debt, ten per cent. of it are our assets. In order to pay this debt, we will have to tax ourselves, in order to re-establish and rehabilitate this industry we will have to tax ourselves. That is our present financial position. Therefore the more the depreciation fund, the better for us. Therefore I agree that out of this demand, two crores odd ought to be set apart, taken from the reserve and allotted to depreciation fund. I want an assurance from the Honourable Member in charge of this Portfolio and it is this. Depreciation has not yet been calculated on any scientific basis. It was complained of that one-sixtieth flat rate is allotted towards depreciation fund. This was condemned in the Wedgewood report. How do you arrive at one-sixtieth? Is it by rule of thumb? Therefore they suggest actual valuation of the assets and that the depreciation must be calculated on the life of each asset and average struck. Even this is not felt to be scientific by the American standard. They have a different rule. But let at least the superior method suggested by the Wedgewood Committee so long ago as 1936 be followed. What is the explanation of the Honourable Member and his Department, which is already heavily overloaded? What is their explanation for not having brought this scientific approach towards the calculation of this depreciation fund? There is absolutely no explanation. One gentleman who has been appointed has not yet been able to calculate. My first and foremost complaint is that this is not treated as a commercial concern at all. He has clouded the whole thing, he has camouflaged the whole thing. I am really sorry that this huge asset is mismanaged. No doubt in the speech which the Honourable Member made and in the arguments advanced by the other Honourable Member who joined him, they made an attempt to make what is a bankrupt as not really bankrupt so that in the world at large, we may be able to borrow and have large credit. That is for the purpose of making it appear in America that we have got a beautifully huge asset on the credit of which we can borrow from the American market. Let me say once more that this asset is absolutely rotten. I therefore appeal to this House not to vote for this item unless and until the Honourable Member gives an assurance that he will change the method of calculation and arrive at a regular scientific depreciation and then say what is exactly the present worth of our asset. Let us know it. As regards allocation between reserve fund and depreciation, I have no quarrel with him. It is a matter of no consequence whether the amount is to go into depreciation fund or in the railway reserve fund.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am very glad to hear some Honourable Members support the argument for strong railway finances, and I am particularly pleased to hear my Honourable friend Mr. Sami Vencatachellam Chetty, if I understood him correctly, express some appreciation of the better conditions of railway finances compared with previous years. I think there are only one or two points which have arisen from the remarks of the Honourable speakers which need explanation. The last speaker referred to the question of a scientific basis for the depreciation fund. That has been the subject of discussion on the Convention Committee, and in order to reach this scientific basis we set up the Sankara Aiyar Committee which made certain investigations and found that owing to the pressure of war work and the expenditure of officers' time that it would take to prepare all the schedules that they required it would not be possible to carry through that investigation without seriously interfering with the operation of the railways. But I can give him the assurance that the desire to find that scientific basis exists and that we have taken the first step to meet the requirements of the situation.

[At this stage Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

My Honourable friend Sir Zia Uddin and one or two other speakers criticised the withdrawal from the reserve of 2.17 lakhs. I think that that should be viewed in close connection with the addition to the reserve of 10.1 crores against which there is this withdrawal of 2.17, so that there is a net accretion this year 7.84 crores. Whether that is enough or not is of course a matter of opinion, but our policy has to be shaped in accordance with the means at our disposal. I would, however, point out that that 7.84 crores compares very closely with the figure of 8 crores which two years ago I said that I thought ought to be set aside each year for Reserve. I consider that the appropriation of a figure of 7.84 crores to railway reserve this year coupled with the preservation of our capital position and the preservation of our depreciation fund is a satisfactory achievement, particularly at this stage of the war.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,17,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Withdrawal from Reserve'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 12—OPEN LINE WORKS.

Mr. Zahid Husain: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Open Line Works'."

This is a supplementary vote which I trust will meet with universal satisfaction and approval. There is actually no excess under this grant but this token demand is being placed before the House to bring to its notice and seek its approval to a major transaction which occurred during the year without being included in the budget,—I mean the purchase of the Bengal Nagpur Railway. At the time when last year's budget was framed we did not expect that the negotiations would be completed so quickly as they actually did. The negotiations had been started at that time but progress was not expected to be very quick. They however took a favourable turn and we were able to take over the Bengal Nagpur Railway from 1st October, 1944.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Open Line Works'."

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I only want to say that neither the Honourable Member in charge nor the Government of India need take any credit for having purchased this line now. This is a token cut and I am entitled to say that they are obliged to do it as a matter of policy. We know that when Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan was in charge of this department some years ago we pressed upon him to purchase the railways then. One of the railways was the M. and S. M. Railway and we asked him to purchase it. Money was then very cheap in the market; people were throwing their money in the savings bank which was not giving them an interest of even one per cent. Money otherwise was very cheaply available; but he said, "We shall purchase one other railway—the South Indian Railway—so that both of them can be worked together. For administrative purposes it will be convenient." Therefore he put it off with excuses. The real excuse was that they had plenty of money before the war. If this money should be repatriated to England Englishmen might not have another easy investor. That was the truth. Today they are in need of money for war and wherever they have invested they have taken it away, and therefore it is a virtue of necessity. So far as the purchase of this goes, let not Government take credit for having purchased it, if there are no facilities for its being Indian-owned, Indian-operated, and so on. Let them not purchase it now; after all it is not a useful asset. So far as I am concerned, these are according to the Honourable Member himself illusory gains that we are having during the war on account of military operations up and down. We do not know what this

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asset will yield. Soon after the war trade will be depressed and also the up and down operations of the trains will get depressed for the want of funds. I therefore take this opportunity to say that Government need not take credit for this. If really they establish locomotive factories and automobile industries and aeroplane factories, they will be entitled to get thanks from us. Till then they will only be entitled to abuse.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, we have already voted 35 crores 82 lakhs and 91 thousand rupees today as supplementary grants to the Railway Department. And after getting this huge sum they now come with their thirteenth demand for Rs. 1,000. This reminds me of a story. A man went to a sweetmeat shop and bought sweets worth Rs. 10,000, and at the end of all that he wanted a small *rabre* to eat.

This demand for Rs. 1,000 is a token demand. As regards the policy of purchase which lies behind this demand we are at one with the Railway Department; I think they have done wisely in purchasing these railways, and they are still wiser in purchasing the Bengal Nagpur Railway which in fact was to be purchased in 1951. So this purchase is in accordance with the wishes of this House expressed for the last 15 years, although it looks like a joke to demand Rs. 1,000 after the huge sums already granted.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, we are absolutely at one with Government in the matter of acquiring this railway. I am not referring to anything which my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar said. Many of the views which he expressed are true, and it rests with the administrations of the railways to see that Indians do really become proud of the Indian railways. It is really very good that we should acquire this railway too; and in this matter I should like to raise one question. I have seen in the reconstruction report which has been issued by the Government of India, one and a half pages in which post-war development of the railways is mentioned. I may assure the House and the Honourable Member that it is precious little that is given in those pages. We expected in that reconstruction pamphlet to get some detailed idea as to what is proposed to be done. One of the things mentioned in that is something relevant to this issue. They are going to regroup the railways to form economic units. When all the Indian railways have been acquired as State-owned railways it becomes easier for regrouping for the purpose of efficiency and economy of administration. I should like to know whether Government have really gone into the matter of regrouping of railways. If I remember right, even in his Budget speech the Honourable Member made reference to the regrouping of the railways. Now that almost all the railways have become State-owned, when almost all the company-managed railways are no more company-managed but have come under the control of the Railway Board, will they speed up with this arrangement of regrouping so that there might be better coordination, greater efficiency and less expense? I hope the purchase of these railways will go a long way to speed up that regrouping and coordination.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: Sir, it is no doubt a matter for congratulation that the Railway Board after acquiring the M. and S. M. and S. I. Railways are also acquiring the Bengal Nagpur Railway. We are feeling pleased in the hope that the administration of the Railways would be much better and would improve in course of time at least. If it is going to be in the same manner as it is today, we would rather have a company system in which case we can look forward to our grievances being quickly redressed and which works on business lines than we are accustomed to in our transactions with the Railway Board.

Moreover, I suppose the Honourable the War Transport Member has not forgotten that this railway system is circumscribed within some territories and areas to suit the private companies which originally initiated these lines. Those areas have now become archaic and the whole of India requires regrouping having regard to the movements of commodities and passenger traffic.

Unless regrouping is made and the systems of administration are improved and also the rates all over the country are uniform, there is no particular reason why we should feel gratified at the Government having purchased this system. There is the case of one gentleman belonging to the M. and S. M. Railway Company who when requested to provide drinking water at Bezvada railway station had the audacity to say that the railway fare did not include the provision of water service charges. I hope that the heads of this administration will not behave like that and that they will have more sympathy and more regard for the conveniences of passengers.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not think I need make any prolonged remarks. The question of regrouping is, as I have said on a previous occasion, under the consideration of the Government at the present time. We are awaiting proposals from the experts as to what is the best way in which to regroup the railways and of course the Bengal Nagpur Railway is one of the Railways which we are considering in any regrouping that may take place. I hope, therefore, that the House will pass this grant of Rs. 1,000.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Open Line Works'."

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL—contd.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, this Bill was moved by me the other day and we have now to consider the amendments. I am quite prepared to accept amendment No. 2 of Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar. I think that will satisfy the House.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill, for the proposed sub-section (6) the following be substituted: '(6) Nothing in sub-section (2) shall affect any rights of an employee under the rules of a provident fund to obtain advances from or to withdraw money standing to his credit in the fund, where the fund is a recognized provident fund within the meaning of clause (a) of section 58A of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922 (XI of 1922), or, the rules of the fund contain provisions corresponding to rules 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the Indian Income-tax (Provident Funds Relief) Rules.'"

Sir, originally the fund contemplated withdrawals without any conditions. We, by an amendment, wanted to limit it to borrowing on certain conditions, but now we find that there are certain occasions in which certain withdrawals, without the liability to pay back, are also necessary, and so I move this amendment which has been agreed to by the Honourable Member.

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

"That in clause 2 of the Bill, for the proposed sub-section (6) the following be substituted: '(6) Nothing in sub-section (2) shall affect any rights of an employee under the rules of a provident fund to obtain advances from or to withdraw money standing to his credit in the fund, where the fund is a recognized provident fund within the meaning of clause (a) of section 58A of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922 (XI of 1922), or, the rules of the fund contain provisions corresponding to rules 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the Indian Income-tax (Provident Funds Relief) Rules.'"

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, may I ask one question? The Honourable the Mover of the amendment did not put down any limitation, namely, up to the extent to which money could be withdrawn from the Provident Fund.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: It is given in the rules.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir it is opposed to the principles of the Provident Fund Act (1926). Sir the Provident Fund principle has not been applied to Provident Funds in companies. It is open to the Honourable Member to apply it to other institutions as funds of companies as it has been

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applied to local boards, railways, etc., where provident funds have been established. Under section 2, it is laid down:

"Compulsory deposit means a subscription to, or deposit in, a Provident Fund which, under the Rules of the fund, is not until the happening of some specified contingency, repayable on demand, etc."

In the case of death of a person, it is a provision for his family. As a matter of fact, there is a provision that provident fund is unattachable and no debts can be paid out of it. Therefore to allow anybody to withdraw from his provident fund at any particular stage for whatever purpose would be opposed to the principle underlying the Act. I find, Sir, that the Honourable Member is going back on that principle and I would therefore suggest that he should delete the word 'Withdraw' in the amendment and restrict it to borrowing.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is now Five of the Clock. Sir Jeremy Raisman.

THE BUDGET FOR 1945-46.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Last year, when presenting the fifth war budget to this House, I referred to the period through which India had then recently passed as one of economic storm. This year, in presenting the sixth war budget, it is possible to refer to the twelve months which lie behind us as one of relative consolidation and stability in the economic field, in strong contrast to the dramatic events which have been taking place on the field of battle. In Europe, in Asia and in the Pacific the tide has more than turned; the enemy is at bay and who can doubt that 1945 will bring final victory, at least in Europe? These heartening achievements have helped, and abundantly helped, the battle on the economic front also; they are dispelling that fear of an indefinitely prolonged war which contributes to hoarding and to speculation. But important as the psychological consequences of military victories have been, I feel I can legitimately claim that the measures of economic control which were effected in 1943 and which have since been enforced with increasing vigour and determination have also contributed to the result. First and foremost I would put the improvement in the food situation. We are moving forward on three fronts: towards monopolistic government procurement, towards an everwidening extension of rationing, and now that we have a solid foundation under our feet, towards a wider nutrition policy, which will embrace the protective foods as well as the foodgrains.

2. Secondly, we have made notable progress in our attempt to maintain prices generally on an even keel, to control the distribution of textile goods and to prevent profiteering of all kinds. The general level of wholesale prices has been subject to fluctuations from time to time, according as a more or less optimistic view was taken of the duration of the war, but prices as a whole do not differ markedly from what they were in the spring and summer of 1943, when our anti-inflationary efforts began to be undertaken on a wide front. It is encouraging to note a greater degree of willingness on the part of the public to co-operate with us and to resent the anti-social activities of certain traders in withholding supplies and of others who do not hesitate to offer or accept bribes in the furtherance of their own selfish interests. Our efforts to improve the economic situation have been greatly assisted by the freer flow of imports—of foodgrains, raw materials and finished products. The House is aware of the fact that a Mission has recently gone to London for the purpose of further discussing with His Majesty's Government the possibility of lightening the load which the continuance of the war imposes on the Indian economy.

3. I must again emphasise, as on previous occasions, that though individual measures of the kind that I have referred to are indispensable, yet the keystone of our defences, apart from our taxation and loan programmes, lies in the conscious restriction of expenditure by the mass of individuals. Though certain

classes of the population have suffered, and continue to suffer, from the fact that their incomes have not yet become fully adjusted to the higher level of prices, yet large and very important classes of the population are now in receipt of money-incomes very much higher than those which they previously enjoyed. This applies to the industrial population and to the agricultural classes as a whole; to the traders and to the manufacturers. The consumer goods for which they crave are not yet available and, except in so far as the additional incomes which have been generated by the war are amenable to taxation, the only possibilities are abstention from expenditure and lending to Government. Naturally, at the present time, the latter is the more completely satisfactory solution; not only does such lending greatly assist Government in its anti-inflationary campaign, but it marks a break with the age-old tradition of hoarding, which may well be an even greater obstacle to the rapid progress of India than many of the factors which are more frequently mentioned.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1943-44

4. I will first, as is customary, give briefly the results of the last financial year. In our revised estimates we expected to end the year with a deficit of Rs. 92.43 crores. The actual deficit turned out to be Rs. 189.79 crores. Defence expenditure exceeded estimates by about Rs. 96 crores. This was due partly to the fact that much of the fighting against the Japanese took place within, instead of wholly outside, India's frontiers and partly to an unexpectedly heavy adjustment in the accounts of the year in respect of vehicles utilised for the initial equipment and maintenance of India's local defence forces. There was also a deterioration of about Rs. 9 crores under Taxes on Income which was offset by an increased contribution from Railways and larger receipts under Excise.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1944-45

Revenue

5. Coming to the current year, the total revenue receipts are now expected to be Rs. 356.88 crores, an improvement of Rs. 48.60 crores over the budget estimates.

Customs receipts are expected to improve by Rs. 12 crores as a result of larger imports made possible by the general easing of the shipping position. Of this amount, Rs. 2½ crores are accounted for by the import of locomotives and wagons. Under Central Excises, however, there is a shortfall of some Rs. 2 crores, mainly under tobacco, caused by transport difficulties and by reduced cultivation as a result of the drive in favour of food crops.

6. Taxes on income were expected to yield Rs. 182.5 crores, Rs. 78 crores from excess profits tax and Rs. 104.5 crores from other taxes on income. The progress of regular E. P. T. assessments has been stepped up so that we now expect collections under this head to reach Rs. 110 crores. There is, however, likely to be a fall of Rs. 4½ crores under other taxes on income, which are expected to yield Rs. 100 crores. This figure excludes the collections of approximately Rs. 60 crores under the "Pay-as-you-earn" scheme which are treated for accounting purposes as deposits pending completion of the regular assessments. The divisible pool of income-tax has been taken at Rs. 61.13 crores and the share of the Provinces at Rs. 26.56 crores (including Rs. 49 lakhs on account of the previous year's arrears), or Rs. 2.87 crores more than the budget figure.

7. An improvement of Rs. 2.56 crores is anticipated under Currency and Mint—due mainly to Government's share of the surplus profits of the Reserve Bank increasing from Rs. 7.50 crores to Rs. 10.07 crores.

The estimates also include Rs. 10.27 crores proposed to be transferred from the two War Risks Insurance Funds to cover the estimated payments this year under the Bombay Explosion (Compensation) Scheme.

The revenue of the Posts and Telegraphs Department is now estimated at Rs. 28.78 crores, that is, Rs. 86 lakhs more than the budget figure. Expenditure is placed at Rs. 19.46 crores, an increase of 2.85 crores. The anticipated surplus of Rs. 9.32 crores will accrue to general revenues.

[Sir Jeremy Raisman]

For reasons already made known to the House, it has been decided to stabilise the contribution from Railways to general revenues at Rs. 32 crores for the current and ensuing years.

Expenditure

8. *Defence Services*.—Turning to expenditure I begin, as usual, with the defence services. The past year has witnessed a succession of major triumphs for the Allied cause. On the Western front the years of intense effort and patient preparation at last bore fruit and the liberation of France was effected with a dramatic suddenness equal to that of its fall, four years earlier. The Allied forces in this theatre are now fighting on the borders of, and even within, Germany itself. Our progress on the Italian front has, it is true, been slowed down but only at heavy cost to the enemy who have had to lock up in this theatre forces that they very badly needed elsewhere, especially on their Eastern front.

On that front the Russians, in a succession of titanic offensives sweeping all before them, have succeeded not only in freeing their own territory entirely from the enemy, but also in forcing the capitulation of most of the Axis satellites—Rumania, Bulgaria and Hungary—and are now within striking distance of Berlin itself. With the Russians investing her capital, the other Allies hammering at her Western frontiers, and the Allied air forces continually destroying her centres of war production, it is difficult to see how the final collapse of Germany can be long delayed. Nor is the position of the other surviving Axis partner much less precarious. In the Pacific Japan is rapidly being forced to give up her ill-gotten territories; her navy and merchant shipping are disappearing under the combined attacks of the Allied sea and air forces, and she is now being subjected in her turn to the devastation of air attack.

9. Developments in the S. E. A. theatre, in which India naturally has a special interest, did not take quite the course envisaged at the time of my last budget speech. Before any major offensive based on India could be launched against them, the Japanese took the initiative and committed almost their entire resources in Burma to a large scale assault on India's North-Eastern frontier. Some of the bitterest fighting of the war followed, largely on Indian soil, but the months of rigorous training in jungle warfare based on past painful experience in this theatre, which had been given to our forces, now paid magnificent dividends and, as the House knows, the Japanese suffered a major and decisive defeat. The full magnitude of the disaster inflicted on the Japanese in this brilliant campaign has yet to be revealed but the results to some extent speak for themselves, since not only were such of their forces as survived flung back over the border but the demoralised remains have been in continuous retreat, suffering heavy losses in men and munitions of war in the process. As a result the whole of Northern Burma has now been delivered from their control.

Although the date of Japan's final discomfiture cannot yet be confidently predicted, the events just summarised encourage us to think that it may be nearer than we dared to hope a year ago. India may well be proud of the part played by her forces of all three services in these events, and it is satisfactory that the importance of her contribution in this theatre has at last been duly recognised and appreciated by the other Allied Nations.

10. I shall now briefly refer to other important developments in the field of defence which have taken place in India during the past year.

There have been a number of improvements in the terms and conditions of service affecting all arms. Certain improvements in the rates of proficiency pay of Indian other ranks that were in contemplation a year ago have since been sanctioned with effect from the 1st January 1944. Improved scales of basic pay and *batia* for Viceroy's Commissioned Officers were also introduced from the 1st April 1944. The Government of India have recently extended to personnel of the British Services in the India Command the war service increments of pay sanctioned from 3rd September 1944 by H. M. G. for such personnel in other

theatres. They have also sanctioned similar increments for personnel of the Indian services with effect from the same date. These pay increases are admissible to all those having more than 3 years' service since the outbreak of war.

There have been further improvements in the medical arrangements for dealing with sick and wounded in India. The standards of military hospitals, both as regards buildings and equipment have been raised; better cook houses, fully modernised operating theatres, and improvements in ambulance trains have been introduced. Particular attention, too, is now being paid to the rehabilitation of wounded men, and the medical services are doing everything in their power to restore the normal functioning of limbs injured on active service so that the men concerned may take the fullest possible part in their subsequent civilian roles. An artificial limb centre has been established in India and is playing a very important part in this rehabilitation process.

11. During the cold weather of 1943-44 plans were made whereby the Defence Services would produce much of the supplies of fresh provisions required for their own consumption. These plans have now matured and by the middle of the year 60 per cent. of the fresh vegetables and potatoes required by these services was being obtained from schemes sponsored by them. Large quantities of eggs and poultry were also being produced monthly. By the end of the year the Defence Services will be largely self-supporting in fresh vegetables and potatoes and the output of the other items mentioned will have been multiplied many times. In some places supplies of fresh food produced in this way exceed the service requirements and so become available for sale to civil consumers. These arrangements will also exercise a salutary check on the prices of such produce in the country at large.

In my last budget speech I made special reference to the efforts being made for the promotion of the welfare of the Defence Services. During the past year this subject acquired a good deal of publicity, particularly in the U. K., and the visit of the Earl of Munster to India was designed to investigate how far the complaints from service personnel regarding the welfare and amenities arrangements in India were justified, and what steps were necessary to put things right. The investigation showed that within the limited resources at their disposal the authorities in India had done what was possible to ameliorate generally living conditions for soldiers—both British and Indian—in India. Such improvements as were called for were dependent in most cases on obtaining goods and services from overseas and it is expected that greatly increased facilities for this purpose will now be afforded.

12. The improvement in the quality of the Indian Air Force continues; the most recent development is the introduction of the famous Spitfire aircraft, and one squadron equipped with these will shortly be given an active operational role as a fighter squadron.

During the past year the quality of the men who presented themselves for selection as General Duty Officers in the Indian Air Force has been somewhat lower than formerly. The effect of this has been a large wastage in training, and the necessity for increasing the monthly intake from 70 to 104 recruits. In spite of this, the 10 squadron target has not been reached owing to lack of pilots. The 9th squadron of the Indian Air Force was formed on the 20th February 1944 and the formation of the 10th is under consideration, but, unless recruiting improves, this will not be possible.

The Empire Training Scheme has been temporarily discontinued, but flying training in India continues as before.

13. The Royal Indian Navy continues to grow and further progress has been made in the construction of training establishments and holding depots. Apart from its work in the defence of India's ports and coasts, the Royal Indian Navy is playing a considerable role in escorting shipping and general policing duties in Indian waters. It has given invaluable support and protection to the land forces in the recent operations on the Eastern Front in which its landing craft have played a major part.

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14. India continued to receive goods and services from the U. S. A. under Lend-Lease arrangements and, in return, to grant Reciprocal Aid in various forms of supplies and services as explained in my speech last year. The demands for such aid have been heavier than was anticipated last year particularly in regard to works (mainly airfields), petrol and aviation spirit. To some extent this was due to the increased activities of the U. S. Forces in strafing the Japanese on India's North-Eastern Frontier. The estimated cost of Reciprocal Aid to be afforded at India's expense to the U. S. A. for which provision has been made in these estimates is Rs. 76.33 crores during 1944-45 and Rs. 70.34 crores during 1945-46. The value of such aid furnished in the year 1943-44 amounted to Rs. 35.11 crores and the progressive total of Reciprocal Aid from the beginning of the war to the end of 1944-45 would, on these estimates, amount to about Rs. 124 crores. At present the great bulk of Reciprocal Aid afforded to the U. S. A. in India is charged to Indian revenues and only a relatively minor amount of such aid (*e.g.*, that relating to certain non-indigenous supplies) is financed by H. M. G. and treated as British Reciprocal Aid. The total amount of supplies and services expected to be made to India under Lend-Lease arrangements up to the end of 1944-45 is now estimated at roughly Rs. 515 crores and the value of these supplies and services which India, but for Lend-Lease, would have had to provide at her own expense is now assessed at approximately Rs. 150 crores. It is impossible to make any similar estimate for the year 1945-46 as the extent of Lend-Lease granted during that year must necessarily depend on war developments both in the European and the Eastern theatres. There seems no reason, however, to think that the value of Lend-Lease aid received by India to the end of that year will fall short of the corresponding amount of Reciprocal Aid to the U. S. A.

During the year under review India signed a direct Mutual Aid Agreement with the Government of Canada, which entitles her to participate in the benefits of Mutual Aid accorded by the Canadian Government to the Allied Nations. The precise effect of this Agreement upon India's defence expenditure has not yet been finally ascertained in the absence of complete information regarding the amount of such aid to be made available but, in framing the revised and budget estimates, a reduction of Rs. 5 crores has been allowed on this account in the estimates of each year.

15. In my last budget speech I referred to the necessity for ensuring that India's economy was not subjected to an intolerable strain as a result of its employment as a major base of operations against Japan. I have already referred to the Mission under Sir Akbar Hydari which is now in London examining in detail the extent to which demands for commodities required for war purposes, hitherto placed on India, can be met from other sources, and further what goods badly needed here can be sent out in order to offset the general depletion caused by war demands. It is hoped that this Mission, besides bringing much needed relief to India's economy, will have a wholesome educative effect on opinion in the United Kingdom and produce a better appreciation of the magnitude and nature of India's war effort.

16. During the year the negotiations with H. M. G. that have been in progress for some time past regarding the allocation during the war of non-effective charges, *i.e.*, pensions and gratuities paid to personnel of the defence services and their dependants, were concluded and an agreement between the two Governments on the subject has now been reached.

Prior to the outbreak of the present war, each Government received from the other contributions in respect of so much of the pensions and gratuities of their own armed forces as were reckoned to have been earned in the service of the other Government. Since under normal conditions the number of British service personnel employed in India far exceeded the number of Indian service personnel employed at Imperial stations, the net result of these adjustments was a substantial annual payment by India to H. M. G. This process necessitated the

maintenance of an elaborate non-effective account and the continuous collection of detailed information regarding the service of many thousands of officers and men. During the last war it was found quite impossible to keep up this non-effective account which had therefore to be held in abeyance and the settlement of numerous claims and counter-claims in respect of non-effective charges relating to that war formed the subject of prolonged correspondence and eventually—though not until 1931—had to be settled in a more or less arbitrary manner. It was felt most desirable to avoid a similar long-drawn out controversy over the non-effective charges arising out of the present war. This matter has been examined at great length by technical experts on both sides and the agreement now reached may be summarised as follows:—

(1) The non-effective account between the two Governments to be finally closed as on the 1st April 1939, India's net liability towards H. M. G. for the non-effective charges of all defence personnel on that date being discharged by a lump sum payment of £15 millions.

(2) India's net liability thereafter during the war to be fully discharged by an annual payment of £1,350,000 to H. M. G.

(3) Each Government to bear the cost of those casualty pensions and other abnormal non-effective charges arising out of the war, which are sanctioned under its own regulations.

(4) The new agreement to be co-terminous with the main Financial Settlement, a fresh agreement to be negotiated thereafter.

It is felt that this non-effective agreement has the great merit of simplicity, while securing an equitable apportionment of the charges in question between the two Governments.

The agreement provides for the payment of the sum of £15 millions on the date of its termination. Recently H. M. G. enquired whether the Government of India would be disposed to pay this amount in advance of that date and offered to reduce the annual payment of £1,350,000 by £450,000 as from the date of such premature payment. As this offer seemed to the Government of India a favourable one, it has been accepted and the payment was made on the 1st February 1945, from which date the annual payment will accordingly be reduced to £900,000.

17. It is now necessary to consider the effect of these developments on our estimates of defence expenditure for the current year. The Financial Settlement accepted in 1940 was the target for a great deal of abuse—much of it extremely ill-informed—by the press both in India and in the United Kingdom during the year. As was no doubt inevitable with any arrangement of this character, the criticism has been vehement and has proceeded from diametrically opposite points of view. It still remains, however, our sheet-anchor for the purpose of determining India's share of war expenditure. Under the operation of that Settlement India becomes liable for a considerable amount of additional expenditure arising out of the Japanese invasion at the beginning of the year. In framing the budget for 1944-45 it had been assumed that operations against the Japanese would take place outside India and, in consequence, that no portion of their cost would fall on Indian revenues, which, on the other hand, would be relieved as a result of the sending of forces beyond her frontiers to take part in those operations. In the event, not only had forces earmarked for employment overseas to be retained in India but others were brought in from outside to repel the invader, and no provision existed in the budget for the cost of all these troops or for the other additional expenditure incurred on these operations for which India is liable. This constitutes one of the major causes of the heavy excess of the defence expenditure for the year over our budget anticipations, but I trust the House will realise that this is a small price to pay for the victory which has assured to India immunity from the Japanese invader.

Other major developments that could not be foreseen a year ago and for which consequently no provision was made in the budget are:—

(1) The grant of war service increments and other pay increases to both British and Indian troops during the year;

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(2) heavy demands from the U. S. A. Forces in India for goods and services on Reciprocal Aid;

(3) the decision that India would be liable for the indigenous element in the cost of imported petrol utilised for her own war purposes. As mentioned in my speech last year, H. M. G. offered to bear the cost of petrol and aviation spirit required for the expansion of India's land and air forces, but this offer, it has since been made clear, will only cover the cost landed at an Indian port, leaving the expenses of distribution in India to be borne by India;

(4) the payment of the sum of £15 millions in connection with the Non-effective agreement.

18. The revised estimates of defence expenditure for the year 1944-45 amount to Rs. 397.23 crores and Rs. 59.41 crores under the Revenue and Capital heads respectively. The details are as follows:—

Revenue Portion

	(In lakhs of rupees)
(1) Basic Normal Budget	36.77
(2) Effect of rise in prices	16.92
(3) India's war measures	3,34.22
(4) Non-effective charges	9.32
Total	3,97.23

Capital Portion

(1) Air Force—Airfields	15.89
(2) Capital outlay on industrial expansion	3.34
(3) Reciprocal Aid—Airfields	15.20
(4) New Construction for the R.A. N.	1.00
(5) Capital outlay on Tele-communications scheme	3.98
(6) Lump sum payment under the Non-effective Agreement	20.00
Total	59.41

In the revenue portion, the increase of Rs. 1.87 crores in item (2) over the corresponding budget figure is due mainly to the grant of further increases in pay and allowances to the forces in India. The increase of Rs. 118.64 crores in item (3) is due to the major developments just mentioned and to an under-estimate of the cost of air services in India. The total increase has been counter-balanced to a certain extent by an increase in the amount of receipts on account of Lend-Lease stores supplied to Provincial Governments, Railways, Posts & Telegraphs Department and other paying indentors, and also to the relief anticipated from India's participation in Mutual Aid from Canada.

As regards the capital portion, the increases under items (1) and (3) are due to further demands for new airfields and the improvement and expansion of existing airfields for both British and American Air Forces in India. There have been further expansions of ordnance factories, dairy farms, etc., which account for the increase under item (2), while the decrease under item (5) is due largely to a carry-forward of expenditure connected with the Tele-communications Scheme to the year 1945-46. Item (6) represents the lump sum payment under the Non-effective agreement which I have already explained.

Civil Estimates

19. The continuance of war conditions and, at the same time, the necessity to plan for the transition period and the days of peace ahead inevitably involve an increase in governmental co-ordination and control, which is reflected in increased expenditure. Thus civil estimates now stand at Rs. 115.42 crores compared with Rs. 86.38 crores provided in the Budget. Honourable Members will find details of the variations in the Explanatory Memorandum on the Budget and I shall confine my remarks here to a few of the more important items.

Provision for Rs. 1½ crores was made in the current year's estimates as central assistance to Bengal for meeting their heavy expenditure on famine relief.

Representations were, however, received from the Provincial Government that the grant was inadequate and the position was reviewed. It was finally decided to make an *ex gratia* subvention of half of the direct cost of the famine, subject to a maximum of Rs. 10 crores, of which Rs. 3 crores had already been adjusted in 1943-44. This decision is responsible for an increase of Rs. 5½ crores in expenditure this year.

Another important item is the expenditure involved in paying compensation for damage resulting from the explosions in the Bombay Docks in April last. The House is already familiar with the measures for the relief of the victims announced by the Government of India. The machinery for dealing with claims is at work and steady progress is being made in disposing of them. At present it is not possible to assess accurately the total amount which will be involved, but provision has been made for an expenditure of Rs. 10½ crores this year and Rs. 5½ crores next year. The question of the incidence of this expenditure is under consideration and, pending a final decision as to the sharing of the cost between India and His Majesty's Government, it has been decided to meet the sums involved from general revenues, at the same time transferring from the War Risks Insurance Funds to the revenue account amounts equal to the estimated compensation payable.

20. Consistently with the drive for increased production of food, Government has steadily pursued its policy with regard to the statutory control of prices, procurement by or through its own agencies and extension of rationing which now covers some 42 million people.

In the matter of the procurement of grain, a steady advance has, as I have already mentioned, been made towards Government monopoly. While the object has been to maintain a price-level which will ensure adequate production without imposing too heavy a burden on the consumer, it is not the intention to attempt to bring prices down to pre-war levels and we have announced our readiness to intervene in supporting the market should prices fall unduly.

The steps taken to achieve these objectives, which involve transactions of vast magnitude, have necessarily led to considerable revenue expenditure and outlay of capital.

The same objectives of increased production, and control of distribution and of prices have been pursued in the field of other consumer goods. Price control of cloth has been extended to cover both the imported and exported varieties and a progressive reduction in prices has been achieved. We have recently been able to effect a further reduction in prices which today are nearly one-third less than those fixed in 1943. This represents a total overall reduction of approximately 75 per cent. from the peak reached in June 1943.

At the same time the problem of the stabilisation of the prices of Indian cotton within suitable limits has engaged Government's close attention and, in fulfilment of their undertaking to maintain the price above the fixed floor, Government entered the market and purchased during the current year some 2½ lakhs of bales valued at over Rs. 6 crores.

21. The activities of the Supply Department have been directed towards the fulfilment of the same policy. An organisation has been set up in Calcutta for increasing the production of coal and ensuring its equitable distribution among the consuming interests. Schemes for the payment of a bonus to colliery owners on increased raisings and for open-cut mining have been introduced, while facilities have been provided for the import of labour into the coal areas and welfare officers have been appointed to look after the interests of mine labour.

The Disposals Directorate has been strengthened and out of some Rs. 5 crores worth of goods reported as surplus, stores and salvage valued at nearly Rs. 2 crores have been disposed of. Closely connected with this aspect of the Supply Department's work are the plans now being laid for dealing with contracts which will have to be cancelled or reduced as war demands lessen. It is essential that steps be taken as soon as the war situation permits to cancel or curtail production so as to avoid the manufacture of redundant stores and the locking up of useful raw materials which are urgently needed for civilian requirements. At

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the same time the problems involved in the transition from war to peace are being carefully studied with a view to preserving the economy of the country from violent shocks in the process of adjustment.

The value of orders placed by the Supply Department, which was Rs. 256 crores in 1942-43 and Rs. 162 crores in 1943-44, amounted to Rs. 76 crores for the first seven months of the current year. This reduction is due partly to the transfer of responsibility for the procurement of textiles and foodstuffs to the Departments of Civil Supplies and Food and also to a falling off of demands in certain lines.

22. The scheme for financial assistance to evacuees and their families, to which I referred in my last budget speech, has been continued and extended. These measures are now estimated to cost a little over Rs. 1 crore more than the budget provision.

There is one other matter which I should mention, namely, India's contribution to U. N. R. R. A. The House has already agreed that India should participate in this Administration and in implementing that decision, the Government of India have decided that India's contribution should be Rs. 8 crores. A sum of Rs. 1.10 crores is likely to be expended in the current year, for which a supplementary grant will be taken in due course and it is proposed to provide for the remaining Rs. 6.90 crores in the next year's estimates. This sum will be transferred to a special fund to prevent budgetary inconvenience in the future.

I alluded last year to the hardships caused to Government servants by the continued rise in the cost of living, and referred to the measures taken by Government to afford relief. Ameliorative measures in the shape of dearness allowance and concessional issue of food grains still continue. The scheme of dearness allowance to low-paid Government servants was substantially liberalised in March 1944 and its cost this year is expected to be Rs. 3½ crores in respect of Central Government servants other than those paid from Railways and Defence Estimates. We also came to the conclusion in the course of the year that certain other Government servants, who had so far received no cash relief, must also be given an allowance to enable them to meet their essential commitments. We have therefore given with effect from the 1st July 1944, a war allowance at 10 per cent. of pay to married officers drawing pay up to Rs. 1,000 and at 5 per cent. of pay to single officers whose pay does not exceed Rs. 750. As the House is aware, we have under constant review the problems connected with the rise in the cost of living and its effect on Government servants of all classes and proposals for increasing the scope and extent of the relief already afforded are at this moment under active consideration. Until a decision has been taken it is not possible to evaluate the extra expenditure likely to be involved. The estimates are, therefore, based on the existing scales of relief.

23. The year that is now drawing to a close has thus seen India preparing herself more intensively not only for the launching of the final blow against Japan but also for the tasks of peace that lie ahead. It is inevitable that these great efforts should react on the budgetary position. Thus, while our revised estimates provide for a revenue of Rs. 356.88 crores, expenditure charged to revenue is expected to be Rs. 512.65 crores, resulting in a revenue deficit of Rs. 155.77 crores in the current year.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1945-46

Revenue

24. I turn now to the financial year 1945-46. Our total revenue estimates amount to Rs. 353.74 crores compared with Rs. 356.88 crores in the Revised Estimates for the current year.

Customs Revenue has been placed at Rs. 52.85 crores net, an increase of Rs. 12.85 crores over the revised estimate for the current year. This is based on the expectation of additional imports including a large number of locomotives and wagons. Under Central Excise Duties, we look for an improvement of nearly Rs. 6 crores, half of which is under tobacco. We estimate the total

collections of Corporation Tax and Income Tax at Rs. 190 crores. This includes an expected yield of Rs. 90 crores from Excess Profits Tax, the forecast for other taxes on income being the same as the revised estimates for the current year, viz., Rs. 100 crores. The divisible pool of income-tax has been taken at Rs. 57.07 crores and the share available to Provinces at Rs. 24.04 crores.

The revenue of the Posts and Telegraphs Department is expected to be Rs. 30½ crores and expenditure Rs. 20 crores, inclusive of an extra contribution of Rs. 50 lakhs to rehabilitate the Renewals Reserve Fund. The surplus is estimated at Rs. 10½ crores, the whole of which will accrue to general revenues.

Expenditure.

25. *Defence Services.*—The Budget estimates of defence expenditure for 1945-46 amount to Rs. 394.23 crores and Rs. 17.76 crores for the Revenue and Capital heads respectively. The details are as follows:—

Revenue Portion

	(In lakhs of rupees)
(1) Basic Normal Budget	36.77
(2) Effect of rise in prices	19.76
(3) India's War measures	3,28.51
(4) Non-effective charges	9.19
Total	394.23

Capital Portion

	(In lakhs of rupees)
(1) Air Force—Airfields	2.42
(2) Capital outlay on industrial expansion	1.55
(3) Reciprocal Aid—Airfields	10.74
(4) New Construction for the R. I. N.	50
(5) Capital outlay on Tele-communications Scheme	2.55
Total	17.76

In the revenue portion, the increase of Rs. 2.84 crores over the Revised estimates in item (2) is due to the effect over a full year of the grant of increases in pay and allowances to the forces in India sanctioned during 1944-45. In regard to item (3) there is a reduction of Rs. 5.71 crores as compared with the Revised Estimates which is the net result of various increases and decreases. The principal increase is due to the cause just mentioned while the decreases are the result of (i) a decrease in the 'Ceiling' forces certified by H. E. the Commander-in-Chief to be necessary for the defence of India during 1945-46 and (ii) the fact that no repetition of large scale operations within India's frontiers is expected in 1945-46.

Of the decrease of Rs. 41.65 crores under the Capital portion of the Budget estimate as compared with the Revised, Rs. 20 crores is explained by the non-recurring lump sum payment under the Non-effective agreement included in the Revised Estimates. The balance of the decrease is due to the fact that the requirements in the matter of Airfields, etc., for India's local defence air forces are expected to be largely completed in 1944-45, while a reduction during that year in the programme of Airfields construction for the U. S. A. Air Forces in India, for the cost of which India is liable, has also been assumed. The provision made against item (5) represents the carry-forward of expenditure on the Tele-communications Scheme into the year 1945-46.

Civil Estimates

26. Civil expenditure shows an increase of approximately Rs. 8 crores as compared with the revised estimates for the current year. This is due mainly to an increase of about Rs. 11½ crores under the head 'Interest', resulting from the policy of borrowings to absorb surplus purchasing power, offset by savings under other heads. In the Explanatory Memorandum Honourable Members will find full details and I will not weary the House with further analysis at this stage. The expenditure estimates also contain sums in connection with post-war planning, to which I shall refer more fully at a later stage.

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27. I can now summarise the position for the coming year. The expenditure detailed in the Civil Estimates comes to Rs. 123.40 crores and the provision for Defence Services has been placed at Rs. 394.23 crores. The total revenue at the existing level of taxation is estimated at Rs. 353.74 crores. We are thus left with a prospective revenue deficit of Rs. 163.89 crores.

WAYS AND MEANS.

28. I now come to the Ways and Means section. At this stage last year I made a few introductory remarks in order to explain the changed significance of the ways and means position in the conditions created by the war and to bring into relief the complex economic problems created by war disbursements as well as the extent to which Government are able to re-absorb, by way of taxation and borrowing, the evergrowing quantities of moneys expended by them. In the figures which are published from time to time of Government's rupee balances is reflected the extent to which these and other operations of Government succeed in bridging the gap between our own budgetary requirements and the total outlay on Allied account.

As in previous years, borrowing has been the mainstay of our ways and means programme and no effort has been spared to stimulate lending to Government by the various sections of the public. For the best part of the year, war developments continued to be encouraging, and this was undoubtedly a favourable psychological factor. The total amount invested by the public in various forms of public loans reached Rs. 286 crores during the twelve months beginning with the 1st February 1944 and ending with 31st January 1945. This figure, which approximates to the total receipts for the previous twelve months, must be regarded in the context of the other anti-inflationary measures newly introduced during the year, such as the hundred per cent. immobilisation of excess profits, the 'Pay-as-you-earn' income-tax collections and the sales of gold and silver which have also played a not inconsiderable part in mopping up surplus funds. In continuation of the cheap money policy hitherto followed, the Government have, in consultation with the Reserve Bank, framed their borrowing programme so as to make available to the public a wide range of securities. The 3 per cent. Loan 1953-55 (4th Defence Loan) was closed for public issue as from the 1st April 1944, after the total subscription had reached the record figure of Rs. 114.55 crores during its currency of nine months, and, in its place, the tap issue of the First Victory Loan 3 per cent, 1957, was opened. This issue had, up to its closure on the 17th February, yielded about Rs. 110 crores. The demand from banks for a short-term Government security was met in June by the creation of a special re-issue of the 2½ per cent. Loan 1948-52 to the extent of Rs. 50 crores. Continued demand from institutional investors for a long-term loan was also met by the further creation in October of Rs. 35 crores of the 3 per cent. Funding Loan 1966-68 so as to replenish the stock of this loan held in the Government Cash Balance Investment Account. The generally steady conditions in the Government securities market led to a continuous improvement in the price of 3½ per cent. Paper, which reached par for the first time on the 16th November 1944. At this stage, it was considered desirable to meet the demand from existing stock, and during the period mentioned above, Paper worth Rs. 15.11 crores was sold by the Reserve Bank of India on Government account. As in the previous year, Rs. 13.27 crores of new money was subscribed to certain provincial loans floated to repay a part of the Provincial consolidated debt to the Central Government.

I referred last year to the interesting departure from orthodox loan policy that was made in the Premium Bond issue. The sales so far have amounted to Rs. 4 crores which is lower than our expectations, due partly to the fact that the issue has not been intensively publicised and partly to its proving less attractive than at one time seemed probable. We have, however, decided to continue the experimental issue for the reason that it will help to draw off money from a class to whom other forms of investment make no appeal.

The progressive total of public loans since the beginning of the war has, up to the end of January, reached the impressive figure of Rs. 833 crores.

29. The main difficulty that still confronts us in the monetary field is that arising from the unfamiliarity of the rural classes with the various forms of investment in Government securities which are a matter of such every day concern to institutional investors and the urban public generally. In this field we have been fortunate enough to secure the willing co-operation of the Provincial Governments as well as non-official organisations, whose assistance I take this opportunity of acknowledging. The results are reflected in the much better showing of the net deposits in Post Office Savings Bank accounts and in the 12-year National Savings Certificates. Net investment in these and other forms of small savings, that is to say, excess of deposits over withdrawals, continues at the satisfactory rate of nearly Rs. 3 crores a month, due to some extent to the raising of the rate of interest on Savings Bank deposits and, in a larger measure, to the scheme of Small Savings evolved last year by the National Savings Commissioner.

Our floating debt, which was Rs. 111 crores at the end of last year stood at Rs. 93 crores on the 31st January, 1945. This is an improvement of a kind one would expect, since the Government's ways and means position from the strictly budgetary point of view must be regarded as very comfortable. The reason why it has not proceeded much further is that we have continued till recently to offer fairly large amounts of treasury bills to the public in order to prevent the structure of money rates being disturbed by an excessive release of funds invested by banks in treasury bills.

Satisfactory as these results are, with the expected prolongation of hostilities near our borders, after the date when the war in the West may reach its termination, it is obvious that we cannot afford to relax our efforts. The requirements of the situation will impose the continuance and possibly even the final intensification of India's war effort, which includes the finding of the resources required for the war effort of the Allied countries. In other words, the problem of the inflationary gap is still with us, and, judging from recent indications, may call for increased vigilance and control.

30. As I have already said, the various anti-inflationary measures that we have adopted were sustained, and in places extended, during the year. Most of the usual indices responded encouragingly to these measures, and to the very favourable turn in hostilities that the year witnessed. The general index number of wholesale prices of the Economic Adviser, has, for instance, ranged between 240 and 250 approximately since May 1944, and the Calcutta index number has been relatively stationary for the last few months. Honourable Members will find graphs giving the main indices in the Explanatory Memorandum. Cost of living index numbers, generally speaking, have also registered declines in differing degrees since the peak reached during the autumn of 1943. The general picture being one of comparative stabilisation in recent months. There is also evidence that the low rate of turnover of bank deposits characteristic of last year has been maintained, and that there has been, through the greater part of the year, some slackening of the general pace of monetary circulation. There was, moreover, a very marked decrease in the rate of currency expansion, particularly in the first eight months of this year. In the last two months the results have not been so favourable—an indication that we cannot afford to relax our efforts to ensure that surplus purchasing power arising out of Governmental disbursements is canalized into public saving. The Government, on their part, are vigilantly reviewing both the scope for reducing the load on the country's resources constituted by our own and the 'Allies' war efforts and the possibility of adding to the available supplies of goods required for public consumption. This, indeed, is the main object of the Hydari Mission which, it is hoped, will succeed in reducing the economic load incidental to the use of India as a base for further operations in the East.

The Reserve Bank continued to effect sales of gold on behalf of His Majesty's Government and the Government of the U. S. A. and these contributed substantially to the reduction of the inflationary gap. Sales of Lend-Lease silver,

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which were commenced in the middle of the year, have further aided in mopping up surplus resources which do not find their way to Government loans.

31. In my last budget speech, I referred to the expected convening of a Conference of all United Nations to consider the plans put forward for international monetary regulation in the post-war period. The United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference, consisting of representatives of forty-four nations, met in July in the United States at the invitation of President Roosevelt, and, as the House is aware, India was represented at the Conference by a delegation in which I was accompanied by the Governor of the Reserve Bank, the Economic Adviser to Government and two distinguished non-officials. The main conclusions of the Conference relating to the establishment of an International Monetary Fund and an International Bank for Reconstruction and Development are recorded in Articles of Agreement to which none of the Governments is as yet committed. The Articles are incorporated in a Final Act of the proceedings of the Conference which have been published. The Indian Delegation have now submitted their report to Government and it will be placed before the House in due course, when the conclusions of the Conference can be reviewed in the light of the action taken on them by the principal countries concerned, in particular by the United States and the United Kingdom.

32. I referred last year to the importance of an orderly liquidation of war balances for the success of any international monetary scheme. The Joint Statement by Experts on which the Conference based its deliberations omitted any mention of this problem, although the original plan of the British Treasury recognised the desirability of some provisions to deal with it, and the first two versions of the United States Treasury plan contained some actual provisions to this end. The Indian Delegation pressed the Conference to provide for partial multilateral clearing of war balances through the machinery of the Fund, in the interest alike of promoting economic development of backward countries and assisting the broad objective of the Fund to secure the expansion of multilateral trade; for the relegation to bilateral channels of the whole of the large area of trading involved in the settlement of war balances might seriously constrict the scope of multilateral transactions. The proposal was, however, negatived by the Conference primarily on the ground of the limited size of the Fund in relation to the magnitude of the war balances. The question, therefore, remains one for settlement in direct negotiation with the United Kingdom.

33. On the termination of the Bretton Woods Conference and before my return to India, I spent a short period in London and I took the opportunity of having preliminary talks with His Majesty's Treasury officials on the question of India's sterling balances. Since many of the material data were still incomplete and uncertain, particularly the exporting capacity of Great Britain in the immediate post-war years on the one hand, and the development requirements and absorbing capacity of India on the other hand, these conversations were necessarily directed towards exploring the background for future discussions and the indication of a suitable time-table for more definite negotiations. The vicissitudes of the war in the West have, I am afraid, disturbed the provisional time-table foreshadowed at these talks and I do not anticipate that any negotiations can be usefully entered upon until after the end of the war with Germany. In view of the lack of definition at this stage of our own development programme, I do not think that the delay should be prejudicial to India's interests. Indeed, it may well prove necessary that any negotiations to be carried on should, in the first instance, be of a tentative character and should secure both parties an agreed opportunity for review at a later stage when firmer data may be expected to be available.

In the meanwhile, sterling continues to accrue from market purchases and from payments received in London on account of recoverable war expenditure incurred by the Allied Governments in India. During the last eleven months of the current financial year, £248 millions were added to the Reserve Bank's holdings, and it is estimated that allowing for the receipts during the last

month of the year, the total holdings as on the 31st March 1945 will be of the order of £1,030 millions. It is hoped that the rate of accrual will be slowed down in future both by diversion of some of the demands now made on India to other sources of supply and by an increase in compensatory imports.

It must also be remembered that any payments that will become due from India to H. M. G. for stores required for her post-war defence forces or in connection with terminal adjustments after the war will partly counteract these accretions. So also will the rupee sale-proceeds of surplus stores and other assets belonging to H. M. G. that are disposed of in India. I mention these factors which may operate to mitigate the further aggravation of a problem which is already sufficient formidable.

34. With the virtual completion of the scheme of repatriation of sterling liabilities of the Government of India, including payments on account of railway and railway debentures referred to in my last budget speech, there was limited scope for the utilisation of sterling during the year, with the exception of £15 millions for the capitalisation of a portion of India's Non-effective charges, which I have explained earlier and of £10 millions for the acquisition of the M. & S. M. Railway, the S. I. Railway, and the B. N. Railway. The outstanding sterling liabilities of Government now stand at about £11 millions. The holders are mostly residents of places situated outside the area covered by the Vesting Orders, although small amounts continue to be tendered occasionally.

35. I referred last year to H. M. G.'s willingness to set aside, each year, as a special case, a part of the dollars accruing from India's export surplus to the U. S. A., an amount ear-marked specifically for India's post-war development. After a very careful examination of current figures and tendencies, we have agreed to accept an amount of \$20 million for the calendar year 1944 and a similar amount for 1945, subject to re-examination later in the light of the relevant statistics for that year. This figure is, of course, in addition to what we need for current requirements. In agreeing to it, we have recognised that it was both reasonable and necessary, with a view to ensuring the stability of the sterling system in which we are so closely interested, that we should continue to make some contribution to the replenishment of the sterling area reserves, which had been depleted in the common war effort. On the other hand, we have naturally been anxious to make some immediate tangible provision for foreign exchange for the purchase of capital goods likely to be required for India's post-war development purposes, and we feel that the arrangement described represents in the circumstances a fair and valuable concession to this point of view. The relevant figures will be under periodic review and the House may rest assured that at no stage will India's direct interests be subordinated to interests other than those in which she herself has a greater, although indirect, interest.

POST-WAR PLANNING.

36. Last year I referred to the twin subjects of post-war planning and reconstruction finance, and have but little now to add to the general picture which I then drew. In the matter of detailed planning for post-war development much progress has been achieved during the past twelve months, and the creation of a separate department at the Centre for this purpose and of suitable planning organisations in the Provinces and States bear witness to the determination of the various governmental authorities in this immense country that the end of the war will not find them unprepared for the major campaigns of the peace to follow. But it must be obvious that, so long as war conditions continue not only in India but in all the Allied countries, resources of materials and man-power must remain mobilised for the immediate task of achieving victory. Once that task has been accomplished and the inevitable period of adjustment has passed, it will be possible to initiate the execution of plans for post-war development. These physical limitations to the superimposition of a forward policy of national development on an economy subjected to the strain of total war have their counterparts in the financial sphere. So long as the financial and currency system of the country is overstrained in the maintenance of the war effort or in securing the early stages of transition from war

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to peace, heavy new expenditure on national development schemes would be dangerous in the extreme. In other words, post-war development must mean and must continue to mean post-war development, and by no magic or optimism can it be made to mean war-time development. The first year or two at least after actual fighting ends will inevitably be for the Centre years of heavy deficit on revenue account. It will be during this period that the Provincial Governments will find of particular value the post-war Reconstruction Funds which they had the foresight and determination to build up while the war was still in progress.

37. While it is indubitable that large scale development projects cannot be initiated so long as war conditions continue, the Government have no hesitation in embarking at once on such preparatory work as is found to be possible and desirable, or in taking any action calculated to secure early results of anti-inflationary value. Thus of late the Government have set up a Central Electrical Power Board, an Irrigation and Waterways Board, a Resettlement and Re-employment Directorate with a net-work of Employment exchanges, and have established numerous panels of industrialists, assisted by Government personnel, to prepare plans for industrial development. Plans have been laid for high-level technical training abroad, on a large scale but suitably deversified, and steps have been taken to set up a Rs. 10 crore Government fertiliser factory to produce annually 350,000 tons of ammonium sulphate. This general policy the Government intend to continue, and provision for Rs. 1 crore has been made in the Budget for such measures of a like nature as may be found practicable. This provision is over and above that included in the Budgets of the various administrative departments for their planning activities. Should these amounts prove to be less than can usefully be spent the House will be moved to vote such supplementary grants as may be required.

38. I said last year that if any effective development is to take place on the requisite scale in this vast country large amounts of money are bound to be involved; and I expressed my firm conviction that the first pre-requisite of reconstruction finance is a sound financial position, both at the Centre and in the Provinces, secured by the fullest development of their respective taxation resources. I hold that conviction if possible still more firmly to-day. A vast scheme of national development of the kind contemplated by a number of public leaders and writers, and by the Government, has to be planned for, worked for and paid for. There is no easy road to big achievement in this field. It is essential, therefore, that not only the Centre but also the Provinces should lose no time in developing to the full their financial resources, since it is clear that the combined resources of all will hardly be adequate for the great end in view. For that reason, I feel that those Provinces which made an early start and taxed themselves considerably in excess of their immediate revenue requirements should not, as a result of the favourable financial position in which they find themselves, be prejudiced in the matter of financial assistance from the Centre. It is our hope and intention that in due course a substantial distribution of Central revenues will take place, but the Provinces will, in addition, need all that they themselves can raise if the financial foundations of future development are to be sufficiently broad-based to carry the contemplated load. It is in this context that the Estate Duty Bill, which I hope to introduce later in the Session, must be viewed. For this measure, together with the recent expansion of commodity taxation, should be regarded as the first concrete step towards the building up of a planned and expanding financial system for the future. The reaction of the country to measures such as these will, in my view, constitute the first real test of the seriousness of its intentions in the matter of post-war development. The second effective test will be the response to the Government's efforts to establish a national habit of saving which, with the denial of current consumption which it involves, will be as necessary for development purposes after the war as it is for holding inflationary tendencies in check during the war.

39. It may be appropriate for me, in my last Budget speech, to devote a little more time to the subject of the fiscal means by which the Government of the future may be enabled to fulfil the high hopes now entertained, and to give the outcome of my own reflections on this topic.

Tax revenue depends, in the last resort, on the rate of tax and the national income. The national income, in its turn, is determined by the level of prices and the scale of economic activity. If then, to fulfil the programme of development, India will require a level of expenditure much more closely related to its present than its pre-war scale, a great deal must necessarily turn upon the future price-level and the future level of economic activity. Both these must be taken into account. There is a tendency to argue that the high level of prices which has been reached during the war—when so large a proportion of the productive powers of the nation are devoted to non-civilian ends—must be maintained in the post-war period, otherwise it will not be possible to raise the necessary resources. I believe this to be a mistaken view. When the productive power of the nation is turned from manufacturing for war to manufacturing for civilian use, there will be a larger supply of goods available and this additional supply must result, in my judgement, in lower prices for those goods. But if simultaneously the total volume of activity deployed during the war can be maintained and increased, the total national income can be maintained and even increased in spite of a fall in unit-prices. It is the maintenance of the aggregate national income in terms of money and not the stabilisation of prices of individual commodities that should be the objective in the years after the war. It may well be that in that period some prices will rise, and some will fall—for it is the inevitable consequence of rapid changes such as those of the last five years that relative price changes should get out of step—nevertheless, our efforts should be directed rather to the maintenance of the aggregate figure upon which the fiscal authorities can operate than upon the guaranteeing to each particular group of producers of the prices which their products may, in certain cases quite fortuitously, have attained during the war.

40. But while it will be necessary in the post-war years to impose taxation of a magnitude comparable with that existing at the present time, it by no means follows that the existing scheme of taxation should continue when the present hostilities have ceased. Excess Profits Tax is an obvious expedient in time of war to secure reversion to the State of a due proportion of any increased profits made by industry in the abnormal conditions then prevailing. Any scheme for the levy of a special tax upon such increase of profits can at best be of a somewhat rough and ready nature, no matter what degree of thought and care have gone to the devising of the enactment that gives effect to it. Moreover, the datum line from which excess profits are measured must inevitably bear less and less relation to current realities as we get further and further from the pre-war years. It is therefore, to my mind desirable that this war-time expedient should vanish with the emergency that brought it into being.

Repeal of the Excess Profits Tax would not, however, represent a proportionate loss of revenue, for Excess Profits Tax is allowable as a deduction in computing profits assessable to income-tax and super-tax, so that with its repeal, profits assessable to income-tax would be correspondingly increased. Nevertheless, whatever may be the extent and duration of the post-war boom during which industry will be engaged in repairing the ravages of war and whatever may be the scale of the profits that are expected to accrue from the plans for the post-war expansion of industry, taxes on non-agricultural income can hardly be expected to continue to play the overwhelming part in the scheme of national finance that they now do. The projected estate duty, on property, other than agricultural property, would be capable of restoring in due course the position as regards the aggregate contribution made by the industrial, commercial and professional classes of the community as such. It has to be remembered, however, that these form but a small proportion of the total population of the country and it will be necessary to secure a further contribution from the remainder.

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Agricultural income-taxes would go some way to achieve that end, and this is, in my view, an inevitable development if the Provincial Governments, to whom this source of revenue is allocated by the Constitution, are to play their part in mobilising the resources of the country for the prosecution of the campaign against poverty, illiteracy and ill-health.

41. Our main revenue from commodity taxation has hitherto been derived from customs duties and these are likely to remain a highly important source of revenue for many years. Indeed, in the immediate post-war period, extensive importation of capital goods and replenishment of stocks of urgently needed consumer goods of all kinds may cause customs receipts to soar to unprecedented heights; and though they may decline sharply once the market has built up adequate stocks of goods for general consumption, they are likely to remain buoyant for a number of years. With the growing industrialisation of the country, however, this source of revenue can hardly be expanded and may, indeed, appreciably contract, particularly if the customs tariff should be given a more positively protective complexion; moreover, there are decided objections to burdening capital goods and raw materials with too high rates of duty. As an instrument of commodity taxation, reliance will therefore, increasingly have to be placed on Central excises. The exigencies of war-time finance have already necessitated systematic exploration of this field. New excises have been introduced which are already lucrative and can be expanded; and the law and procedure relating to Central excises have been consolidated in a compendious code, which has been so fashioned as to enable the present excises to be enlarged or further excises to be added as the Central Government's finances may, from time to time, require.

42. Another possible major development in the field of indirect taxation lies in the expansion of the sales or turnover tax. This source of revenue has so far been but lightly tapped in India, but increasing recourse to it may be necessary in order to finance schemes for economic expansion. Since the first World War the sales tax has become an important feature of the revenue systems of most leading countries of the world and, in some of them, has rivalled customs and even income taxation. During the present war a purchase tax has been introduced in the United Kingdom, which has not only helped to check inflation in that country but has yielded a very large revenue. In India, the sales tax is a provincial impost and has been applied only in five provinces; and, except in the province of Madras, the yield so far is comparatively small. As with other indirect taxes, care is necessary to prevent the incidence from being too regressive. Problems also arise from uneven incidence in contiguous territories. It would obviously be to the advantage of the consumer and of trade in general if the tax were applied (in so far as may be practicable) in the same manner, at the same rates, and to the same classes of transaction, throughout the country. It is possible that, with the aid of the Central Government, a comprehensive system might be devised and administered on a national basis, the net proceeds accruing to the Governments of the participating units. An all-India tax of this kind would greatly assist the Provinces with their plans for development; and if higher rates were imposed on luxury goods, it should also assist in counteracting the inflationary tendencies of a period of expansion.

43. There is one further issue to which I must make reference. Public discussions of the advantages of the State ownership or operation of industry, as against the advantages of private enterprise, are being very actively pursued at the present time, which is natural in view of the intrinsic importance of the question. But, in the public consideration of these matters, I feel that perhaps insufficient attention has hitherto been paid to the question whether it would not be advisable to extend State ownership of industries as a source of additional revenue. It may well be that in the future the State may find it necessary to nationalise certain industries—especially those with large possibilities of expansion—in order that it may have at its disposal additional sources of income for the sustenance of national well-being as a whole.

New Proposals

44. I return now to the problems of the year immediately ahead. Against a total estimated expenditure, military and civil, of Rs. 517.63 crores, the total revenue at the existing level of taxation is estimated at Rs. 353.74 crores, leaving a revenue deficit of Rs. 163.89 crores. On the assumption that the whole of this gap were to be filled by borrowing, the pattern and proportion of our war-time budget would seem to challenge comparison with that of any belligerent country. We have, however, as I explained in detail last year, to keep in view a larger and more comprehensive target if we are to minimize not merely our own budgetary deficit but the gap between total rupee outgoings, whether on our own or Allied account, and total rupee incomings, whether by taxation, borrowing, sales of bullion or other devices for absorbing surplus purchasing power. Whilst the general picture, in the light of this more exacting objective, gives less cause for satisfaction, I have, on a careful survey, come to the conclusion that no really significant improvement could be effected by any practicable major change in the sphere of Central taxation. The scope for further improvement in this field lies rather, in my opinion, in the direction of greater efforts to combat evasion and in the enforcement of existing tax obligations. I trust that we shall have the support of the House and the country in that policy. For the rest, we must rely on the expansion of our borrowing programme and on the response of the public, born of the gradually widening appreciation of its importance to the maintenance of the economic health of the community, and assisted by the operation of the various controls.

45. In the sphere of direct taxation it is proposed to continue the excess profits tax at the present rate, together with the scheme of compulsory deposits, for a further year up to the 31st March, 1946. As regards income-tax, we have given considerable thought to the problems which will shortly arise in regard to the financing of the re-equipment of industry. Our scheme of war-time taxation has throughout been so devised as not to deplete, and on the contrary to strengthen, the reserves at the disposal of industry for meeting the calls which will be made upon them in the post-war period. In this respect we may, without undue sacrifice of modesty, claim to have shown more foresight than we have been given credit for. Nevertheless we are conscious that the restoration and expansion of the machinery of production will call for some new form of assistance, and we feel that we are justified in adapting to Indian conditions the measure of relief which has been announced in the United Kingdom. This will take the form of the grant of special initial depreciation allowances in respect of new buildings erected, and new plant and machinery installed, after the 31st March, 1945. These allowances will, in the year in which they are given, be an addition to the usual depreciation allowances and they will not be deductible in arriving at the written down value. They will not be given for E. P. T. purposes. It is proposed to prescribe these allowances by rule but I may state here that the figures I have in mind are 20 per cent. on plant and machinery and 10 per cent. on buildings. Allowances at these rates, in addition to the usual rates, should provide substantial encouragement for the early re-equipment of industry.

46. I am also proposing to allow for income-tax purposes expenditure on scientific research. The proposals follow generally the provisions in the U. K. Finance Act, 1944, which have been described by the Chancellor of the Exchequer as "a comprehensive attempt to relieve from taxation altogether funds devoted by industry to the support of fundamental research, to the translation of laboratory research to production and to the full-scale development of the product". The proposals, in brief, are the allowance of current research expenditure as it is incurred, the allowance of payments to recognised research bodies and institutions and the allowance over a period of five years or over the life of the assets, if shorter, of research expenditure of a capital nature.

Provisions for these reliefs, as well as for earned income relief, which I will now explain, are contained in a Bill to amend the Income-tax and E. P. T. Acts which is being put before the House.

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47. Differentiation for income-tax purposes between incomes that are earned by personal exertion and incomes that are not so earned has long been a feature of the taxation systems of many countries, including England and the U. S. A. It has been somewhat aptly described as the only method by which the depreciation of the human machine can be adequately recognised in taxation. Recent developments in India have emphasised the inequity of the identical treatment of earned and unearned incomes, and this is an appropriate time at which to introduce this distinction into our system. The Finance Bill provides that there shall be an exemption of one-tenth of earned income subject to a maximum (in terms of income) of Rs. 2,000. The Income-tax Amendment Bill to which I have referred contains provisions for giving effect to this proposal. The exemption will be given only in respect of income which may be described as derived from personal exertion and will not therefore, for example, apply to the income of companies or in respect of dividends, interest on securities or income from property. It will be given only for income-tax and not for super-tax.

The cost of this earned income relief is estimated at about Rs. 3½ crores, of which the Centre will bear Rs. 2½ crores. To make up for this loss I propose to increase by 3 pies the surcharge on slabs of income above Rs. 15,000 and on incomes taxable at the maximum rate. This increase will not apply to Life Insurance Companies whose combined rate of income-tax and super-tax will continue to be 63 pies. It is estimated that this small increase will yield about Rs. 4 crores.

48. In the sphere of indirect taxes, the Customs surcharges which are being levied for revenue purposes during the present abnormal conditions will be continued for another year. In the Central Excise tariff a further change is proposed in respect of tobacco. The improved shipping situation has enabled the limit placed on the proportion of imported tobacco in the more expensive types of cigarette to be raised from thirty to seventy per cent. It is accordingly now proposed that the highest class of flue-cured tobacco in the excise tariff should be subdivided into three and should be subjected to a duty of seven rupees eight annas, five rupees, or three rupees eight annas a pound, according as it is intended for use in the manufacture of cigarettes containing more than sixty per cent., more than forty but not more than sixty per cent., or more than twenty but not more than forty per cent. by weight of imported tobacco. Minor changes include a parallel increase in the rate of duty on flue-cured tobacco intended for any purpose other than those specified in the tariff. Complementary changes to these will be made in the Customs tariff where the standard rate of duty on unmanufactured tobacco is being raised to seven rupees eight annas a pound, with no surcharge, and the rates for related items—cigars, cigarettes and manufactured tobacco—are being re-fixed so as to correspond. These changes, which will come into effect immediately by virtue of a certificate under the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, are expected to result in an increased revenue of Rs. 3.6 crores under Excise and 2.4 crores under Customs, a total of Rs. 6 crores.

49. The only other changes included in the Finance Bill this year relate to postal parcels, the traffic in which continues to increase at a rate with which it is difficult to cope. The rate, which is now 6 annas for the first forty tolas and 4 annas for every forty tolas thereafter, will be raised to a uniform 6 annas for every 40 tolas. It is also intended to raise the surcharge on telephone rentals from one-third to one-half, and that on trunk call fees from 20 per cent. to 40 per cent. The surcharge on ordinary and express telegrams will also be increased by one anna and two annas respectively. The total additional estimated yield of these increases is Rs. 1.35 lakhs.

Excluding the effect of the proposals for relief to industry in respect of re-equipment and scientific research, of which no reliable estimate can be made at this stage, the changes in taxation and in postal and telegraph rates will yield an estimated increased revenue of Rs. 8.60 crores, which would reduce the prospective deficit to Rs. 155.29 crores.

Conclusion.

50. Though this is the end of my last Budget Speech, the House will be relieved to learn that I do not intend to inflict on it a recital of the financial events of my period of office. So much has happened in these six years—a longer period, I believe, than that of any of my predecessors—and changes of such a scale and complexity have been brought about, that I will not attempt to summarise them. I would rather leave that task to the historian and the economist, who will in due course pass judgment on the handling of these matters. No man who bears so large a share of responsibility as the Finance Member of this Government for the stability of this great country with its enormous population, could fail, during the course of the last few years, to experience the most intense and prolonged anxiety. No man in that position, beset from day to day with harassing problems clamouring for instant solution, could claim that all his decisions had proved to be right. I have been sustained throughout these troublous times by a firm belief that I was acting in the best interests of India. I have been conscious that the difficulties that will arise after the war may be even greater than those of the war, and I have tried, so far as I could, to do nothing that would aggravate them. I have had constantly in mind the thought of the fuller status that India may shortly be expected to achieve, and have endeavoured to order the matters entrusted to me in consonance with that expectation.

51. I am confident that the financial position of this country is one of immense strength, and that it has successfully weathered the violent storms to which it was exposed. It is not merely the extinction of all her external obligations, and the replacement of them by massive assets, but the fact that even her internal unproductive debt must be a far lighter charge on the national income at the new levels which she will obviously be able to maintain in the future. This has been achieved at great sacrifice, but it has none the less prepared the stage for the momentous developments of the years to come.

52. I realise that problems of great difficulty and intricacy still await solution. They are part of a tangle of world problems which is the inevitable heritage of war. In spite of the lessons of the last great war and its aftermath and in spite of all that has been said on the subject during the present war, it has not yet proved practicable to devise and ensure the just allocation of the cost of war among the participants in a common cause. It is not merely the evaluation of enormous material devastation, nor the appraisal of the extent of sacrifice, in terms of blood and sweat and tears, which has defied all accountancy; it is the proportionate distribution of the final burden among partners of widely varying capacity and with entirely differing standards of living which needs to be effected as equitably in the international field as modern systems of national taxation aspire to do in the domestic sphere. Speaking entirely for myself, I cannot see how the pooling of currently available resources, coupled with the acceptance of the fortuitous location of the ravages of war, can provide a complete solution for problems of this character.

53. Before I sit down, Sir, I should like to take this occasion to express my gratitude to the devoted band of official assistants who have served me so well in times of unparalleled strain and difficulty. Their numbers are sadly restricted, and the demands on them have been unlimited, but they have responded so nobly that I should be failing in my duty if I did not publicly accord them this need of recognition.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1945.

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1945."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INCOME-TAX AND EXCESS PROFITS TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, and the Excess Profits Tax Act, 1940.

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, and the Excess Profits Tax Act, 1940."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 1st March, 1945.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 1st March, 1945.

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. Geoffrey Stephen Bozman, C.I.E., I.C.S., M.L.A. (Secretary, Department of Information and Broadcasting).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

ENEMY PRISONERS OF WAR IN INDIA

571. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) how many enemy prisoners of war are held in India, how many of them are Italians, Germans and Japanese;

(b) the annual cost incurred on their maintenance and who bears them; and

(c) in view of the food situation in the country and in view of the fact that Italy has been reconquered, whether he will consider the advisability of repatriating at least the Italians to Italy?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) 29,499 of whom only 6 are Germans. I regret that in the interests of security I am unable to give separate figures in respect of Japanese.

(b) Expenditure on the maintenance of enemy Prisoners of War in India is borne by His Majesty's Government. Expenditure in 1940-41 was Rs. 70 lakhs, in 1941-42 Rs. 864 lakhs, in 1942-43 Rs. 578 lakhs and in 1943-44 Rs. 723 lakhs.

(c) The present policy is to repatriate to Italy only those whose repatriation is recommended on medical grounds, or is specifically asked for by the Italian Government.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How many such have been repatriated till now?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: About 38,000 Italian prisoners have been transferred from India so far.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the total number of Italian prisoners here?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have said that in the interests of security I cannot give separate figures in respect of Japanese prisoners. If I were to give the numbers of Italian prisoners—and I have already given the number of German prisoners—the Honourable Member could get the number of Japanese prisoners. I am sorry I cannot therefore give the number.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: If the interests of security did not prevent the Honourable Member giving the number of German prisoners in India, I want to know the reason why the number of Japanese prisoners cannot be given.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The reason is this: it would not be in the interests of security to give the security grounds on which information in respect of Japanese prisoners cannot be given.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know whether the Italians who are here are prisoners of war or are they employed in different capacities? Is the Honourable Member quite sure that they are treated as prisoners?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: They are treated as prisoners, but some of them—a good number of them—are at present carrying on very valuable war work in skilled and semi-skilled capacities.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that the food situation in this country is not very good, will he consider the advisability of transferring these persons to some other countries who can bear it?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Every opportunity is taken to transfer Italian prisoners of war whenever possible; and I have said that in pursuance of that policy, we have transferred as many as 40,000 prisoners.

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

INDIAN PRISONERS OF WAR

572. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state:

(a) the total number of Indian prisoners of war (i) in the hands of Germans; and (ii) in the hands of the Japanese; and

(b) how many were in Italy, and whether they have been released?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) (i) 9,944.

(ii) 42,374 confirmed as POW, 22,086 believed to be POWs.

(b) 5,110, on 8th September, 1943, of whom 773 have been released.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What has happened to the rest? Were they not all kept in Italy?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: What happened was this: when Italy was invaded by the Allied forces, the enemy transferred most of our prisoners into other portions of the territory occupied by them and later retransferred them to Germany. So, those who are not released are prisoners of war in Germany.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Of the number shown as released, did they escape and came back or were they freed by the Allied armies?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Some of them did scape.

EXTERNAL PUBLICITY WORK

573. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) the external publicity work that the Government of India is doing, on what matter and in which countries and through which agencies;

(b) what is the Publicity Office, Foreign, referred to as subject 9, for which the Honourable Member is shown to be responsible in Circular No. XXXIII, dated the 28th August, 1944;

(c) where this Publicity Office exists, and what is the work it is doing; and

(d) the annual financial expenditure on these two items?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: (a) The external publicity work of the Government of India is handled as follows:

(i) News Services, Photographs, Photogravures, Pamphlets, and the periodical *Indian Information*—by the Bureau of Public Information;

(ii) Magazine publicity by the Publications Division;

(iii) Radio broadcasts by All-India Radio;

(iv) Documentary films by Information Films of India, and News Films by Indian News Parade.

The countries covered include China, Russia, Afghanistan, Nepal, Persia, Iraq, Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Turkey, South Africa, East Africa, Australia, Fiji Islands, United States of America and Great Britain.

(b) It is correct that the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting is responsible for the office formerly known as the Publicity Office (Foreign) and now known as the "Publications Division".

(c) The Publications Division is located at 15, Rajpur Road, Delhi, and is responsible for the magazine publicity of the Government of India.

(d) It is impossible entirely to separate expenditure on external publicity from that on internal publicity in the budgets of the various attached offices of this Department. As far as the Publications Division is concerned, its total revised budget for the current year is Rs. 11,35,000 against which recoveries from sale of magazines of rather over Rs. 4,25,000 are anticipated.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the sort of books and magazines that are being published by this Department?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: I think that has been answered already—a list of magazines was tabled in reply to a previous question.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether copies of these magazines and other publications will be placed on the reading tables in the Library in the Assembly?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: I am prepared to consider that.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: In regard to the answer to part (a), may I ask what is the basis on which his Department decides upon publicity work in these various countries? What are the grounds on which they think it is expedient to carry on publicity work in the various countries he has enumerated?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: The reasons are that in a number of countries there is insufficient information about India and they are countries in which India may very well take profitable interest.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Government of India carrying on this propaganda of their own free will or under directions from Whitehall?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: The Government of India carry on propaganda at their own instance.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if it is a fact that no suggestion was made from Whitehall that such propaganda should be carried on abroad?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: No such suggestion is necessary.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know if this publicity work which is being carried on in those countries because there is inadequate information there, also includes refutation of such propaganda and such literature as is against Indians and published in those countries?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: It is not possible for us to read everything that is put out in those countries.

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

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I have not been given a chance at all, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The matter has been fully discussed.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: It was not discussed, Sir.

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

ESTABLISHING A CANTONMENT IN COIMBATORE

574. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state:

(a) whether there is an idea of establishing a cantonment in Coimbatore; and

(b) if so, permanently or temporarily, and what the approximate number of troops that is going to be stationed there is?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) No such proposal has been submitted to the Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

DETENTION OF IBAD KHAN OF VILLAGE PIRPAI

575. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) the date of arrest of Ibad Khan of village Pirpai, North-West Frontier Province;

(b) the reason for his arrest;

(c) the different jail or jails where he has since been kept and the duration of his detention in each jail;

(d) his present place of detention;

(e) whether he would consider the advisability of Ibad Khan's transfer to a jail in the North-West Frontier Province; if not, why not;

(f) the allowance which is paid at present to his dependents; and

(g) whether the same is adequate in view of the rise in prices?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) 1st October, 1942.

(b) He is being detained to prevent him from acting in a manner prejudicial to the efficient prosecution of the war.

(c) and (d). He was kept in the Lahore Central Jail from 27th of December 1943 to 21st May 1944; and from 22nd May 1944 to date he has been kept in the sub-jail of Muzaffargarh, except for a period of about 10 days in September 1944, when he was taken to Multan for medical treatment and kept in the new sub-jail there.

(e) No, for security reasons.

(f) Rs. 30 p.m.

(g) Yes, in view of the fact that his children are living with their grand mother in a rural area.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is it a fact that the father of Ibad Khan is dead and there is no one to support his two daughters and one son?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I do not know anything about his father. The children are living with their grandmother.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Has the Government satisfied itself that the grandmother has got ample means to look after these children?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Government are satisfied that the allowance paid is adequate: there are three children under 10.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: With reference to part (b) of the question, the Honourable Member stated that it was to stop him from doing acts prejudicial, etc. May I know if there is a specific charge against him or whether Government considers it desirable in the interests of security not to disclose the nature of the charge?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Government have reason for considering his detention necessary. I do not know if that is what the Honourable Member means by a specific charge.

SUFFERINGS OF PASSENGERS AT VIRAMGAM RAILWAY STATION

576. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Has the Honourable the Finance Member received complaints and representations and has he seen such complaints and representations in the press with regard to the intolerable sufferings of passengers at the Viramgam station?

(b) What steps have Government taken since the last session to enquire into this matter?

(c) What reports have Government received, and will they circulate these reports to the Members?

(d) Have Government thought of making the examination in the carriages, or in the alternative, on the platform immediately opposite each bogey, which can be screened off on two sides by moving partitions and of increasing the number of entrances between one platform and the other so that those whose examination is finished can go over to the other side?

(e) What was the number of porters licensed to do working at Viramgam platform before the examination of outgoing passengers was adopted?

(f) What was their number before the recent method of examination in a small room was adopted?

(g) Has the number been since increased? If so, by how many?

(h) Have Government any information, apart from the insufficiency of porters, as to what charges the public have to pay to the porters, and to Government consider such charges extortionate?

(i) Have cases of incivility by the Railway Police and customs officials been mentioned either in the press or in representations to Government? If so, what steps have been taken to ease the situation with regard to courtesy and helpfulness by officials who are paid by the taxpayer?

(j) Will Government make a clear statement of their policy on the subject as to whether they apprehend goods being brought in which have not paid any customs duty, or whether they apprehend goods being taken out under the export control which should not be taken out, or what is the principal reason why Government will not make a change?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes.

(b) The matter has been examined in the light of existing conditions and the conclusion arrived at is that in the main this is a case of inspired and systematic agitation whose object, as appears also to be suggested in part (j) of the Honourable Member's question, is to secure abolition of the Cordon. At the same time careful consideration has been given to the whole matter with a view to the removal of any legitimate grievance to passengers that there might be.

(c) Government have had correspondence with their local officers and do not propose to circulate this to Members.

(d) Passengers arriving by certain trains are in fact examined on the metre-gauge platform, and facilities for passing across to the broad gauge platform after examination are being increased. The other suggestions have been considered and found to be impracticable.

(e), (f) and (g). Examination of incoming passengers has been conducted at Viramgam ever since the Cordon was re-imposed in 1927. Outgoing passengers have been examined since early in 1944. In September, 1944, however, following the remodelling of the Railway Station, the Customs arrangements were modified to suit the new premises. The approximate number of licensed porters working before the re-imposition of the Cordon was 30; before the re-modelling, 60; and at present 100. The recent increase is due largely to the re-modelling of the station.

(h) Portage charges, in common with many others, have recently increased. The present charge is three annas per head load which, in view of the cost of living, is not extortionate.

(i) Government are convinced that, contrary to the suggestion contained in this part of the question, the attitude of local officers is in general both courteous and helpful. Any specific complaint in this regard would be promptly dealt with by the authorities on the spot.

(j) Government apprehend both; but under present conditions the principal danger is in regard to the restrictions on exports.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether any conversations have been started with the Indian States in order to arrive at some satisfactory solution of the problem both of Customs and of ports in order that the Cordon which is causing such grave inconvenience to the public may be removed?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The matter to which the Honourable Member refers is one which, to my personal knowledge, has received a tremendous amount of attention and consideration. I cannot say offhand at what stage that particular matter is now, but if the problem has defied solution hitherto it has not been for want of trying.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know if Government have seen the statement of Mr. B. G. Kher, the late Prime Minister of Bombay, with regard to this continuing inconvenience?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have read various Press cuttings on the matter.

BOMBAY SHERIFF'S NOTICE RE WOMEN JURORS

577. ***Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee:** (a) Has the Honourable the Home Member seen the notice of Sheriff of Bombay, dated the 31st January, 1945, regarding Women Jurors?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state under which Act it has been possible to allow women who are subjects of the United States of America to serve as Jurors in this country?

(c) Why are the citizens of the Colonies and Dominions particularly South Africa as also of the United States where discriminatory policies against Indians prevail allowed to enjoy this right in India?

(d) What are the reasons for debarring subjects of Indian States and British India who do not happen to be the permanent residents of the city of Bombay from serving on this Jury?

(e) What is the meaning of the term "resident" in this particular case? How many years' residence is implied by it?

(f) What are the reasons for debarring subjects of Indian States who are residents of the city of Bombay and fulfil the qualifications mentioned in the notice referred to above in (a), from serving on this Jury?

(g) What are the reasons for not allowing the Egyptians, Hejazis, Chinese and Russians to serve on this Jury?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) I have read the press cutting which the Honourable Member kindly sent to the Legislative Assembly Department.

(b) to (g). Liability to jury service in Bombay is governed by rules made by the High Court and is not the concern of the Government of India.

For the information of the Honourable Member I would, however, refer him for the definition of a British subject to the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Acts, 1914 and 1943, and on the subject of Americans serving as jurors to sections 275 and 312 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know if this privilege is conferred on women only or on men as well?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Which privilege?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Of being nominated as a juror.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: It is referred to in the Act as a liability.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is this appointment of juror intended to try cases in which Indians are accused or Americans or Europeans?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Jury trials apply to all classes, where they do apply.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: May I know whether the Local Governments make discrimination between different nationalities over the heads of the Government of India, because the Russians, the Egyptians and the Chinese are debarred?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: May I repeat what I said? "Liability to jury service in Bombay is governed by rules made by the High Court and is not the concern of the Government of India".

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Can the High Court make this discrimination between different races and nationalities?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: After the Reciprocity Act has been passed by this House, may I know whether the High Court can frame rules authorising South Africans to act as jurors?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: So far as I know, that does not arise.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know when the rules were framed by the High Court? I want the date and the year?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have not got that information.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The Honourable Member said just now that the question does not arise. It is for you to decide.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is very difficult to say. A matter of this kind, is really a question of interpretation of the Law.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The question was specifically put whether after the passing of the Reciprocity Act the High Courts are competent to frame rules authorising the South Africans to serve as jurors. I want to know whether the High Court is not subject to the legislation passed in this House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the High Court makes any rules, it is the responsibility of the High Court.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Even the High Court is bound by law, Sir.

DISABILITY OF INDIAN POLICE TO ARREST AMERICANS FOR OFFENCES

578. ***Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an American Civil or Military subject cannot be arrested by the Indian Police or tried by a British

Indian Court for an act committed by him which is an offence under the Indian Penal Code? If so, since when, and what are the reasons for this discrimination, and what steps have Government taken to protect the Indian public against such persons?

(b) Do the Indians enjoy the same privilege in America? What other European and Asiatic people enjoy the same privilege in America?

(c) Is it a fact that a European cannot be arrested by an ordinary Indian police constable? If so, why?

(d) Is it a fact that a European can claim in India to be tried by a purely European jury? If so, why? Can an Indian, too, claim a purely Indian jury? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) In respect of civilian American subjects the police and courts of British India are competent to exercise all their normal powers. The position in respect of members of the forces of the United States of America was explained in detail in the reply to Mr. Essak Sait's Starred Question No. 698 asked on the 29th March, 1944, to which the Honourable Member is referred.

(b) Does not arise, as there are no Indian, Asiatic or European Forces stationed in the United States of America.

(c) No.

(d) No; the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the provisions of sections 275 and 446 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: With reference to the answer to part (b), the Honourable Member said that it does not arise, as there are no Indian or European forces stationed in the United States. The question was whether Indians enjoy the same privileges in America. It is simply a question of civilians. It does not refer to the Army.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The only privilege is for the army. Ordinary Americans are subject to the law here and Indians are subject to the law in America. The privilege of being tried by their own courts applies only to the armed forces.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether an American civilian who has committed crimes here is subject to the law here and can be arrested by the ordinary police?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have answered that question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the answer? You must make us understand your answer.

(No reply.)

INDIAN TROOPS TAKEN TO GREECE TO FIGHT AGAINST E.L.A.S.

579. ***Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Will the War Secretary please state how many units of Indian troops were taken to Greece to fight against E.L.A.S.? What are those regiments?

(b) What are the casualties?

(c) What is the number of Indian hostages in Greece?

(d) Is it a fact that the Indian prisoners were treated abominably as they were made to march clad only in underclothes through mountain passes in the snow?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply on the 14th February, 1945, to Mr. Badri Dutt Pande's Starred Question No. 215.

(b) I am now in a position to give the casualties which are as follows:

Killed:—2 Officers, 1 Viceroy's Commissioned Officer and 25 Indian Other Ranks.

Wounded:—3 Officers, 1 Viceroy's Commissioned Officer and 190 Indian Other Ranks.

(c) None as far as I am aware, but I am making enquiries.

(d) It is understood that the mal-treatment of Indian Prisoners was for the most part confined to about 100 personnel of a Field Bakery which was

captured almost complete. Reports from recovered prisoners indicate that Indians were stripped of their clothing, personal effects and boots and were forced to march bare-footed in their under-clothing and that medical attention was refused to the sick and wounded.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if it is the policy of the Government of India to permit the use of Indian troops in civil wars in other countries?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: May I explain the position in this matter at some length? When Indian troops were moved from Italy to Greece, the move was made for the purpose of following up the German withdrawal from Greece. Subsequently troubles broke out in Greece and as the Indian troops were there, they were necessarily involved in these troubles.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the Government of India will point out to His Majesty's Government that it is not considered desirable in this country that our troops should be used in civil wars in other countries?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: As I have said the troops had no option but to be involved in these troubles because they were in the thick of the troubles. The Indian troops were not sent from Italy to Greece to take part in civil war, but they were merely sent to follow up the German withdrawal. When they were relieving and assisting the Greek population, internal trouble broke out, and Indian troops, being there, got necessarily involved.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What action have the Government taken against this mal-treatment of Indian troops?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: We have asked the Secretary of State for India to remonstrate most strongly against the treatment of Indian troops.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Was any reply received from the Secretary of State?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Not yet.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A Lalljee: Will they get any compensation?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: As I said, we have asked the Secretary of State to make a strong remonstrance.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Have you suggested the type of demonstration that he should make.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No demonstration, but remonstrance.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: But it will end in demonstration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With reference to part (b), in regard to casualties, the Honourable Member gave figures as regards officers, but what about the ranks?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have also said, killed—25 Indian other ranks and wounded—190 Indian other ranks.

RELEASE OF AILING CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

580. *Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: Will the Honourable the Home Member in view of the answer given by him in regard to the health of the Members of the Congress Working Committee, consider the advisability of releasing those who have considerably lost in weight and also those who require major operations for their ailments?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have nothing to add to my reply to parts (b) and (c) of Mr. Badri Dutt Pande's starred question No. 117 on 10th February, 1945.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: In view of the fact that all these leaders of Congress are suffering from one ailment or another, is it the intention of Government to send them to some sanatorium and keep them under the treatment of a doctor of their own choice? What objection do Government have to this course?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: It does not sound practical unless they are all suffering from the same ailment and agree on the same doctor.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Has Pandit Gobind Vallabh Pant been operated?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Not yet.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: What is the difficulty in sending them to their respective Provinces?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: None.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: Then why don't you send them?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: They are being sent.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Has anybody been sent already?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: As far as I know none has yet gone.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

581. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the War Secretary please state when the Department of Public Relations was established for the Army?

(b) How many men are employed now, and what is the annual cost of this Department?

(c) Is there a Central Department only or is there a separate personnel attached to each Command, and, if so, what is the separate cost of each Command, and what is the cost of the Central Department?

(d) How many men are there drawing more than Rs. 250 a month in the entire Public Relations personnel of the Indian Army?

(e) What are the qualifications of the top men? Are they military men or journalists? If latter, what is their previous experience?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) On the assumption that the Honourable Member is referring to the Directorate of Public Relations, the reply is that it was set up on the 25th of June 1940.

(b) The answer to the first part is, 811. As regards the second part, the annual expenditure incurred by the Directorate is about 52.4 lakhs of Rupees. A sum of about 6.4 lakhs of Rupees is however recovered by the sale of publications and photographs.

(c) The Directorate is controlled from General Headquarters where there is a Central Section. Sections are also attached to the various Commands. A statement showing the expenditure incurred separately on each section is laid on the table.

(d) 222.

(e) The Director and his Deputy Directors possess high journalistic qualifications and were journalists in civil life. They now hold military ranks.

Statement showing the expenditure incurred by various sections of the Directorate of Public Relations attached to Commands, etc.

Section of the Public Relations Directorate	Rs.
Central Section	30,12,088
SEAC and ALFSEA	2,06,880
Censors, Bombay	1,09,392
Censors, Calcutta	12,000
Film Section	4,07,406
Military Public Liaison (Punjab)	4,89,720
Military Public Liaison (Assam)	1,61,268
Sections with PAIFORCE, Middle East and Central Mediterranean	4,53,084
Publicity for Indian fighting services in the U. K.	53,760
Publicity for Indian fighting services in the U. S. A.	23,400
N. W. Army	59,580
Eastern Command	83,580
Southern Army	93,096
Central Command	74,820
Total	52,40,074

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How many of these 811 are Indians?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am afraid I have not got the information. I think a very large number of them are Indians. I can get the exact information if the Honourable Member wants it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who is the head of this Department, an Indian?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The Director of Public Relations is Brigadier Desmond Young and his Deputy Director is Col. Malik, an Indian.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the purpose of setting up this Department not only in the Centre but in Provinces and outside countries?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The function of the Directorate is to publicise the fighting forces.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it publicity for the fighting forces or is it publicity regarding the army among the civil population?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am sorry. I should have said, to publicise the fighting forces among the civil population and also publicity directed towards the fighting services.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask whether Indians in this Department are rarely allowed to rise beyond the rank of a Captain?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: That is not correct.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it that this Department is set up, apart from the control that the Department of Information and Broadcasting exercises over publicity Department and the activities of the Government?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: This is a special Publicity Department, the object of which, as I said, is to publicise the fighting forces to the public and to arrange special publicity material for the forces.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Department of Information and Broadcasting not doing anything in that direction?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The Department of Information and Broadcasting is doing quite a lot in matters not exclusively relating to the fighting forces.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why then have this duplication?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: There is no duplication at all.

INDIA'S STERLING BALANCES

582. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if the huge credit in sterling balances accumulated in favour of India would be available for the economic needs of the millions of Indians who toiled for producing the supplies for war from India? If so, when?

(b) Would this be available during the war, or would this be available immediately after the war, or would it be available in remote future?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware of the prevailing apprehension in many capitalist quarters, specially big business quarters, that the huge debt of United Kingdom to India might be repudiated on many pleas? If so, does the Honourable Member propose to make a statement on the matter as it stands at present?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the remarks which I made on this subject in my last Budget speech.

INDIA'S STERLING BALANCES

583. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if he has any scheme ready for realisation of the said sterling balance by India?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to make a statement on the floor of the House if there is any question of revision relating to the allocation of war expenses between His Majesty's Government and that of British Government in India still pending solution?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the total amount of the sterling balances accrued to the credit of India up to February 15, 1945, and the amount standing to be realised by India now?

(d) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if any bilateral agreement between the United Kingdom and India has been entered into? If so, when and on what terms?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (b) and (d). I would refer the Honourable Member to the remarks which I made on these subjects in my last Budget speech.

(c) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the published statement of accounts of the Reserve Bank for the week ending 16th February.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With reference to part (b), there was no reference to this in the speech of the Honourable Member. The question is:

"Will the Honourable Member be pleased to make a statement on the floor of the House if there is any question of revision relating to the allocation of war expenses between His Majesty's Government and that of British Government in India still pending solution?"

We already put the question whether the Government of India were making any suggestion to England to put a ceiling upon India's burden regarding war expenditure, but no reply was given and there is no reference to the same in the Budget speech?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: If the Honourable Member will read my Budget speech, he will find that I have given the answer to that question.

TREATMENT OF INDIAN PRISONERS IN GREECE

†584. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a press statement published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 11th February, 1945, by two British M.P.'s, on their return to London from Greece in which they are reported to have said that the treatment of Indian prisoners was abominable;

(b) whether he had made fresh enquiries about it and how far the statement is correct; and

(c) the number of Indian prisoners so treated?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the answer given by me today to Mr. K. S. Gupta's starred question No. 579.

LANGUAGE CONTROVERSY OF ALL-INDIA RADIO

†585. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please make a statement about the language controversy of the All-India Radio that had been going on for the last several months; and

(b) what exactly the complaint was of the Hindi speaking writers and speakers who went to the length of boycotting the All-India Radio programme?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: (a) I have nothing to add to the reply given by me on 14th February, 1945 to Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh's starred question No. 208.

(b) The complaints have been published in newspapers. I am sure the Honourable Member does not wish me to repeat the arguments already extensively debated in public.

DAMAGE BY WHITE ANTS TO DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD'S PAPERS

586. *Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Home Member been drawn to the news that appeared in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 13th February, 1945, that the white ants have eaten away Dr. Rajendra Prasad's important papers which were locked up by the police in Sadaquat Ashram, the Provincial Congress Office?

(b) If the reply be in the affirmative, does the Honourable Member propose to advise the Government of Bihar to return the Sadaquat Ashram to the proper authorities of the Congress to avoid further damage to the valuable papers, documents and books kept therein?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) I have read the report in the Press.

(b) No. This matter is entirely the concern of the Government of Bihar.

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

CRIMINAL ASSAULT BY BRITISH NAVY MEN ON INMATES OF A HOUSE IN HOWRAH

587. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state whether the attention of the military authorities has been drawn to an incident, the details of which are given below:-

"On the night of the 31st October, 1944, J. Kame and F. Cousins, two British personnel, attached to the Royal Navy and stationed in the premises of the Hooghly Docking Company Limited, close to Golabari Police Station, Howrah, managed to get access into house No. 19, Atul Ghosh Lane, by negotiating a fencing on the back of the house and started shouting "Bibi Kahan" (where are the womenfolk). Realising the situation the owner of the house offered to procure for them a woman if they went outside the house as it was not a house of ill-fame. The intruders by the time battered the door of a room which was occupied by an ailing girl aged about 20 years, the daughter of the house-owner who was reported to be suffering ever since she gave birth to a child sometime ago. The door of the room gave in and the entreaties of the house-owner to spare his sick child were of no avail. The father of the girl was silenced on the point of a revolver. The intruders ravished the girl one after the other and as a result she was rendered unconscious for the time being. She was later sent to hospital where she was detained for treatment for about a month. The intruders fired a shot to scare away a crowd that had assembled and were incidentally taken to the local police station from where they were taken away by military authorities"?

(b) Will the Honourable Member make a full statement giving the accounts of all charges of assaults or attempted assaults on women by Military personnel that may have come to the notice of the military authorities in the Provinces of Bengal and Assam since the beginning of 1944?

(c) What action has been taken in the case cited in (a) above, as also in similar other cases referred to in (b) above, to bring the offenders to book, and what special action, if any, has been taken by the military authorities for the purpose of awarding deterrent punishment to the culprits and preventing the recurrence of such incidents?

(d) Is it a fact that newspapers are not permitted to report such cases? If so, why?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and first part of (c). I am unable to say whether the facts are as stated by the Honourable Member—the matter is now *sub judice*. At the instance of the Naval authorities, investigations were carried out by the Special Investigation Branch of the Military Police, and the two persons concerned who were Naval Ratings, were held in close arrest by the Naval authorities. The case was later handed over to the Civil authorities and the accused were committed to the Sessions Court by the District Magistrate, Howrah, under charges framed under sections 458 and 376 of the Indian Penal Code.

(b) and second part of (c). There appear to have been 71 such cases but the preparation of a full statement would involve an amount of time and labour which I feel would be disproportionate with the value of the result. If the Honourable Member wants details of any particular case, I shall collect the information for him. In all such cases, if the culprits are not caught red-handed, the most thorough investigations are made by the Military Special Investigation Branch who work in close collaboration with the Civil Police. According to available records, severe sentences have invariably been awarded in such cases and it is considered that this exercises a deterrent effect.

(d) No, Sir. The instructions given to Press Advisers on this subject are as follows:

"There is no desire or intention to conceal the facts when these are established; but Government relies upon the good sense and responsibility of editors in ensuring that unfounded and exaggerated reports are not published in their columns."

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Has the Honourable Member's attention been drawn to the recent proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly where complaints were made that in several instances armed personnel trespassed into the houses of private citizens of Calcutta and that women were molested?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have not seen the proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly to which the Honourable Member refers; but if such instances have taken place I have no doubt that the necessary action is being taken by the military and civil authorities jointly.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Of the 71 cases sent up to the courts may I know how many ended in conviction?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have not got the information with me here.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member get this information?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Yes, Sir, I will.

RESTRICTION ON NEWS ABOUT STREET ACCIDENTS BY MILITARY LORRIES IN CALCUTTA

588. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that in cases of serious accident to passers-by caused by reckless driving of military motor lorries, references are allowed to be made in the Calcutta newspapers only on the understanding that the lorries are described as "special type" lorries and not as military lorries, so as to allow no idea to the readers about the responsibility of military personnel for such street accidents? What are the exact intentions of the Military authorities?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have no knowledge of this, but I am making an enquiry from the Bengal Government and will lay the information on the table of the House as soon as possible.

POLICY RE PROVISION OF DOLLAR CREDITS TO INDIANS

589. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the present policy of Government in regard to the provision of dollar credits to Indians?

(b) How many applications have been received so far from Indian trade and industrial interests for the provision of dollar credits in order to enable representatives of Indian firms (i) to proceed to the United States of America for trade and industrial purposes, (ii) to bring from the United States of America technical personnel in connection with projects for the industrial development in India? When were such applications made in each case, and what orders have been passed thereon?

(c) Is it a fact that there is a steadily growing dollar balance in India's favour?

(d) Who are the authorities, if any, outside India to be consulted in regard to the provision of dollar facilities in India for such purposes, and what voice have they in making the final determination of the issues involved in such cases?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The general policy, briefly stated, is that dollar exchange is provided for the satisfaction of needs essential to the war effort or for the maintenance of the national economy on a war basis. In addition such dollar expenditure is permitted within limits as is necessary to ensure the development of Indian economy in the post-war period.

(b) I regret it is not possible to collect the information without an expenditure of time and labour which would be unjustified.

(c) As I have explained on previous occasions, the total dollar earnings of all empire countries are surrendered to the Empire Dollar Pool from which each country draws dollars according to its needs and there is no fixed allocation between the sterling area countries. The question whether there is a steadily growing dollar balance in India's favour, therefore, does not arise.

(d) The Government of India endeavour in this matter to follow the same general policy and standard of economy as the other members of the sterling area, but the final decision rests with the Government of India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know how many applications for dollar credits from industrialists, businessmen and merchants were rejected by Government?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have not got complete figures on this matter, but from information which I have only just received I gather that according to the records of the Reserve Bank out of 54 applications received 10 have been rejected, 32 have been authorised and 12 are pending.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: With reference to part (c), has the Honourable Member's attention been drawn to the statement made by a Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank some time in December that the dollar position is extremely satisfactory, and may I know whether that means that the accumulated resources in the Empire Dollar Pool have risen, and whether it also means that India will get a proportionate benefit therefrom?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am answering that question later on this morning. The facts are not as alleged.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION VIS-A-VIS PROMOTIONS

†590. ***Nawab Siddique Ali Khan:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether it is a fact that rules regarding communal representation in services apply to direct recruitment and not to promotion?

(b) What is the criterion for appointing authorities to decide whether a particular appointment be treated as promotion or direct recruitment?

(c) If some new post or new service is created in the department and persons already serving in a department are appointed thereto, will the appointment be treated as direct recruitment or promotion for the purpose of communal rule?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes.

(b) In these rules, "promotion" is used in its ordinary sense of promotion to a higher post in the same service or from a lower service from which promotion is generally made to the service concerned.

(c) In so far as a new post is created in an existing service, it is filled, in the ordinary way, from the members of that service, strengthened, if necessary by additional recruitment. When a new service is formed, the question of how the initial appointments to that service are to be made is one that can only be decided on the merits of each case.

PROVISION OF DOLLAR CREDITS FOR INDIAN IMPORTS

591. ***Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member been drawn to the editorial article "Dollar Credits" which has appeared in the morning issue of the *Hindustan Times* of the 13th February, 1945?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to clarify the position of the Government with regard to providing the dollar for the import of necessary goods in this country?

(c) Is it a fact that the dollar credits are made freely available for British propaganda in the United States?

(d) What happened to the application for dollar credit in order to bring from the United States urgently required technical personnel for industrial development in this country?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes.

(b) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply I have given to part (a) of Mr. K. C. Neogy's starred question No. 589 today.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) I am not aware to which particular application the Honourable Member is referring.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the lease-lend transactions, is it not a fact that England's dependence upon dollar securities for immediate use is not so great as it used to be?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As a broad general proposition there is some force in what the Honourable Member says, but the matter could not be disposed of quite so simply as that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But in view of the changing circumstances of the war is it not advisable that a representation should be made to H. M. G. that the present sterilisation or conscription of India's dollar resources should be given up and India should be given an opportunity of making whatever use she likes of her dollar securities?

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

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The circumstances of the war have not changed to such an extent as to make it possible to disperse the Empire Dollar Pool.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Has the Honourable Member any serious objection now to disclose what part of the dollar pool should have gone to India and in future to reserve such dollars for India even for the use of the sterling block as a gift?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: These calculations are not easy to make and in any case it would not be possible to make them public at this stage.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: With reference to part (d), has the Honourable Member got any information about any application submitted to Government for dollar credits in order to get technical personnel for industrial purposes?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: There have been quite a number of applications. As I mentioned in reply to the last question I answered, there have been quite a number of applications of that kind. I may say that the policy is that applications for the employment of technical personnel are sanctioned in cases where they are required (a) for the operation of existing plant, (b) for the establishment and working of new plant for which import licences have been or are being issued, and (c) to explore the possibility of establishing certain industries in India where the establishment of such an industry has the approval of the Planning and Development Department.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a condition that applicants to the Reserve Bank should come after they have secured an order from an exporter in the U. S. A.?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am not sure: I would require notice of that question.

STEPS FOR PUBLICITY FOR BENEFIT OF INDIANS IN LIBERATED BURMA

592. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether any steps have been, or are to be, taken for the purpose of carrying on publicity for the special benefit of Indians at present residing in those tracts of Burma which are gradually being liberated from enemy occupation?

(b) Are newspapers in Indian languages being supplied to these areas for the benefit of the Indian population? If so, which are these newspapers and in what numbers are they being actually distributed in the different areas?

(c) What is the policy of Government in regard to carrying on special broadcasting and other publicity programmes for the benefit of the Indian population in liberated portions of Burma?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: (a) All-India Radio have been running a programme since the end of 1941 directed to Indians in Japanese occupied territories in the Far East. These broadcasts contain news, music and counter-propaganda material.

(b) Not yet.

(c) Broadcasts directed to liberated areas will include material of interest to the Indian communities there.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to part (b), is the matter under active consideration now?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: Yes, Sir.

NON-APPOINTMENT OF MR. KARTAR SINGH (SCHEDULED CASTE) TO INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE

593. ***Mr. Piare Lall Kureel:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether a vacancy was reserved in the Indian Civil Service in the year 1941, for a candidate from the scheduled castes?

(b) How many scheduled castes candidates appeared in the Indian Civil Service Examination in 1941, and how many of them obtained qualifying marks?

(c) Is it a fact that a candidate from the scheduled castes namely Mr. Kartar Singh, had qualified both in written and in *viva voce* in the said examination?

(d) If the reply to part (c) above be in the affirmative, why was he not appointed?

(e) Does the Honourable Member propose to reconsider his case? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) One vacancy was held in reserve for the nomination of a candidate of the Scheduled Castes if a suitable candidate was available. In the event of no candidate of these castes being successful by open competition or found suitable for nomination, the vacancy was to be filled by open competition.

(b) Seven Scheduled Castes candidates appeared for the examination but only one of them obtained qualifying marks in the written tests.

(c) and (d). The candidate just attained the qualifying standard in the open competition but the place which he secured in the list was much too low for appointment to the Service, nor did he obtain in the viva the minimum qualifying marks fixed by the Federal Public Service Commission for purposes of nomination.

(e) No. The vacancy was filled by open competition in accordance with the terms mentioned in (a) above.

Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: In view of the fact that this candidate was the only Scheduled Caste candidate, who had qualified both in written tests and viva, why was he not appointed? He had passed the examination and will the Honourable Member state why he, as the only scheduled caste candidate who has so far qualified in the I. C. S. was not appointed?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot make a speech. Next question.

SUPPLY OF LEGISLATURE DEBATES TO ACCREDITED PRESS CORRESPONDENTS AND NEWSPAPERS

594. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 10, asked on the 21st November, 1944 (pages 1118-1119 of the Debates), regarding conferences with Accredited Press Correspondents and state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Legislative Assembly and Council of State Debates are only supplied to correspondents in (A) class and not to correspondents in (B) class; if not, what the fact is;

(b) if it is a fact that the Debates so supplied to correspondents in (A) class are also supplied to the Editors of their newspapers or news-agencies if not, what the fact is; if so, the reasons for the duplicate expenditure when these correspondents have the access to the Library maintained by the Information Bureau; and

(c) whether Government now propose to stop supply of such material in book form to those correspondents who have the privileges of access to library and conferences; if not, why not?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: (a) Legislative Assembly and Council of State debates are supplied only to correspondents in category (A).

(b) The debates are supplied to editors of certain important newspapers especially those outside Delhi for facility of their own work. These copies are not available to the headquarters correspondents of those papers. The copy maintained in the Library of the Bureau of Public Information is available only during office hours and cannot be removed.

(c) No. Both Category (a) and (b) correspondents are entitled to use the Government of India Press Room and Library attached to the Bureau of Public Information.

MINUTES OF THE ACCREDITED PRESS CORRESPONDENTS' CONFERENCES

595. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please refer to the reply to part (b) of unstarred question No. 109, asked on the 21st November, 1944 (pages 1118-1119 of the Debates), regarding conferences with Accredited Press correspondents, viz., "No record is kept of the number of correspondents who attended these

conferences", and state whether any minutes of the proceedings of the conferences are recorded by the officers who called the conference? If not, what are the reasons therefor?

(b) What are the reasons for keeping those correspondents in class II who attended the conferences before the said classification more regularly than those who are in class I?

(c) Do Government now propose to remove the classification and treat all correspondents equally? If not, why not?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: (a) Press Conferences are arranged sometimes on the initiative of the Information Officer and sometimes at the request of a Department of the Government of India. Generally, a hand-out is issued at Press Conferences and notes are maintained of the proceedings. These notes are however kept solely to elucidate points about which press correspondents are in doubt. Minutes of proceedings as such are not maintained.

(b) A correspondent is accorded category 'A' or 'B' privileges according to: (i) the time he has spent and/or the status he has attained in the profession, and (ii) the standing of the newspaper or news agency he represents.

(c) No Sir. As explained in this House on 28th March, 1944, in reply to part (e) of Bhai Parma Nand's question No. 655, Government are satisfied that the classification helps to place representation of newspapers or news agencies at the headquarters of the Government of India on a more satisfactory basis and enables correspondents to provide a more effective news service.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference or Association been consulted before making this classification as between one class of newspaper correspondents and the other?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: This classification was made in consultation with the Press Association.

ACCIDENT BY MILITARY LORRY IN MADRAS

596. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the fact that a woman was fatally run over by a Military lorry in Madras on the 9th February, 1945?

(b) Is he aware that road accidents due to the plying of military lorries (otherwise called special type) are on the increase from day to day?

(c) Is he aware that on one day in Calcutta some 20 road accidents were caused by the so called special type lorries? If so, what is the action taken or proposed to be taken to safeguard the lives and limbs of pedestrians?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) The Honourable Member has apparently been misinformed; no such accident occurred in Madras on that day.

(b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to parts (a) and (c) of Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi's starred question No. 361 of the 19th February, 1945.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask, Sir, if the Government are aware that a good number of these drivers are not properly trained and if they had been civilians, the Police would have refused to give them driving licences?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not admit for a moment that the military drivers are not properly trained. In fact they are trained in a very thorough manner and if the Honourable Member, who has asked this supplementary question would care to visit one of the training centres, I will be very glad to take her round.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are they trained just to run over men?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Not at all.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Is it a fact that only nine hours training is required for getting a permit?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: That is not correct. I think the training is for about 200 hours.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know what these large number of troops are doing in large cities like Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and so on?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: They are doing their duty.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why should not these troops and their lorries be located outside of these large city areas to do their duty instead of in large cities where they commit these crimes and where they run over people?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I must repudiate the insinuation that these troops commit crimes in big cities. Accidents do happen, and they are not confined only to military drivers.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are they fighting Japan from these big cities?

(No answer was given.)

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: How many people do they kill during these 200 hours training?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: None whatever.

RECRUITMENT OF CRIMINALS FOR WAR PURPOSES IN AMERICA AND CANADA

597. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the War Secretary aware that all the jails in (i) the United States of America and (ii) Canada are thrown open to recruit the criminals for war purposes?

(b) How many of such recruits were brought to India?

(c) Is it a fact that crimes by Americans are on the increase due to the advent of such units?

(d) Is there any mark of identification 'G' on the shoulders of such recruits?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) The Honourable Member has been misinformed. With regard to the United States of America, there is a provision of American law that no person who has been convicted of a felony shall be enlisted or mustered into the military service; and there is further an opinion by the Attorney General that this cannot be waived even in the case of persons who have been pardoned by the President or by the Governor of a State.

With regard to Canada, no information is available, but there are no Canadian units in India.

(b), (c) and (d). Do not arise.

TRIALS OF AMERICANS UNDER INDIAN LAW

598. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether the Americans are tried under the law of the land in India?

(b) How many of them were punished under (i) the Defence of India Rules (ii) the Indian Penal Code, and (iii) Special ordinances?

(c) Are the trial courts constituted by the military or civil authorities?

(d) Are there any special tribunals constituted to try the foreign offenders? If so, are there any Indian jurists on the tribunals? If not, why not?

(e) Is it a fact that the American criminals after their release are allowed to remain in India? Do the Government of India propose to see that such people are sent back to their country on the expiry of the sentences?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a), (b), (c) and (d). Members of the American armed forces serving in India are not triable by British Courts or under British Indian Law. By virtue of the provisions of Ordinance LVII of 1942 they are triable by American Courts maintained under American military law. All other Americans are subject to British Indian law and to the jurisdiction of Indian Courts.

(e) Persons sentenced by American Military Courts to more than 18 months confinement and those "dishonourably discharged" from the service are sent back to the United States of America to serve their sentence or to be discharged as the case may be and are not allowed to return to India. In other cases the decision to allow them to remain in India or to send them back depends upon the nature and seriousness of the offence committed. The procedure does not call for any action by the Government of India.

PROFICIENCY ALLOWANCE FOR STENOGRAPHERS

599. *Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if a Proficiency Allowance of Rs. 25 or

thereabouts will be granted to such of the stenographers of the Government who qualify themselves in a test to be conducted periodically by the Federal Public Service Commission?

(b) Was any such order issued or is being issued? If so why?

(c) Why are not stenographers recruited by the Federal Public Service Commission?

(d) Would the new order apply to all stenographers in-service whatever their service has been?

(e) Would those who do not qualify in the test be also eligible for the allowance?

(f) What would be the total cost of such allowance proposed to be granted? Sub-question (e) is meaningless as it stands.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then you don't want to put this question?

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: I want to put the question with a slight modification with regard to (e) which I think has been misprinted. Part (e) of the question should read thus:

"(e) Would those who do not sit for the test be also eligible for the allowance when they are much senior in service?"

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the orders on the subject is laid on the table of the House. In the centres to which the orders relate Government have found it impossible to recruit or to retain efficient stenographers on the present rates of pay to fill the large number of temporary posts required. They have therefore sanctioned this temporary allowance which will also induce stenographers already in Government employment to keep up their standard of proficiency.

(c) At one time stenographers at Headquarters were recruited through the Public Service Commission, but as the result of experience it was found more satisfactory to leave selection to Heads of Departments and other officers.

(d) The stenographers covered by the orders in the stations referred to therein will be eligible to qualify for the allowance.

(e) No.

(f) It is not possible to calculate the additional expenditure which will be involved on this account until the results of the first test to be conducted by the Federal Public Service Commission are known. It is, however, anticipated that not more than 300 stenographers will sit at the first test. On this assumption, the additional expenditure involved cannot exceed Rs. 7,500 per mensem.

No. D. 44(22)-W/44.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 4th January, 1945.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT:—Grant of a proficiency allowance to Stenographers in the Government of India Secretariat and its attached and subordinate offices in Delhi, Simla, Calcutta and Bombay.

The undersigned is directed to say that the Governor-General in Council is pleased to sanction a proficiency allowance of Rs. 25 per mensem to Stenographers (both on the old and the revised rates of pay) in the Central Government offices in Delhi, Simla, Calcutta, and Bombay. The grant of the allowance will have the effect from the 1st October, 1944 and will be subject to the following conditions:—

(i) It will be granted to those stenographers only who maintain a speed of at least 120 words per minute and qualify in each of the tests to be held periodically for the purpose by the Federal Public Service Commission. Instructions regarding the tests will issue separately. Those who fail to pass in any test will cease to draw the allowance at the end of the month in which the test is held.

(ii) It will not be admissible to stenographers whose scale of pay has been improved since the out-break of the war or to those serving in offices in which a higher scale of pay has been sanctioned for a certain proportion of stenographers.

(iii) In the subordinate offices eligibility for the concession will be confined to the stenographers of the head of the office, who are on a distinct scale of pay for stenographers as such.

2. Those who pass the first test to be held in January 1945, will be granted this concession retrospectively with effect from the 1st October, 1944, while those qualifying in the subsequent tests will be eligible for it from the beginning of the month in which such a test is held a new recruit will begin to draw the allowance only after he has qualified in the test. The concession will, however be admissible only for the duration of the war.

3. It has been decided to treat the proficiency allowance as 'pay' under Fundamental Rule 9(21) (a) (iii).

B. C. A. COOK,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

To
All Departments of the Government of India and Secretariats of the Governor General.

No. F. 44(22)-W/44.

Copy forwarded to the Political Department; the Auditor General of India; the Financial Commissioner, Railways; the Central Board of Revenue; the Financial Adviser, War and Supply; the Additional Financial Adviser (Supply); the Accountant General, Central Revenues; the Crown Finance Officer; Financial Adviser (Communications); the Chief Controller of Supply Accounts; the Controller of Food Accounts; the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs; the Joint Financial Adviser (Cotton Textiles); the Director of Audits, Defence Services; the Director of Railway Audit; the Accountant General, Bengal; the Accountant General, Bombay; the Accountant General, Central Provinces and the Accountant General, Madras.

By order, etc.,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Ghetty: Do the Heads of Departments now find that the personnel recruited outside the Public Service Commission is less efficient than those recruited previously by the Commission itself?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am not aware of that, Sir.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Ghetty: If not, then why this sanction of Rs. 25 for a test? If the Heads of Departments did not find them inefficient, why it is necessary to propose a proficiency allowance now?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have given the reason in my reply, Sir.

HARDSHIP AS REGARDS RETIREMENT OF CERTAIN I. M. D. (BRITISH CADRE) OFFICERS

600. ***Mr. Frank R. Anthony:** Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether those members of the I. M. D. (British Cadre) who were officers in the Department at the outbreak of war and who have reached the age of superannuation during the war are being compelled to retire on the rank and pension held by them at the outbreak of the war;

(b) whether many of these persons have already retired or are about to retire on the rank and pension of Lieutenants and Captains when they would normally have, if the war had not supervened, retired on the rank and pension of a Major;

(c) whether the same hardship has been imposed on those who were senior Warrant Officers in the I. M. D. (British Cadre) at the outbreak of war;

(d) if it is a fact that no promotion roster is being maintained for the I. M. D.; if not, why not; and

(e) if it is a fact that the recruitment of military medical students for training for the I. M. D. (British Cadre) has been discontinued; how long this discontinuance is to be operative?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a), (b) and (c). The position is that on the formation of the Indian Army Medical Corps in April 1943, all members of the Indian Medical Department in Military employ were transferred *en block* to the Special Medical Section of the Corps. These members became eligible for emergency commissions, but substantive promotion to and in departmental commissioned ranks was stopped. As a result, some of the personnel transferred from the Indian Medical Department are now not enjoying the salaries and status they would have enjoyed had the war not intervened, and some of them might have to retire from a lower rank and at a lower rate of pension than would normally have been the case.

I may however add that this matter is now under consideration.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Yes, for the period of the war.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Sir, with regard to the Honourable Member's answer that this matter is under consideration, is the Honourable Member aware that the Military medical authorities themselves recognise the hardship that is being caused by the present interpretation of the rules and that for some reason their recommendation that this hardship should be done away with has been sat upon and is being continued to be sat upon by the Government authorities? Will he see that their recommendations are implemented?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I cannot disclose the recommendations made by the Military medical authorities but the matter is under consideration and I will see that it is expedited.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: With regard to the answer to part (e), in view of the admittedly acute shortage of medical personnel in India, what purpose was sought to be served by discontinuing the training of medical pupils who have been admitted to have formed a very valuable adjunct to the medical profession of this country?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: So long as the Indian Army Medical Corps is in existence, the Indian Medical Department stands discontinued. That being so, there is no point of continuing the training for entering the Indian Medical Department.

BAN ON PUBLICATION OF DAILY SAINIK

601. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) when the publication of *Daily Sainik* of Agra was stopped by Government, when its press and other associated properties were seized by Government;

(b) whether all this was done under the Defence of India Rules;

(c) whether Government are paying the rent for the buildings in which the *Sainik* press is kept;

(d) whether the press and building have not been damaged during these two years;

(e) why Government are not returning the press to the owners;

(f) whether Government are aware that the *Sainik* press belongs to a public Trust; and

(g) whether Government propose to reconsider their decision and return the press to the owners and pay the rent arrears due on the *Sainik* buildings?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (g). The Government of India have taken no action against the *Daily Sainik* nor have they information regarding any action that may have been taken by the Provincial Government.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not your ruling, Sir, that if the Defence of India Rules are abused by a Provincial Government, then the responsibility of the Central Government arises?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If it has been left to the Provincial Government to enforce the Rules, then it is not the responsibility of the Central Government.

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO GOVERNMENT PENSIONERS

602. ***Mr. Frank R. Anthony:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government Pensioners in Great Britain, drawing up to £645, have been granted a dearness allowance?

(b) Are Government aware of the fact that, in spite of the temporary employment of a certain number of Government pensioners in India, the overwhelming majority are too old or infirm or disabled, as the result of the last war, to do anything to add to their present insufficient pensions?

(c) Do the Government of India propose to consider granting at least a similar scale of dearness allowance to Government pensioners in this country, particularly in view of the much greater increase in the cost of living in India as compared with Great Britain?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The comparatively small class of British Government pensioners whose pensions are payable under the Superannuation Acts have been granted a temporary increase on pensions below £645 a year. In the remainder (and vast majority) of cases the pensions which qualify for a temporary increase are those below £300 a year in the case of married persons or persons with dependents and below £225 a year in the case of other persons, and the grant of an increase is subject to the important proviso that the total income of the pensioner does not exceed three hundred pounds a year for the former class and £225 a year for the latter class.

(b) and (c). I have nothing to add to the reply given by me to the Honourable Member's starred question No. 481 on the 16th November, 1944.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Am I to understand, Sir, that the Government of India is not prepared to extend the same consideration by way of relief to its pensioners in this country as the consideration extended to pensioners in Great Britain? What are the reasons, if any, for this differentiation?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Government of India do not undertake to follow the example of the British Government in all matters of this kind. What I said on the last occasion to the Honourable Member was this: "It is a fact that 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."

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Isn't it a fact that some dearness allowance is given to some pensioners, something like Rs. 3 for persons getting up to Rs. 40?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: A limited amount of relief has been given to pensioners in India.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Once the Government have accepted the principle that dearness allowance can be given to pensioners, will they not consider the advisability of giving proper dearness allowance consistent with the needs and necessities of those persons?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: On the last occasion in my answer to Mr. Anthony's question, I did indicate some reasons why the Government of India cannot follow entirely the scheme of dearness allowances in regard to pensioners.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: When was that?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It was on the 16th November 1944.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Can the Honourable Member give an idea of what he said then?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: If the Honourable Member will refer to the reply which is published in the proceedings of the 16th November, 1944, he will find that I answered at some length.

DETENTION OF MR. JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN AND DR. LOHIA

603. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia are security prisoners under Ordinance 3 of 1944 or are detained under Regulation III of 1818, and the exact place in Agra where they are at present confined;

(b) the amenities that are permitted to them in matters of interviews, correspondence, newspapers, books and clothes;

(c) if the two gentlemen are kept in the same barrack or separately; and, if the latter, whether they are allowed to meet each other;

(d) if it is a fact that a letter from me addressed to Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan, while he was at Lahore, was withheld; and, if so, on what grounds;

(e) if there are any special persons appointed to censor letters sent to and by Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, or if the same censor looks after their correspondence as of security prisoners generally;

(i) if Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan expressed a desire to sue Government for his maltreatment by the police and applied for an interview with his lawyer, Mr. Jeevan Lal Kapoor; and if the said application was rejected; and, if so, why; and

(g) if it is a fact that the Government of the Punjab by an order prohibited the publication of the proceedings before the High Court of Lahore, of the hearing of the *habeas corpus* application of Messrs. Jayaprakash Narayan and Ram Manohar Lohia as also the publication of its order and any reference thereto; and, if so, whether they consulted the Government of India on the subject before making the order?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Mr. Jai Prakash Narayan and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia are detained under Ordinance III of 1944 at the Central Jail, Agra.

(b) They enjoy all the amenities permitted by the United Provinces Security Prisoners Rules.

(c) They are kept in the same barrack.

(d) Yes, because the subject matter contravened the rules of the Punjab Government.

(e) The same censor looks after their correspondence as of security prisoners generally.

(f) Yes. Mr. Jai Prakash Narayan applied for an interview with his lawyer on the day when he was due to be transferred to Agra. As all arrangements for his transfer had been completed there was insufficient time to allow the interview and he was advised to apply through the authorities of the jail to which he was being transferred. He has now sent a similar application from jail for interview with a lawyer and it has been granted.

(g) I understand that orders to this effect were issued by the Punjab Government before the court had decided to hold the proceedings *in camera*. The Government of India were not consulted.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With regard to the Honourable Member's answer to part (e) of the question, will the Honourable Member himself call for the letter that I had written and make sure that there was no objection to that?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No, Sir. The decision was taken by the Punjab Government.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that there was nothing political in that letter and that it was a purely personal communication on personal matters, will the Honourable Member make sure that the Punjab Government has not done an injustice both to the writer and the receiver?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Honourable Member might try it on with the United Provinces Government.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With regard to the Honourable Member's reply to part (e) of the question, are the censors instructed just to allow the words "My dear so and so" and "Yours sincerely, so and so" to pass through, and cut the whole letter like this? (The Honourable Member showed a letter.)

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no knowledge what instructions the Punjab Government give to their censors.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member make sure that such vandalism is not practised, in which the whole letter is cut out, except "My dear so and so" and "Yours sincerely, so and so" in this manner? (The Honourable Member showed the letter again.)

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I do not know what has been cut out and so I cannot say whether it is vandalism.

PERMISSION FOR INTERVIEWING DR. LOHIA TO HIS FATHER

604. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if Government have received any further applications from Mr. Hiralal Lohia, father of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, for an interview with his son or at least for permission to see him;

(b) if he is aware that Mr. Hiralal Lohia is a very old man and is ill and does not expect to live long and that Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia is his only son; and

(c) if he proposes to permit the father to see the son at least once?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a), (b) and (c). Mr. Hira Lal Lohia has already been given permission to interview his son Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Thank you very much.

TREATING PROF. GOKUL LAL ASAWA AND MR. MOOLCHAND ASAWA AS 'C' CLASS PRISONERS

605. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if Prof. Gokul Lal Asawa and Mr. Moolchand Asawa, M.A., LL.B., of Ajmer were put in the "C" Class during their recent imprisonment;

(b) if Prof. Gokul Lal Asawa was given "A" class treatment during his earlier convictions because of his social status and standard of living and, if so, why the same treatment was not extended to him during his last imprisonment; and

(c) if the Ajmer Administration has any rules or conventions with regard to classification of prisoners in jails; and, if not, whether Government propose to send any instructions in this behalf to the local administration?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes.

(b) I have no information about his earlier convictions.

(c) The rules are contained in Chapter 12 of the Ajmer Jail Manual.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (b) of the question, will he make sure on the subject and get information, because, my information is definite that he was put in the "A" Class first and that for the second conviction he was put in the "C" Class.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Yes, I will make definite enquiries.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With respect to the Honourable Member's reply to part (c), will he also give instructions to the Ajmer Administration to be more careful in the matter; because it is clear that, under the rules, men of status and education are allowed a higher classification; and in this case this was not done.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The position is that with regard to those put in class "C" the decision rests with the magistrate. If a person does not like his classification he can appeal or apply to a higher authority. In this case no such application was made.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not the duty of the Magistrate also to make a suitable classification and is it always necessary to leave it to the prisoner himself?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Not always. In this case the magistrate decided on class "C".

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

RESTRICTIONS ON SECURITY PRISONERS RELEASED FROM DELHI OR AJMER

606. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that almost all security prisoners released from Delhi or Ajmer have some sort of restrictions placed upon them;

(b) if the Local Administrations consult the Central Government or they have any instructions from the Central Government in this behalf; and

(c) if the orders of restriction are served on them after they are released, or if they are appraised of the fact in jail that they can be released only on certain conditions, and are given the option to accept the same or not?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). This is not the case as regards Ajmer. The policy to be followed in future in Delhi is under discussion with the Chief Commissioner.

(c) Restriction orders are served either at the time of release or shortly afterwards. There is no question of giving an option.

IMPRISONMENT OF MR. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE AND LALA SHANKAR LAL

607. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) the law under which Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose of Calcutta and Lala Shankar Lal of Delhi are imprisoned, and the place or places of their imprisonment;

(b) if any allowances are given to their families; and, if so, how much;

(c) if it is a fact that they have declined interviews with their relatives because of certain conditions having been imposed for such interviews; and

(d) the conditions imposed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Messrs. Sarat Chandra Bose and Shankar Lal are detained under Ordinance III of 1944 at Coonoor.

(b) An allowance of Rs. 1,000 p.m. is given to the family of Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose.

(c) In August 1944 Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose refused an interview with his relations. I have no information of any such refusal by Mr. Shankar Lal.

(d) Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose objected to the provision of the Security Prisoners Rules which lays down that visitors who came for interviews are liable to be searched.

MANUFACTURE OF POWER ALCOHOL

608. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) what progress has been made in the matter of encouraging the manufacture of power alcohol in India since the answer to the questions put during the Assembly Session of November, 1944;

(b) whether the Government of India have consulted the Provincial Governments in the matter;

(c) whether there had been any Conference between the Government of India and/or Provincial Governments and the prospective Indian distillers;

(d) whether Government were aware that the United Provinces Government recently summoned a Conference of distillers at Lucknow;

(e) whether the Government of India were aware that the United Provinces Government asked the prospective distillers assembled at the Conference to consult Messrs. Lawless and Webb, two representatives in India of the Aluminium Plant and Vessel Manufacturing Company of London, in regard to the erection of power alcohol plants;

(f) whether the Government of India are aware that the United Provinces Government told the distillers that no licences will be issued for distillation unless their production was certified by the experts, namely Messrs. Lawless and Webb;

(g) whether the Government of India have any information in regard to Messrs. Lawless and Webb, their credentials and the expert knowledge they possess;

(h) whether the Government of India are aware that Mr. Moss of the Indian Civil Service in the United Provinces is interesting himself greatly in the matter of pushing the plants sponsored by Messrs. Lawless and Webb; and

(i) whether the Government of India propose to scrutinise the applications for licences for erecting power alcohol plants backed by the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) and (b). A discussion has been held with representatives of Provincial Governments and the Government of India have constituted a panel to report on the development of the Power Alcohol Industry, in the country.

(c) There has been no conference between the Government of India and prospective Indian distillers. Government have no information whether any Provincial Government has held such a conference.

(d) to (f) and (h). Government have no information.

(g) Both are members of the Aluminium Plant and Vessel Co. in the United Kingdom and are reported to have expert knowledge of the Power Alcohol Industry.

(i) The question of the licensing of industry by the Centre is under consideration.

PROPAGANDA ABOUT INDIA CARRIED ON IN AMERICA BY BRITISH AND INDIAN GOVERNMENTS

609. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state whether it is not a fact that copies of "Mother India" are still distributed free in America by the British Information Service which is under the direct Supervision of Lord Halifax, *ex-Viceroy of India*?

(b) Is it not a fact that the office of the Agent General in America became the centre of guidance on anti-Indian propaganda to the various British publicity agents?

(c) Is it not a fact that such guidance notes and data are usually supplied by the Secretary of State for India, the Home Secretary of the Government of India and the Information Officer in the India Office in London?

(d) Is it not a fact that cocktail parties and tea parties are specially arranged in honour of anti-Indian propagandists of the British Information Service at the British Embassy in America?

(e) Is it not a fact that an anti-Indian editorial in the well-known paper *The Nation* was reprinted and widely circulated by Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai's office in Washington? Does he require a sanction from the Government of India to do so? If so, has he obtained it in this special case?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: (a) British Information Service have never distributed "Mother India"; nor encouraged its distribution in any way.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No.

(e) No. The editorial in question, which was a factual appraisalment of the then existing situation in India by a journal well-known for its liberal attitude and sympathy with nationalist aspirations, was sent to certain British officials and a few Americans in June 1943. This did not require the sanction of the Government of India. The last part of the question does not arise.

PROPAGANDA ABOUT INDIA CARRIED ON IN AMERICA BY BRITISH AND INDIAN GOVERNMENTS

610. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state if it is not a fact that there were about 10,000 British propagandists in the United States who were devoting their time exclusively to India? If so, how many of them are (i) officials and (ii) non-officials?

(b) Are the Government of India aware of a thousand or more of "Beaverbrooks Bright Boys" who actively carry on anti-Indian propaganda?

(c) What is the subsidy or remuneration paid from the Indian exchequer to this particular class mentioned in part (b)?

(d) How many American missionaries received in India *Kaisar-i-Hind* medals and such other favours during the period ranging from 1930 to 1940?

(e) How many of those favoured have become the paid agents of the Government of India and His Majesty's Government to carry on an anti-Indian propaganda since 1930 up-to-date?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: (a) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(b) No.

(c) None.

(d) and (e). Government do not propose to collect the information as the time and labour involved would not be justifiable. No such people are paid by the Government of India or, so far as I am aware, by H. M. G., to carry on anti-Indian propaganda.

PUBLICATION "INDIA AGAINST THE STORM"

611. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting aware of the publication 'India against the Storm' in America?

(b) Who is the author?

(c) Was he honoured by any Indian University with a "doctorate"? What is the name of the Indian University which conferred the "doctorate" on him?

(d) Are the Government of India aware of the fact that prepared reviews of the book were sent by the British Information Service to various newspapers and the book was also distributed free all over America? Is it at the cost of Indian exchequer? If so, what is the amount contributed in this direction?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: (a) Yes.

(b) The book is written by a certain Mr. Post Wheeler.

(c) My information is that a degree was conferred on him by the Osmania University.

(d) The Government of India have no information on the first part of the question. No sums were expended by the Indian Exchequer for this purpose.

POSTPONED STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WRITTEN ANSWERS

(Postponed from 14th February, 1945)

INDIA'S PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MONETARY STABILISATION FUND AND INTERNATIONAL BANK

243. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether the Government of India propose to formulate their policy in regard to India's participation in an International Monetary Stabilisation Fund and an International Bank; and

(b) whether the Legislature will have an opportunity of discussing the conclusions arrived at, at the Bretton-Woods Conference at an early date and also have the privilege of hearing the Government of India's views thereon?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I gave on the 14th February 1945, to Mr. Chettiar's starred question No. 197.

POSSIBILITIES OF INDIAN INTERESTS SECURING DOLLAR CREDIT

244. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member been drawn to a speech by Mr. Trevor, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, towards the end of December, 1944, in Lahore, wherein he has stated that the possibilities of Indian interests securing dollar credit in the future are bright?

(b) Is it actually so?

(c) Has there been a large increase in the Empire Dollar Pool and with it India's dollar position as well?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) No, unless the Honourable Member is referring to the newspaper report of certain questions answered by Mr. Trevor at an informal gathering of University students in Lahore at the end of November. Mr. Trevor did not on that occasion refer to the question of Indians securing dollar credits abroad.

(b) I have no information.

(c) No.

DELEGATION FOR DISCUSSING LIQUIDATION OF INDIA'S STERLING BALANCES

245. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether the Government of India contemplate sending a delegation to U. K. in order to discuss the question of liquidation of sterling balances with His Majesty's Government;

(b) if so, when the delegation is likely to leave; and

(c) whether Indian non-official interests will be associated with this delegation?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) No date has yet been fixed.

(c) The composition of the delegation has not yet been decided, but the Government of India are fully aware of the desirability of including non-official elements in any delegation that may be sent for the purpose.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

BROADCASTING RECEIVING LICENCES CURRENT AT CERTAIN TOWNS

26. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of broadcasting receiving licences current at the following cities and towns on the 1st January, 1945:—

(i) Peshawar, (ii) Lahore, (iii) Patna, (iv) Karachi, (v) Trichinopoly; and (vi) Larkana (Sind); and

(b) what would be the normal range of a medium wave radio station of 25 KWT, during (i) midday, and (ii) nights after 8 P.M.?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: (a) (i) 1,982; (ii) 8,514; (iii) 1,047; (iv) 4,556; (v) 1,263; (vi) 171.

(b) The reliable range of a 0.25 kw. transmitter during day and night is about 15 miles, although after 8 P.M. it can be heard at much greater distances depending upon transmission conditions which vary from season to season.

HOME DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM RE PROMOTIONS ON SENIORITY OR MERIT.

27. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Home Department issued an Office Memorandum on the 4th September, 1936, on the subject of promotions on seniority or merit? If so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay a copy thereof on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Honourable Member presumably refers to the Home Department Office Memorandum No. 23/1/39-Ests.(S), dated the 4th September, 1942 (and not 1936). If so, a copy thereof was laid on the table of the House on the 8th November, 1944, in reply to his question No. 160.

POSTS OF HEAD ASSISTANTS, ETC., IN INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT

28. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) the designations and scales of pay carried by different posts of Head Assistants and above in the Income-Tax Department all over India;

(b) the total number of sanctioned posts, (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary, in each grade of pay; and

(c) the number and designations of Sikhs employed in the Department as per above?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) to (c). Much of this information should be available to the Honourable Member in the Pay Schedules of the Central Subordinate Services, the Pay and Cadre Schedules of the Central Services and in the Establishment Lists of the different Income-tax Departments. I am sorry that 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.

POSTS OF ASSISTANTS, ETC., IN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

29. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state:

(a) the designations and the scales of pay carried by different posts of Assistants and above in all the offices under his Department;

(b) the total number of sanctioned posts (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary in each grade of pay; and

(c) the number and designations of Sikhs employed in the various offices?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a), (b) and (c). I lay a statement on the table of the House.

Statement

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

(i) Secretariat

Designation and scale of the post	Total No. of posts sanctioned	No. of Sikhs employed	Remarks
1	2	3	4
Assistants			
200—15—500 Old	16*	..	All posts are temporary.
140—10—310—15—400 New			
100—10—200 Unified			
Assistant-in-Charge			
Pay of Assistant plus Rs. 40 special pay.	3	1	"
Superintendents			
Rs. 600—40—800 Old	2	..	"
Rs. 500—20—600 New			
Assistant Secretary			
Rs. 1,000—50—1,250	2	..	"
Under Secretary			
Rs. 600—50—1,000 plus Rs. 300 special pay.	1	..	"
Adviser on Mineral Development			
Rs. 2,000	1	..	"
Deputy Secretary			
Senior scale of I.C.S., plus Rs. 400 special pay.	2	..	"
Economist			
Rs. 2,500	1	..	"
Joint Secretary			
Rs. 3,000	1	..	"
Secretary			
Rs. 4,000	1	..	"
(ii) Office of the Industrial Adviser			
Assistant			
Rs. 120—8—200—10—350 Old	5	..	"
Rs. 140—10—310—15—400 New			
Superintendent			
Rs. 400—20—500	1	..	"
Investigators			
Rs. 200—20—400	2	..	"
Research Officer			
Rs. 350—50—700	1	..	"
Assistant Industrial Adviser			
Rs. 600—50—900	4†	..	"
Deputy Industrial Adviser			
Rs. 1,200—50—1,500	5†	..	"
Assistant to Industrial Adviser			
Rs. 1,000—50—1,250	1	..	"
Industrial Adviser			
Rs. 3,750	1	..	"

*Includes 3 vacant posts.

†Includes 2 vacant posts.

OFFICER CLASS CIVILIAN POSTS IN WAR DEPARTMENT

30. **Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the designations and scales of pay carried by different officer class civilian posts in the War Department;

(b) the total number of sanctioned posts (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary in each of these grades of pay; and

(c) the number and designations of Sikhs employed in the Department as above?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the table.

(c) Nil.

Statement showing the Designations and Scales of Pay carried by different Officer Class Civilian Posts in the War Department, and the total number of sanctioned Posts (i) Permanent, and (ii) Temporary, in each of these grades of pay

Designation of posts	Scale of pay	Permanent	Temporary
Secretary	Rs. 4,000 (fixed)	1	..
Additional Secretary	Rs. 3,500 (fixed)	..	1
Joint Secretary	Rs. 3,000 (fixed)	..	1
Deputy Secretary	I. C. S. scale pay, plus Rs. 400 (Special pay).	1	4
Under Secretary	(i) I. C. S. scale pay, plus Rs. 150 (Senior Scale) or Rs. 300 (Junior Scale)	1	..
	(ii) U. P. (Judicial) Service scale pay, plus Rs. 300.	..	1
	(iii) Assistant Secretary's scale pay, plus, Rs. 50.	..	1
	(iv) Rs. 750—25—900.	..	1
(In addition there are four sanctioned posts of Under Secretary now lying vacant. The grade of pay for each of these posts will depend on the previous status of the persons who may be appointed eventually).			
Assistant Secretary	Rs. 1,000—50—1,250	2	7
Chief Administrative Officer	I. C. S. scale pay, plus Rs. 400 (Special pay).	..	1
Administrative Officer (Assistant Secretary).	Rs. 1,000—50—1,250	..	6
Assistant Quartering Officer	Rs. 1,150—50—1,250	..	1
Officer Supervisor	Rs. 900—50—1,150	..	9
		6	27

SCALES OF PAY FOR VICEROY'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

31. **Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the scales of pay by ranks for Viceroy's Commissioned Officers in the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force; and

(b) the total number of Indians and Sikhs in each of the Forces by rank?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) There are no Viceroy's Commissioned Officers in the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force. As regards the Indian Army, the scales of pay by rank are as follows:

	Rs. p. m.
Risaldar Major/Subedar Major	*250—15—310 *Includes
Risaldar/Subedar	140—10—180 personal
Jemadar	80—5—105 allowance at Rs. 50 p.m.

(b) I regret that in the interests of security I am unable to give actual numbers. I lay on the table a statement giving the percentages of (a) Indians as a whole, (b) Sikhs, in the various ranks in the Royal Indian Navy and the

Indian Air Force. As regards the Indian Army no statistics are available showing the percentages of the various communities, or of officers in each different rank. Indians form 26 per cent. of the total number of officers and 91 per cent. of the total number of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, other ranks and enrolled non-combatants. The corresponding percentages for Sikhs are officers, 3.5, and the rest, 6.5. The percentage of Indians in each rank of the total cadre of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers and other ranks is approximately as follows:

Rank	Percentage
Subedar Major	0.1
Subedar	0.6
Jemadar	1.0
Havildar Major	0.9
Havildar	8.9
Lance Havildar	0.7
Naik	3.8
Lance Naik	4.0
Sepoy	55.0
Non-combatants (enrolled)	18.0

Statement showing the percentages of (a) Indians as a whole, (b) Sikhs in the various ranks of the Indian Air Force and the Royal Indian Navy

(1) INDIAN AIR FORCE

	Indians %	Sikhs %
(i) Officers		
Wing Commanders	0.4	0.1
Squadron Leaders	2.4	0.3
Flight Lieutenants	13.2	1.5
Flying Officers	53.6	6.0
Pilot Officers	20.5	2.2
Acting Pilot Officers	9.9	0.6
	100.0	10.7

(ii) Airmen

Warrant Officers	0.1	0.02
Flight Sergeants	0.4	0.07
Sergeants	1.2	0.12
Corporals	1.9	0.13
Aircraftmen	96.4	6.00
	100.0	6.34

(2) ROYAL INDIAN NAVY

(i) Officers

Commanders	2.0	Nil
Lieutenant Commanders	14.2	1.0
Lieutenants	41.3	1.3
Sub-lieutenants	65.9	2.4
Midshipmen	75.6	3.1

(ii) Rates

Chief Petty Officers	2.6	0.02
Petty Officers	8.85	0.08
Leading	9.95	0.18
Below Leading	73.8	0.70
Boys	4.8	0.13
	100.0	1.11

RESTRICTING GOVERNMENT ADVERTISEMENTS TO ACCREDITATION (A) NEWSPAPERS

32. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state if it is a fact that advertisements are given by the Central and Provincial Governments to those newspapers only whose correspondents are given accreditation and grouped in A Class, and not to those newspapers whose accredited correspondents are grouped in B Class? If not, what is the fact?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: No, Sir. As I stated in this House on the 5th April, 1944, in reply to Mr. K. S. Gupta's starred question No. 786, advertisements are given to newspapers in accordance with their importance from a commercial viewpoint, ordinarily judged from their circulation, the quality of news and other reading matter, and the type of readership.

REVISION IN THE DIVISION OF ACCREDITED PRESS CORRESPONDENTS

33. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 46, asked on the 8th November, 1944 (page 427 of the Debates), regarding revision in the division of Accredited Press Correspondents, viz.:—

"The matter is under consideration", and state the result or the approximate date by which the said result will be available?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: The list of accredited press correspondents entitled to categories 'A' and 'B' privileges has been revised. A copy of the list as revised has been placed in the Library.

LIST OF ACCREDITED PRESS CORRESPONDENTS

34. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state whether it is proposed to lay on the table an up to date list of Accredited Press Correspondents with the Government of India showing them grouped into two classes along with the names of the newspapers or news-agencies which they represent and the date on which they were given accreditation?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: A list giving the required information has been placed in the Library.

PREDOMINATION OF THE PRESS ASSOCIATION IN THE PRESS CORRESPONDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

35. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) If it is a fact that the members of the Press Association have predominated the Press Correspondent Advisory Committee; if not, what the fact is;

(b) if it is a fact that the Press Association is a body not registered under any law and has a non-statutory establishment and receives a subsidy from the Government; if not, what the fact is, and how its accounts stand;

(c) the number together with the result of applications from newspapers or news-agency representatives for accreditation to the Government of India decided by the Sub-Committee; and

(d) if it is a fact that the new accreditation was also divided amongst the members of the said Press Association; if not so, what the fact is?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: (a) The required information was given in this House on 5th April, 1944 in my reply to part (c) of Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam's question No. 815, to which I would invite the Honourable Member's attention.

(b) The Press Association is not a registered body. It receives no subsidy from Government who have no information regarding its income and expenditure.

(c) 16 applications were received. Of these, 14 were accepted and 2 rejected.

(d) I am afraid I do not understand this part of the question. If the Honourable Member means that accreditation either in category A or category B is

accorded to those correspondents only who are members of the Press Association the reply is: 'No. Each case is considered on its own merits'.

CRIMES REGISTERED IN DELHI CITY POLICE STATIONS

36. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Home Member please lay on the table of the House a statement of the crimes registered in the Delhi City Police Stations during the preceding three years together with the results of investigations made thereon by the Police?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: A statement is attached.

Year	Statement Cases					Persons				
	Registered	Sent for trial	Convicted	Acquitted	Pending investigation at end of year	Cancelled	Untraced	Sent for trial (excluding persons pending trial)	Convicted	Acquitted
1942	2,402	879	711	168	415	129	979	2,121	1,537	584
1943	3,608	1,362	1,114	248	708	154	1,384	2,532	1,936	596
1944	3,521	1,095	895	200	1,114	198	1,114	1,937	1,529	408

The above figures are for the City police stations only, including Qarol Bagh.

INCREASE IN CRIMES IN DELHI CITY

37. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the reasons for the increase in crimes in the Delhi City during the preceding three years?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The main reason for the increase in crime is the extraordinary increase of population.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

PARTICIPATION BY INDIA'S AGENT GENERAL IN PROPAGANDA ABOUT INDIA IN AMERICA

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to Mr. Amery's answer in the 12 Noon Commons that "both Indian Agent General and the B. I. S. will take whatever steps they judge necessary to deal with the matter" i.e., the statements made by Mrs. Pandit in America;

(b) whether the Secretary, External Affairs, has not repeatedly said that the Agent General takes no part in any political propaganda; and

(c) if so whether he has protested to the Secretary of State against the Indian Agent General being used for propaganda purposes?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) Yes, but the Honourable Member has failed to quote the whole of what the Secretary of State is reported to have said. He added in effect that the Agent General and the B. I. S. would take into account such assessment as the American Government might already have made of Mrs. Pandit's inaccurate assertions.

(b) I did not make the statement attributed to me by the Honourable Member in answer to previous questions in this House. The trend of my answers to questions on this subject was that all the printed publicity issued by the Agent General was based on material sent from India and published in this country. This of course does not imply that it is not perfectly open to him to state correct facts and dispel false impressions on any issue, whenever he judges it to be necessary. It is in fact on occasion his duty to do so.

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member please state what is the machinery which the Agent General has at his disposal to "state the correct facts"?

Sir Olaf Caroe: He can make a speech, he can issue a statement, he can do anything which is open to a diplomatic representative to do. He can also work through the Indian Information Service.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Agent General is publishing any books or is financing magazines or doing anything of that sort to state the correct facts?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I have never heard of the Agent General publishing any books. I do not know whether the Honourable Member has.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is there any machinery by which he can publish books?

Sir Olaf Caroe: He can work through the Indian Information Service and put out publicity material. But, as I have often said in this House and as the Honourable the Leader of the House has also said, what he sends out through the Indian Information Service in the way of printed propaganda is what has already come out in India.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is he in touch with the British Government in putting out such literature?

(No answer was given.)

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

FAILURE TO COUNTERACT ANTI-INDIAN PROPAGANDA IN BRITAIN AND AMERICA

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received a notice from Mr. Kazmi saying that he intends to move a motion for the adjournment of the House to discuss the failure of the Government of India to counteract the filthy and dastardly propaganda carried on against Indians in the United Kingdom and the United States of America as disclosed by Sir Bhatnagar, Director of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India, in his address to the All-India Manufacturers' Organisation, and reported in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, dated the 27th February, page 5.

This is not an urgent matter within the meaning of the Rules and Standing Orders and I therefore disallow the motion.

THE HINDU MARRIAGE DISABILITIES REMOVAL BILL—contd.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the other day I was referring to the second part of the Bill, which seeks to validate inter-sub-caste marriages. I have already drawn the attention of the House to the fact that sub-caste marriages are not illegal. No shastra has ever laid down that sub-caste marriages are invalid under the Hindu Law. No decision of any court has till now laid down that such sub-caste marriages are invalid. Therefore this attempt to introduce a measure of this character in this Assembly for the purpose of validating such sub-caste marriages, as though they had been invalid till now, is absolutely unnecessary and superfluous.

I shall quote the authority of Mr. Gopalchandra Sarkar Sastri in his latest edition of Hindu Law, the edition which was published in 1940. At page 122 the learned author says, "There is no text of Hindu Law prohibiting inter-marriage of persons belonging to different sub-divisions of the same tribe or varna. In the Madras case, *Inderun vs. Ramaswami*, the Privy Council has upheld the inter-marriage between two sub-divisions of the same caste". Again, later on, he has said, "It has, however, been clearly laid down that such inter-marriage is valid". Therefore there is absolutely no prohibition against inter-marriage between sub-divisions of the same caste.

My Honourable friend, who has moved the Bill, has chosen the wrong remedy and has come to a wrong place. He has misconceived his remedy. As a matter of fact he has tried to cover up his indifference as a reformer outside the Assembly by his lectures here, inside this Assembly. His legitimate place is outside the Assembly. Let him go and tell persons who are reformers like himself and let them all go to the country at large and tell them that there is absolutely no prohibition in the shastras against marriages between members

belonging to different sub-castes of the same caste. Let him not be an arm-chair reformer.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): I am a fighting reformer.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: No, a cushion-chair reformer.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Why don't you do it?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I do so and I have always said both in my individual capacity as also in my capacity as a vakil, to which profession I belong, that there is absolutely no bar and no invalidity attaching to any marriage between one member of a sub-caste and a member of another sub-caste. I have always said it and shall always do it. I cannot have better authority than the words of our ancient Rishis and the Smritis and therefore anything more is unnecessary. Conservatism is not peculiar to my country nor to the Hindu faith. Conservatism has a hold on people's minds everywhere. Only a few days ago I saw a picture called, "English without Tears", where the grand-daughter of a nobleman wanted to marry one of the servants of the household. The grandmother was shocked to hear it, she almost fainted, she swooned, that is what we find; if it is not caste or sub-caste it is class and sub-class that reigns supreme in European society. My friend Mr. Chapman-Mortimer wants to sit in a Committee to decide my fate so far as my religion is concerned. He will do well to withdraw. My Honourable friend Mr. Dalal has withdrawn so graciously. He has not got into the net which has been so beautifully spread by the twin brothers.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Mr. Dalal wanted to be on the Committee and then he has withdrawn.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: His better part has prevailed over him.

An Honourable Member: His better half has prevailed over him.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Now let me come to the ordinary Christians. I know, the practice among Roman Catholics, suppose a Brahmin becomes a Christian, or a Vaishya becomes a Christian, or a non-Brahmin becomes a Christian, he continues his caste instead of belonging to the Christian community. Brahmin Christians marry only Brahmin Christians, Vaishya Christians marry only Vaishya Christians, and so on. They carry their caste to the end of the world and they will not intermarry. Is there any prohibition among Christians against such marriages, does the Christian Marriage Act invalidate such marriages? You may pass legislation to bring about unions like that, but if they refuse to marry can we force them? Let my Honourable friend go immediately to Trichinopoly and try to convert them. Here the Vice-Chancellor, I do not find him in his seat,—wanted to bring about a marriage.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Vice-Chancellor of what?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: He is the Vice-Chancellor of Agra University. He went out of the way, and honestly—I do not attribute any other motive to him—wanted to bring about a marriage between a girl and a boy, which marriage according to Hindu Shastras is prohibited. He wanted to introduce a reform in Hindu Law. I wish to ask the Honourable Member whether, if that girl had wanted to marry her brother's son, he would have been a party to it? Are there not prohibited degrees of marriage in every community and everywhere, and because there is a greater degree of prohibition in my community, is it open to an Egyptian to come and tell me that because among Ptolemys of Egypt, brothers married sisters, my children, brothers and sisters, should marry among themselves? Is he prepared to let a brother and sister marry in his community? I ask the Vice-Chancellor to confine himself to the limits of the University and not come to this Assembly and preach to me. I am proud of my Hindu law, practice and religion and I will invite my Muslim friends and Christians who really belonged to my community to come back to my religion. I wish to try and carry conviction to them. Let them not forget their ancestors. My Honourable friend Sir Yamin Khan has perhaps come from the same Gotra to which I belong. All our friends come from our Gotras.

[Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.]

You are not Semitics or anybody else, you are all Aryans. We all belong to the same race. If we take some other faith, we do not change our race. If a Negro or an Assyrian embraces Islam he does not become an Arab. Equally, if I change my religion, do I become anything different from my brother who continues to be a Hindu? So far as marriages are concerned, it is a question of consanguinity, affinity, it is not a question of whether sub-caste marriages are allowed or are not allowed. It is a matter of conservatism. Where subdivisions by birth do not stand in the way of marriage in a country, property, wealth, and other considerations stand in the way. The greatest reformers of the West want to destroy the present society of class dominance, so that ultimately they may establish a classless society. That is how your politics are going on there. The reformers must go to the people and preach. One word of caution I would give to my Honourable friends, the twin brothers; if they want to go and tell the people I want to carry this reform amongst you, they must put on *vibhuti*, they must become orthodox men. Have you not seen members of the Salvation Army addressing people like this? They wear a *dhoti* and preach. My Honourable friend for whom we have got the greatest respect, she is not an ardent reformer, but she is a reformer in herself, I am referring to my friend Mrs. Subbarayan—I will call her Mrs. Radha Bai because in these days of women's rights, why should we attach her to Mr. Subbarayan.

An Honourable Member: Srimati Radha Bai.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Even she does not go into the country. Mahatma Gandhi himself has changed his dress. He was accustomed to foreign dress, foreign language, he has now changed his language, he wears only a loin cloth, and anybody who does not know him will take him for a villager. That is how he commands the respect of the millions of this country. That is a social reformer, although a politician he has carried social reform to the very doors of the people. I must say, Sir, I belong to a very orthodox family and community, I will multiply this 'very' to the Nth degree, I belong to the Ramanuja School, but still I have changed, and that is what Mahatma Gandhi has done. That is the way of the reformer. My Honourable friend, Mrs. Renuka Ray was quoting from a book published by Raja Ram Mohun Roy. Raja Ram Mohun Roy is a great soul, he is a great reformer, I am justly proud of him; I only want that Mrs. Renuka Ray should follow his footsteps. This is how he carried reform into the community. He first addressed himself to some of the overgrowths on the Hindu community. He addressed himself to Sati, which does not form part of Hindu precept or ritual, I do not know how it came into being, possibly it was copied from the Assyrians or Sumérians or the Babylonians or even Egyptians. In Egypt when the king died, all his retinue must also be buried with him, so that he may have his retinue, his wife with him in the other world. There is no authority for it in the Vedas, there is no authority for it in the Ramayana. Dasaratha had 350 wives, but not one of them ascended the pyre with him. Somehow this practice crept into the Society, and that practice was rightly abolished with the aid of legislation. Raja Ram Mohun Roy did service to our community, he knew the various bad things which had crept into the community, and which unfortunately unthinking minds were prepared to accept. That is the reform he did. He tried to weed out the ingrowths and overgrowths.

Next let me come to the Widow Marriage Act. Widow marriage is permitted by later Smrithis, and there is no prohibition of it in the earlier Smrithis. Here I refer to a passage which means that, when a man is lost or goes away to foreign parts and it is not easy to get at him and when he is dead or when he becomes an ascetic, or when he becomes an outcaste and when he becomes a eunuch

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Then where is the divorcee?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I will come to that chapter: fortunately you have not introduced it in this Bill.

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

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: My friend wants to drag me into other matters. Therefore I say there is nothing absolutely in Hindu law to prohibit widow re-marriage also. Circumstances later on made it necessary to prohibit it. Can anybody say that *purda* is a necessary element of the Muhammadan religion and that those who have discarded *purda* are bad? There is absolutely nothing of the sort. But in human nature there cannot be a revolution—there can only be evolution, and therefore practices creep in which have to be thrown out. It cannot be done merely by forcibly removing the *purda* if a lady goes about wearing one,—she will resent it—but by telling her and educating her and getting her to remove it. Therefore I request my friends immediately to change their dress and wear a *dhoti* and put on *vibhuti* and go into society.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not think the Honourable Member need indulge in these personal remarks.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Let the reform be carried out in this fashion. This is not the place for such reform. And there is no need for reform in this matter—it is not necessary.

Now, let me come to the first part of this Bill, which relates to sagotra marriage. I have already said what a gotra is: gotra is the name of the rishi or the common ancestor, from whom a number of people have descended. The common ancestor might have been very remote—he need not be within 7 degrees. The number is not a blind one. It is based on principle. Marriage amongst members of the same gotra is prohibited on the principles of eugenics. So far as the Hindu community is concerned, they do not want in-breeding very closely; they do not want out-breeding either, that is, going beyond the particular caste. Inside the caste and outside the gotra—it is that that is wanted; and I am sure that it is that which has preserved this ancient community. What is the age of other communities? Americans—their age is 200 or 250 years—are now the dictators of civilisation: they say that you must wash your teeth every morning: my ancestors learnt to do this long long ago; they washed their teeth and bathed regularly, while others have learned this only recently and want us to have these practices now! Prohibited degrees are there in all laws.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): But they are not in dispute in this Bill.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sagotra is a prohibited degree of marriage—not for 7 degrees but to the Nth degree. I will come now to the various systems, how this is in consonance with the accepted principles of every system of religion. I am aware of only one instance where a son married his mother in Greece—and no body accepts it, it is wrong and the man committed suicide later on.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Oedipus, you mean: they did not know.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: None of us have got that complex. So far as brother and sister are concerned, it was the practice among the Ptolemys in Egypt, but even that was given up. Let me take the Muhammadan religion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member had better confine himself to this Bill: that is quite enough. The discussion has been going on for a long time and many Members have already spoken. He must not wander into a discussion of other laws.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is not this relevant to the discussion, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No; it is not.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: All right, Sir. It is wrong to say that a man shall not marry his mother or grandmother or great grandmother—and he cannot marry his daughter or granddaughter or great granddaughter.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: He will not be alive!

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: A man can marry his granddaughter.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Not to the Nth degree.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Therefore it is prohibited. So far as his sisters are concerned, he is not allowed to marry his sisters. This can be

[Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.]

justified on the principles of blood relationship and consanguinity. Let me come to affinity. If a man marries a wife and the wife dies, he is not entitled to marry the mother-in-law in Muhammadan law. What is the principle of blood relationship or consanguinity involved in this? It is only affinity. My ancestors made a similar injunction and why should I not have great respect for them? Why do you laugh? Apart from affinity, even fosterage is considered as an objection for marriage under the Muhammadan law. This certainly cannot be justified on the principles of blood relationship. Therefore I do not merely oppose this measure on grounds of sentiment. I am prepared to cross swords with my friends on scientific principles. I believe science has not yet discovered that heredity does not continue beyond the 7th degree. They have been making researches and Mendel's law applies: with respect to animals they have found that qualities persist to the 7th degree: they have not yet discovered that they do not persist.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Persist indefinitely—that is Mendel's law.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am glad of the correction. My friend quoted Darwin. Darwin examined a number of animals and so far as the human kingdom is concerned, Darwin's law has been thrown to the winds. It is unfortunate that Darwin's law still prevails in the West; war is the result of Darwin's law—the survival of the fittest—the law of the jungle. But we want to live harmoniously with the rest of the world. I recognise the oneness of the whole world and universe, that this is only a manifestation of that power, and therefore I would like to join hands with all. I go as far as possible to find out if there is kinship or consanguinity of blood and therefore I want to avoid it. It has been said that this legislation is not to use force but only enabling. Are you prepared to have enabling legislation permitting brother to marry sister? Why? We do not do that because we know it is improper that a sister should marry her brother, and I am not prepared to leave it to chance. I say it shall not. My desire to prohibit improper alliances is equally strong about this matter. Let the man make his research and find there is absolutely no trace of blood relationship between the common ancestor and the different persons belonging to the same community. And after all is said and done, how many sagotra marriages are performed? Is there a general cry in the community that if you bar sagotras there are no husbands for daughters and there are no wives for these boys? My Honourable friend Shrimati Radhabai said that it is because the circle is narrow that bridegroom prices are being asked. I say, with all respect, that the men are not to blame so much as the women. My Honourable friend should advise all mothers not to ask for bridegroom price. I know how the man usually answers when he is asked about this. He says: "What can I do? I know your difficulty, I have daughters myself. Therefore please ask my wife: she wants a small golden pot or a small beautiful necklace made of diamonds. That is all that she wants". Therefore this is not due to the narrowing circle of relations or marriageable people, but on account of the price which we have to pay for this English language which we have acquired at some cost; and we are converting into cash the knowledge of English that we have got; therefore this bridegroom price has come into existence. It is not only in the Hindu community but in all other communities that it has come: if you want to give a daughter to a man whom you consider good in his position, then the man puts a market value upon himself. I am afraid this has affected all communities, Christians and others; in some shape or other they have all got to pay, if they want good husbands for their daughters. This is independent of the sagotra marriage.

The prohibition of sagotra marriage is also intended to bring about purity of the race. Much care is taken to see how race horses are bred. The pedigree is calculated and efforts are made to find out who the parents are. The same practice obtains in the case of cows and stud bulls. The seed is more precious than the field. It is the proper seed that brings about the purity and the continuity of the race.

Have you ever heard of a white American man being lynched for having had anything to do with a Negro woman? No. Take the other case. When the Negro man approaches a white woman, he is lynched. So, Sir, the purity of the race depends upon the purity of the woman. Whatever my friends may say, marriage is a sacred institution. It is not intended merely to satisfy sexual pleasures of the individuals. That is purely incidental. There is an innate beauty about it.

Take the case of a man and a woman. They are beautiful and apparently there is nothing wrong with them. They are like beautiful potatoes. What happens? They beget children which develop patches of syphilis. There is nothing wrong with the parents and yet the offspring are affected.

I am not opposing this Bill for the sake of opposition. My father was a Sanskrit pandit. I am not opposed to reform. Nor do I believe that God has placed a full stop on all reform for all time to come. I belong to a religion which says, that as necessity arises, there will arise a prophet from time to time to teach mankind how to proceed. Therefore I am in process of evolution from time to time.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: That time has arrived now.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I do not agree that Dr. Deshmukh is an avatar.

Now, sagotra marriage is prohibited by Manu in Chapter III of Manu's Code. He deals with the prohibited degrees of marriage and he also mentions the disqualifications of the bride and bridegroom who should not enter into the married state in the interests of proper progeny.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): He deals with many forms of marriage and many types of sons also.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: This is what it says: (This is in regard to families which should be avoided):

"The family which has omitted prescribed acts of religion; that which has produced no male children; that in which the Veda has not been read; that, which has thick hair on the body; and those, which have been subject to hæmorrhoids, to phthisis, to dyspepsia, to epilepsy, to leprosy and to elephantiasis."

These are the disqualifications which have been laid down. These were all prescribed in the interests of society. Sagotra marriages were forbidden because they will produce affinity of blood which may not be useful for the purpose of producing proper lineage.

I have received several opinions on this Bill. Inasmuch as my sisters here have spoken I would like to place before this House the opinions of those women who are against this Bill. I shall place before you the views of the Hindu Women's Association of Calcutta of which the President is Lady Sircar, wife of Sir N. N. Sircar who was Law Member of the Government of India and who was an Honourable Member of this Assembly. If she were a Member of this Assembly, she could give us a proper lead in this matter. My Honourable friend Mrs. Subbarayan did not refer to the opinion of this Association.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan (Madura and Ramanad *cum* Tinnevely: Non-Muhammadan Rural): On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I did refer to the views of women who opposed the Hindu Code.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: You did not say to what category they belonged, whether they were ordinary women or extraordinary women whose views are entitled to consideration. If my friend was in favour of one set of opinions, I tell this House there is another set of opinions equally strong which opposes this Bill. I shall read a few lines from the opinion set by Mrs. S. R. Chatterjee who is Honorary Secretary of the Hindu Women's Association, of which Lady Sircar is the President.

"If the sacramental marriage had been properly codified, perhaps not much harm would have been done—at least in the near future. Those impulsive or go-ahead young people who want to avoid the restrictions of the sacramental law, can well take advantage of Act III of 1872, as at present, or its counterpart, viz., the civil marriage rules provided by the draft Code. If so, what was the necessity of diluting the sacramental marriage with such un-Hindu ideas, as divorce, re-marriage of wives, sagotra marriage or marriage outside caste? We emphatically record our protest against the introduction of such heterodox principles into the Hindu law of marriage."

[Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.]

They oppose the very codification of Hindu law. This must be left to society as it progresses from time to time. Whenever such need arises and the society feels strongly that a change is urgently needed in the interests of the race, society will have no objection to adjust itself to changing times and new ideas. Under the Arya Marriages Act, the Arya Samajists brought about a number of marriages between persons belonging to different castes. There was a question of the validity of such marriages in the Nagpur High Court and other High Courts and the matter was brought up in this House by the Honourable Sir N. N. Sircar and this Assembly validated and legalised those marriages. If the community wants sagotra marriages this Assembly will certainly ratify the proposal but as it is there is only a solitary person here and there who is in favour of this proposal. Even where there is no objection, sub-caste marriages are not going on. I do not say that the Mover of the motion is not a Hindu. He may have crossed the bounds of religion but the ordinary people are still opposed to sagotra marriages and there is lot of opinion against such marriages.

I will answer one or two questions raised by my friend Dr. Deshmukh. He said that Rama and Sita belonged to the same gotra. I have looked into the Ramayan and I find that the position is that Satananda on one side gives the lineage of Sita and Vashista gives the lineage of Rama. There is nothing in common between the two. Therefore it is wrong to say that they belonged to the same gotra.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What about Krishna?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Krishna was born at Muttra. He married a lady in Vidharba. They do not belong to the same gotra.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I referred to Krishna's parents, Vasudev and Devaki. My friend is distorting everything that I said.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: My Honourable friend forgets that even in his speech some Honourable Members interposed and he had to answer them. In the same way, I am answering my Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa. I am informing him that Sri Krishna and Rukmini did not have the same gotra and so far as Devaki and Vasudeva are concerned, I do submit they did not belong to the same gotra. I shall refer to only one more instance of marriage, and that is the marriage between Arjuna and Subhadra. They were related to each other. Arjuna was paternal aunt's son to Subhadra; and Subhadra was maternal uncle's daughter to Arjuna. I submit they as husband and wife did not belong to the same gotra.

An Honourable Member: There is blood relationship.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am answering that point also. Why should you be in a hurry? My only excuse for taking a much longer time over this is that the Bill is of a far reaching character. Regarding the marriage between Arjuna and Subhadra, it is true that such marriages between maternal uncle's daughter and nephew do take place in Dravida country to which I belong. As society advances particular customs are developed in each part of the country. If the customs are bad and injurious to the harmonious growth of society, then such customs are weeded out, good customs have the sanction of law. So, I was submitting that such marriages between maternal uncle's daughter and nephew have the sanction of law based on custom in Dravida country. But such marriages are illegal in Bengal. They are considered incest in Bengal and all over northern India. But in the rest of India they are considered legal. What I am submitting is to allow customs to grow which are good for the soil. Do not try to implant one custom from one part of the country or from one community to another. India is a vast continent. We all of us belong to the same race and to the same Hindu religion. Yagnyavalka is the smriti text which is followed from one end of the country to another. In this country, this text has been differently interpreted by various people. One school in Bengal, another in Mithila and so on. Thus there are four schools. If a person from the South wants to marry to another person in the north, there is the Special Marriage Act, passed in 1923 which enables people to marry. He and she must both

belong to the Hindu religion. There is absolutely no difficulty. They ought not to be related to each other within the prohibited degree, that is two degrees. If they are beyond two degrees, they can marry. How many people have taken advantage of this Special Marriage Act? Very few. That only shows that society does not want to take advantage of that law. Why do you want to introduce another legislation. The one is a sacramental marriage and the other is a registered marriage. If people want sacramental marriage, let them have it. If some others want registered marriage, let them have it. Why do you want to duplicate laws? The Hindu Widows Remarriage Act was passed, but it was not universally adopted. Why don't you bring a legislation to make it compulsory? Such absurd measures won't appeal to Hindu society. Likewise, what is the good of emphasising something or trying to pass an Act similar to the one which has not been accepted by the community at all? Therefore, I submit that the first portion of this Bill is unnecessary and uncalled for, there is no demand for it in society. It is uncalled for and it is no reform at all. On the other hand science will prove sooner than later that it is inconvenient and injurious to healthy growth of society. Then, Sir, the second part is misconceived and the earlier part is unnecessary and therefore this Bill ought not to find acceptance at the hands of the House.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): The question be now put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Sir Asoka Roy.

(Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai and Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan rose in their places to speak.)

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): I have no objection to the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition speaking before me. I am entirely in your hands.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Let us hear the Government views.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House would certainly like to hear Government views. The Honourable Member can proceed.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: May I make my position clear? I only rose because I heard somebody move that the question be now put and I did not want to lose my chance of speaking. If you think that I should speak now, I will do so.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I cannot compel any Honourable Member to speak. But it is just as well that the House should now know what the Government attitude is.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Sir, the motion before the House is the fourth motion moved by the Honourable Mr. Govind Deshmukh for reference of this Bill to the Select Committee. His three previous motions, Honourable Members will remember, were withdrawn by leave of the House. On the occasion of the third motion which was moved on the 10th November 1943, Mr. Govind Deshmukh did not seek leave to withdraw until after the motion had been fully debated and I had the opportunity of explaining the grounds on which Government would find it necessary to oppose the motion. The first of these grounds was that piecemeal legislation should not be undertaken when comprehensive legislation was on the anvil. Now, Sir, I readily admit that I am now on much less firm ground in advancing this argument than I was in November 1943. Since that date, the comprehensive Hindu Marriage Bill, prepared by the Hindu Law Committee, has indeed been referred to a Joint Committee, but subsequent developments have rendered it improbable that the Bill will be proceeded with. I refer, Sir, to the publication for opinion by the Hindu Law Committee of the comprehensive Hindu Code designed to replace all previous measures prepared by the Committee including the Marriage Bill. In these circumstances, it is clear that no question can arise of proceeding further with the Hindu Law Committee's Marriage Bill pending a decision whether Government should introduce the comprehensive Code as a Government Bill. No decision on this question will be possible until the process of consultation with

[Sir Asoka Roy.]

public opinion initiated by the Committee has been completed and the Committee has made its report to Government. This in itself will involve some delay, and I feel that Government can no longer use the fact that comprehensive measures of Hindu law reform are under contemplation in the immediate future as an argument for opposing individual Bills dealing with particular incidents of the Hindu law, and that their attitude to any such Bill must be determined on considerations specifically applicable to the particular Bill in question.

On the merits of Mr. Govind Deshmukh's Bill I pointed out in my speech of the 10th November, 1943, that it was now settled law that marriages between persons belonging to different subdivisions of the same primary caste were not invalid and that it was therefore sub-clause (a) only of clause 2 of the Bill which involved any change in the existing position. I also pointed out that the sub-clause in question embodied a more radical change in the existing law than that which had been proposed in the Marriage Bill prepared by the Hindu Law Committee who, while professing to apply the doctrine of *factum valet* to marriages between Hindus belonging to the same gotra or pravara, had decided after most careful consideration that in so far as sacramental marriages were concerned the ban on such marriages should stand. In this connection I advanced the argument that with the Special Marriage Act available it was unreasonable for Hindus desiring to marry within the same gotra or pravara to demand such change in the law as would legalise the sacramental form of such marriages. On this point I confess I have been very much impressed by the attitude of my Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa, and I no longer desire to press this particular argument. My main ground, however, for resisting sub-clause (a) of clause 2 was the fact that Hindu opinion was sharply divided on the merits of the proposed alterations in the law, and that orthodox sections of opinion were hotly opposed to the proposal. If only for this reason, Government cannot lend their support to the motion before the House. They have, however, while reserving complete freedom of action in respect of the attitude to be adopted in subsequent stages, decided not to oppose the motion on which official Members will therefore abstain from voting.

I should like, however, to say a few words on the Bill as drafted. My Honourable friend the Mover said that he did not wish to interfere with restrictions of other kinds like prohibition of marriage among sapindas. But the Bill as drafted does not seem to make that position clear. I might also point out to him that the Hindu Law Committee have prepared a fresh draft of the provisions regarding marriage in their draft Hindu Code, and they have made alternative suggestions regarding sacramental marriages. One of the alternatives provides that there will be no bar to sagotra marriages provided the parties are not within the degrees of relationship prohibited by the Chapter on Marriage and are not sapindas of each other. I presume my Honourable friend the Mover does not wish to go beyond what has been suggested by the Hindu Law Committee in the alternative suggestion I have just referred to.

Sir, I desire before concluding to refer very briefly to some of the speeches made in this House. My Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh in the course of what has been described as a violent speech made a charge that discussion on this Bill had been systematically and from Session to Session prevented in this House; and he also charged me with having threatened and bullied and applied third-degree methods to his brother who—I understand, by the way—is his elder brother; and I do not believe that Mr. Govind Deshmukh asks for any protection from anybody, much less from his younger brother. Sir, I shall ignore the charges made against me personally which my Honourable friend should have known—and by this time does know, I hope—were, to say the least, unfair.

But he seems to be entirely ignorant of the fact that this Bill had been on several occasions discussed at length in this House. I confess, however, we have never had a speech in the past on this Bill from my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh and we have never had a speech of such inordinate length as my Honourable friend made in this House. I have been looking up the debates

and I find that apart from the Mover of the motion at least about a dozen Members of this House had participated in the previous discussions which had taken place from time to time on this particular Bill. However, Sir, I presume even Dr. Deshmukh himself will be satisfied with the very full discussion we have had on this occasion. I would like to say a few words about my Honourable friend Mrs. Subbarayan. She told us that she had come over from her sick bed to speak on this motion. I was glad to see her in the House and to hear her speak on the motion, more so because it appeared to me that she had risen from her sick bed to make an attack on me. But the worst charge she could think of making against me was that I had failed to cultivate or acquire the habit of speaking on the policy of the Government of India in vague language when on tour. When Mrs. Subbarayan was making this charge my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi interposed with an observation which assured me that there were certainly other Members of the House who did not take a serious view of my conduct in observing silence during my tours.

There was a charge also that discussion on the Hindu Law Committee's Marriage Bill was curtailed by me. I entirely repudiate that charge. Government was also blamed by my Honourable friend for the procedure followed by the Hindu Law Committee. All that I can say is that it is open to the Committee to follow its own procedure, and I am sorry that Mrs. Subbarayan should have sought to lay the blame on Government for the actions of the Committee.

Sir, I do not desire to deal at length with the various other speeches made in the course of this debate; but I think you will be satisfied and every Member of the House will be satisfied that the debate has clearly shown considerable diversity of opinion amongst Members of this House and that, I submit, would fully justify the attitude Government have decided to take with regard to this motion. Sir, that is all I desire to say.

Seth Sunder Lall Daga (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. President, I rise to oppose the motion of my Honourable friend Mr. Deshmukh for reference to a Select Committee of his Bill to remove certain legal disabilities under Hindu Law in respect of marriages between Hindus, particularly to legalise marriages between persons of the same gotra and between persons belonging to different sub-castes.

Sir, as a Sanatanist Hindu, I cannot but enter my strong protest against the Bill which attempts to interfere with two of the main principles of marriage amongst Hindus. Marriage, according to Hindu conception, is a sacrament. Marriage between persons of the same gotra and marriage between sub-castes are not permitted. The adoption of such un-Hindu principles into Hindu Law of Marriage cannot be tolerated. I cannot but oppose this motion in respect of a Bill which seeks to introduce such radical changes into the Hindu Law of Marriage. It is really an attempt to turn sacramental marriage into civil marriage.

My Honourable friend, the Mover, and those who think with him, contend that the provisions in question are not essential and can therefore be removed. But, Sir, may I ask, are they really competent to say so? Are they so familiar with the vast Hindu Shastras as to be able to judge correctly in this respect? I emphatically say, no. Religious heads of temples and Maths and learned Pandits versed in Shastras and other competent persons of the kind alone to my mind can pronounce upon their validity. Their first duty, if I may say so, should have been to approach the religious heads and seek their opinion.

Sir, I also feel that matters of this type should be beyond the scope of a secular body such as this Honourable House. As an orthodox Hindu, I am not prepared to accept any interference by the Legislature with the laws and practices laid down by our divine sages and saints. Mr. President, I have to point out to my Honourable friends that my view on this point received support from strange quarters. Even in England and as late as 1919 a separate body of experts was formed under the "Church of Assembly Act" to deal with matters of religion. They were left outside the scope of Parliament. That Act received support from prominent persons like Lord Hugh Cecil and Sir Arnold Wilson.

[Seth Sunder Lall Daga.]

Even if we, Sir, apply the canons of secular legislation to this matter, the radical changes proposed by the Honourable Mover have not the slightest support of the vast majority of Hindus whom they will affect. Nor are the provisions to be changed, so shocking and widespread evils, as require removal. On the other hand, the proposed changes, on the very admission of the Mover will affect only a limited number of go-ahead people in a few particular localities. And, Sir, with what object? For the purpose of expanding the field of choice for brides and bridegrooms, and to make children and grand children happy. With all deference to my Honourable friends, it hardly justifies changes in respect of even a mere secular matter.

Now, Sir, let us examine how my Honourable friend, the Mover of this motion, wants to get this matter through. He has proposed a Select Committee not of Hindus alone, but in order to get the Select Committee's report in his favour he has included in his Select Committee a large number of non-Hindus. I feel that it is not fair to change the fabric of Hindu marriage system through non-Hindus.

Would a Muslim member do so? My first answer is they will not. Secondly, they dare not. In the Central Haj Committee, do they take a Hindu or a European member? No, they take Muslims only. What prevented my Honourable friend to take Hindu Members of this House only and to co-opt Hindu Pandits to assist the Select Committee? I appeal to the non-Hindu members of the proposed Select Committee not to lend themselves to this and I am sure that they will be the last persons to do so.

Does the position improve by the proposed changes being made permissive? In my opinion it does not. Permissive social legislation, like laws made in advance of the sentiments of those affected thereby, bring in their train more evils than they seek to remedy. Hindu Widows Remarriage Act, Civil Marriages Act, Sarda Act show the obvious evils of such legislation and the real difficulty of enforcing its provisions on an unwilling and unsympathetic community.

In conclusion, I earnestly request the Mover to drop this Bill at any rate for the time being and trust to the vitality and adaptability of Hindu religious, legal and social systems to meet the urgent needs of the community for centuries by absorbing new ideas and discarding old ones. I would beg of the Mover and his supporters such as his brother Dr. Deshmukh and Mr. Sri Prakasa not to take it amiss, if I tell them that it is far better that they should proceed on the democratic principle of working from within and of converting their present minority into majority by appealing to the heart and conscience of the Hindu public. I say emphatically that no amount of legislation as sought and no amount of pressure from an outside authority will serve their purpose. Whether one likes it or not, caste system in Hindu Society—or for the matter of that in every society in one form or another—cannot be ignored and will have to be tolerated. Those who would like to get out of what they call disqualifications are at liberty to do so but only by way of civil marriages where Hindus can declare themselves as such under Dr. Gour's amendments to the Civil Marriage Act. But it will be a sham and a mockery to call such marriages sacramental. Sir, I oppose this motion.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am not opposed to marriages between agnates for those who want those marriages to take place. I am only opposed to the Bill before this House; in this connection I submit that the right attitude would be to judge every question by the dry light of reason, not by pre-conceived notions.

Sir, I am born and brought up in an orthodox Hindu family, but I am grateful to Almighty that I have got liberal education which enables me to take a rationalistic view of social, economic and political questions. I judge this Bill not simply by blind faith in the scriptures, or any other authority, or any code, but by reason only. (Interruption.) You can never fail when you appeal to

reason and therefore I shall ask the House to judge this question solely by the dry light of reason. I have profound veneration for the Shastras, I shall certainly pay respect and attention to everything that comes from Manu and other law-givers, but ultimately, I shall use nothing else but the God-given privilege of applying my own reason to the proposition before us

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Love will drive away all reason!

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: If I agree with it then there is no difficulty. If I do not agree with it, with profound respect I shall take my own line. That is I think the only right attitude to adopt. I am entitled to ask my friend Dr. Deshmukh to adopt that attitude, because if I remember aright, he was a member and President of the Rationalist Association in Bombay. I think he is still a member of the Rationalist Association.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: That is why he is a Rationalist!

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: First of all, as has been pointed out and as has been also admitted in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the second part of clause 2 is not necessary because such marriages are already valid in law. They do not require any conscientious declaration that you do not believe in Hindu Religion. All that has been swept away and not any Hindu who wants to marry a person belonging to a different sub-caste of the same caste is absolutely at liberty to contract that marriage. The controversy rages round Clause 2(a) and on that issue I wish to make certain submissions for the consideration of the House.

As I said even the marriages between agnates are not in law prohibited today. Those who feel that the field of marriage is restricted and that their romance for an agnate can only get satisfaction by marriage, are free to marry. They can do so under the present law, because if you sufficiently love a woman then these restrictions will not worry you.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Even marriage is not necessary!

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: That may be the experience of my friend, Dr. Deshmukh. I am confining myself to the question of marriage and I do say that if you have really sufficient affection for a girl and she is an agnate, there is nothing in law or commonsense to prevent you from marrying.

We have the story of Pandit Jagannath, one of the most learned of Sanskrit poets marrying an *yavan* girl outside the Hindu society. He married a Muslim woman. That means he married entirely outside the Hindu fold and the Shastris of those days boycotted him until he was able to prove that an honest marriage is always sanctioned by God. He did this by praying to the sacred holy river. He did this by praying to the sacred holy river Ganges to testify that he was not at all tainted by the marriage with a Muslim girl. Anybody who wants to marry an agnate has the example of this Pandit Jagannath whose case was far more serious than any difficulties that obtain today. As the Pandit prayed, the holy river Ganges mounted and mounted till she reached the place where Pandit Jagannath and his wife were sitting and thereby declared him to be pure. The other Pandits had to withdraw their objection and he remained a perfect Hindu for the rest of his life. I think no one in the reforming section of this community will dare to challenge this historical fact.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Do you think that is reason!

Mr. Sri Prakasa: How does the river rise and rise!

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

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (one of the Panel of Chairman) in the Chair.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Sir, when the House rose for the luncheon interval I was submitting for the consideration of the House

Mr. Sri Prakasa: The river Ganga was also rising at that time.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I was referring to Jagannath Pandit who having married a non-Hindu woman, appealed to the holy river Ganges to rise and

[Mr. Jāmnadas M. Mehta.]

purify him. As one sloka after another was recited by that great Pandit, the sacred river rose, rose and rose at every sloka until his body was washed by the sacred waters of the river and the Pandit was purified. There was nothing objectionable in the marriage of the Pandit with the Yavani girl, because the marriage was perfectly honest.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that he went down step by step?

Mr. Jāmnadas M. Mehta: No, that is not so. You live on the banks of the Ganges and are so ignorant.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I deal with the Ganga every day.

Mr. Jāmnadas M. Mehta: Familiarity breeds contempt in your case. Though you are too near you are too far: those who are nearest to the Church are farthest from God. I do not think that there is any objection at all in the case of an honest marriage with a Yavani, I not understand why my friend Dr. Deshmukh and his elder brother, Mr. Deshmukh, insist on a Bill being passed. There is nothing in the Bill which is not today permissible. I say therefore that the object of this Bill is not to make marriages between agnates valid, because they are valid under the Special Marriage Act but to pose as reformers, my friends want to have the kudos of being social reformers and show that others are reactionaries. In the Hindu scriptural text and in the authoritative Hindu literature there is no prohibition against anybody who wants to act according to his conscience. There is one particular text, which I remember, which says:

"Shrutirhi bhinna smritirhi bhinna", etc.

Which means that the Vedas differ, the Smrities differ; not one single *rishi* or *muni* is there whose views are categorically imperative on anybody. Therefore if you really want to marry an agnate, here is my authority for doing so. Why do you want the sanction of this puny Legislature? There is absolutely no necessity. You have got complete freedom and complete authority in the shastras.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Let us have the authority of the Legislature also.

Mr. Jāmnadas M. Mehta: It is not that you want any such permission because it is already there but because you want to pose as reformers. There is a verse of Kalidasa's which is another authority:

"Satamhi sandeha padeshu vastushu Pramanamanta karana pravrutayah."

It means that for the wise man and the good man, wherever there is a conflict of opinion, wherever there is a doubt the authority is the voice of their own conscience.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is "Sakuntala" a sacred book?

Mr. Jāmnadas M. Mehta: I did not say so; but it is a very good book and a better authority than the supporters of this Bill.

There is nothing in the Hindu scriptures or Hindu law, as it is understood, except custom, which has now become the reason for this Bill. Therefore I beg of my friends to desist, because they have no grievance. There is, on the other hand, a real grievance of the majority of the orthodox Hindus against your intruding into their joint family life.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: The Civil Marriage Act interferes with the joint family: in fact it breaks it.

Mr. Jāmnadas M. Mehta: Though I like this discussion across the Benches I am not going to yield my place. My friends have a grievance that the agnates are not today allowed, under the Hindu law, the right of marriage but if those who are fired with the zeal of reform want the right, why should they care for this customary law?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Is this only a pose of orthodoxy just as it is a pose of reform in the case of others?

Mr. Jāmnadas M. Mehta: I think, Sir, I ought to be protected. These interruptions interfere with the Chair's dignity.

Sir, there is overwhelming opposition from the orthodox Hindus and my friends would do well to do some propaganda and education among them so that they may agree to this change in the customary law. Let my friends consider

what happened in other countries. They cannot be ignorant that in England a man was prohibited from marrying the sister of his deceased wife.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: It is a very old story. They are allowed now.

Mr. Jāmnadas M. Mehta: It took them 300 years to change public opinion to permit the marriage between the deceased wife's sister and the widower. In the case of England it meant 300 years for a nation with only 40 millions of people. Here we have 400 millions of people. Therefore on a purely arithmetical basis it should be 3,000 years.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Dating from what date?

Mr. Jāmnadas M. Mehta: From today or if you could persuade public opinion earlier. I therefore submit that the impatience of my friends is altogether unjustified. Besides, what is a reform? Why are you claiming that this Bill is a reforming measure? Every change is not always for the better, simply because you change it does not become a reform. A reform must be something constructive in the life of a community which puts it higher in the scale of humanity. This is merely a change. My esteemed sister, Mrs. Ray, described, in her zeal for supporting this Bill, the orthodox people as not giving equal rights to women. This Bill is not a question of equal rights for women. This is a question of equal rights between men and women and I am opposing both. I do not want a man to marry an agnate and remain in a joint family. In an orthodox joint Hindu family, an agnate is considered a sister and the unhappiness that will be caused in that family if one of its members brings into it an agnate as his wife can better be imagined than described. And why should he do so? His reform consists in trampling on the liberty of others. This means coercion of orthodox people who are today under the strong conviction that a marriage with an agnate will be a great calamity to the joint Hindu family. That is my reason for opposing the Bill and yet I am allowing agnate marriages. Let them marry under the Special Marriage Act.

Then, Sir, I am sorry that some of the speeches made in support of the Bill were somewhat unhappy in tone and in language. My friend, Dr. Deshmukh, started with a great attack on the custom, called it monstrous, he called some of us as pseudo-Sanatanists, and he claimed to stand before us as the champion and embodiment of reform. If anybody reads his speech, he will find that while Dr. Deshmukh opened in grand form, when he was about to complete his speech, he climbed down at every sentence until he made the most abject appeal to the Law Member and to the House. Let him read his speech. I do not see what is the advantage of first attacking people who have honest differences of opinion and then falling at their feet. I am sorry that his speech broke down utterly as it was about to complete although it started in a high and mighty style.

Then, my esteemed sister, Mrs. Subbarayan, spoke with a feeling, the sincerity of which I appreciate. I respect her views, what she said she is fully entitled to say; but I do submit to her whether it was necessary to make such a cruel attack on the Law Member. I do not think in the speech which the Honourable Sir Asoka Roy made he has shown that he is opposed to any change in law—his private opinion he has never forced on us—I think the real difficulty is you do not know what his opinion is, and that is not a subject matter for levelling an attack on him. We must give others as much credit for sincerity and honesty as we claim for ourselves.

But I say, Sir, Government should take a more vigorous attitude. I am not satisfied with the attitude of the Law Member, he has taken up an attitude of neutrality. I think, Sir, Government are bound to consider opinion of the majority of the Hindus, and if they find the majority of the Hindus are against a measure of this kind, they should definitely oppose it until they find that the opinion of the majority of Hindus is in favour of this Bill; Sir, I do not know why the zeal of some of my fellow legislators always descends on the poor Hindu community. There is a custom among some of our countrymen, our Muslim brothers, called *pardah*. Well, some of us might not agree, some of us might agree. Some might think that women should be allowed to see the light of the day, but so long as it is their religion, so long as it is their social

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practice observed by genuine Muslims; it is not my business to interfere with them. I will ask my friend Mr. Deshmukh to try and interfere with this custom if he dares. Chairs will rise in this House.

An Honourable Member: There are no chairs.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: There are enough of them, and they will rise in the sky.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The Honourable Member is arguing with the Members opposite.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I do feel as a Hindu that the removal of *purdah* is far more necessary than the marriage of agnates, but I do not think Mr. Deshmukh or anybody in this House or outside will dare to bring a Bill for removing *purdah* and be safe tomorrow morning. Such is the strong conviction and belief of our Muslim colleagues that my friends will never have the courage to bring before this House such legislation. It is the poor Hindu community which is found to be the target of the reforming zeal of some men, of whom some have already broken the Hindu laws by marrying outside Hindu community, some have married among castes which are not permissible, and some have married in Europe. They know nothing about the Hindu society. They know nothing about the keen feeling amongst the Hindus on these matters, and they simply talk reform in the Hindu community because they cannot do anything else.

Sir, I have two more observations to make. I find that my friend Mr. Deshmukh has packed the Select Committee with people who will support him. I am not a candidate for the membership of the Select Committee, I assure you. I do not know why my friend Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal's name, although he has refused to be a member, is still being retained.

Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal (Nominated Non-Official): I beg that my name may be struck off.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: He has the courage of his conviction. As soon as he realised that he had made a mistake he frankly agreed to stand out and not interfere with the social customs of the Hindus. I would also beg of my fellow Muslim Members to desist from being on the Select Committee.

An Honourable Member: Why?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Because "Agnates and Sapindas" are ideas beyond their knowledge. With very great respect I would request them not to remain on the Select Committee.

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): Mind your own business.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: It is my business to tell the Honourable Member that he should not dare to interfere in my business. It is my business, I am minding it. You cannot say that this is not my business. It is my business and I warn the Government and our Muslim friends not to support this Bill and not to remain neutral.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: This is not a Hindu Sanghatan House.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: This is a legislative body and everybody can express his opinion humbly, and I am only requesting them. Even a cat may look at the king. Why does Sir Raza Ali think that I am not minding my business? I am minding my own business and because I am minding my business I do entreat him, if he is a member of the Select Committee, not to remain on it.

An Honourable Member: He is not.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: That is taking a very short view of things.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Then, you have excluded genuine Hindus like Pandit Nilakantha Das. He is a scholar and a professor and a student of Hindu social and religious affairs, and he has been quietly passed by because

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: A man who says that Sanskrit is a conglomeration of all dialects and not a pure language!

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: He is a man with a liberal mind and he can be expected to bring to bear on this Bill in the Select Committee, if at all that motion is passed, a more liberal outlook. Apart, therefore, from the merits of this Bill, I do say that the way the Select Committee is composed shows that the authors and supporters of the Bill are afraid to face the opinion of genuine Hindu leaders. My friend, Pandit Nilakantha Das, is an accepted Hindu leader of great eminence by all his people. Therefore on the ground of merit and on the ground of improper constitution of the Select Committee, I think the Select Committee itself is bad. Lastly, I once more appeal to my friend Dr. Deshmukh not to press his motion. (Interruption.) I can only express my opinion. I am not asking you not to marry an agnate. When I ask a man to marry an agnate, I mean when he had an opportunity, not otherwise. If he has the opportunity I do not mind. (Interruptions.)

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: If he has not, he must create!

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: That is his lookout: I must mind my own business. However many the interruptions may be, I am game for them.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): There is no time limit; there is plenty of time.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: The law on the subject has been pronounced to be the law in favour of those who want to marry agnates. The law is in their favour. Now, has the selection field for marriages among Hindus become so suddenly restricted that they want to extend it to agnates? No. There is no difficulty in agnate marriages if people want them. It is not that there are not enough girls in quantity and even quality.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Supply Member): In numbers and quality—not quantity!

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I agree with you and accept the amendment. Quantity and quality go so much together that I was betrayed into using a solecism. I thank the Honourable Member for Supply for correcting me. The Supply Member supplies the right word. In the Punjab and in my presidency and in many other places the difficulty is that the girls do not get husbands, not that there are not enough girls and that therefore the choice for the men is so limited. They can marry among agnates, if they want. The law allows it, the custom permits it wherever it exists; and at least for those who have the reforming zeal, these little distinctions should not matter. If I were free to marry and if I were willing to marry, I would not be deterred by this custom if I wanted to marry an agnate. Why should these people force on an unwilling community, against the best traditions of their race, an authority for agnates' marriage which is not existent today? Sir, I oppose, not the marriages with agnates, but the Bill.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal: Landholders): Mr. Chairman, I have just had a whisper from my left; but I can safely say that I oppose this motion on principle.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Please speak up: we cannot hear you.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: I was just telling the House that I am opposed to this Bill on principle, because I consider that this House, as it is composed, has absolutely no right to legislate a measure which would affect a particular community. As a matter of fact at the outset it may be argued that this is a merely permissive piece of legislation and there is no coercion in it. Still, I must judge it from my own angle whether this House is competent enough to deal with a matter where there may be serious controversy; and from the speeches up to this moment, which were delivered here, I have found that there is a consensus of opinion against it, though it is said to be a permissive measure. I do not think I shall be contradicted if I doubt whether there has been a demand for this legislation. It has also been pointed out by different speakers and asked on whose behalf this legislation has been brought forward. It may be that there are some sporadic cases here and there, but that does not indicate that legislative measures should be brought before

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this House. I know that popularity is a commodity which is bought at a very high price; but sometimes when it is made cheap, it does not pay in the long run, though it may have a temporary glamour. But what I want to impress upon this House is this: whether we should bring up a measure like this which practically wounds the feelings of all those orthodox people in our country who hold views quite different from my Honourable friend the author of the Bill. But as we all know this country of ours has been unfortunately the victim of so many invasions and so many aggressions, but still I can tell this with all the emphasis at my command, that the Hindu community has maintained its existence owing to the rigidity of the Hindu social laws; and that rigidity should not be shaken so easily by simple popular catchwords in the name of social reforms. It may be just a passing phase—this cry for so-called reform; but I doubt very much whether this is advance or setback, it will only be judged by the posterity. But the question now is whether we are competent

to enact a measure of this kind when we do not know our own future destiny. Among the Hindus, marriages are regarded as sacramental. The sacramental marriage may be a superstition or a kind of conservatism, in its ideas. There is superstition in other communities also. In this House, since the enactment of the Sarda Act, there have been many friends who have been very jubilant about social reforms. They think that the best way of doing that is to enact legislation but they do not know how far legislation will bring about the object they have in view or what it will do to uplift the social standard of the nation. To many of us marriage is a sacrament and we do not want any infringement of that sacrament, which will alter its character. As my friend Mr. Jamnadas Mehta pointed out, the Special Marriage Act is there and any one who wants these marriages to be performed can do so without any obstacles in his way. The question is whether a claim in this behalf has come from the Hindu community itself. We are in a very unfortunate position and I frankly confess that making religion the basis for franchise is at the root of the evils today. That is why there is a race of communal numerical strength. What we find is that the numerical strength does not add to the strength of the community. In this Honourable House, the late lamented Lala Lajpat Rai used to occupy the seat which is now occupied by Dr. Deshmukh. I put him a question in the lobby whether numerical strength adds to the strength of a nation or not. At first he agreed. He said, 'Certainly, it is numerical majority that counts'. Then I pointed out to him 'Why in that case China with its huge population is a third rate power and England with such a small population is a first class power'. Then he said that it is not majority but integrity that counts. You must combine numerical strength with integrity. A great Russian poet said that knowledge was power and power was knowledge and unless you have both knowledge and power.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The Honourable Member is straying from the principles of the Bill.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: I am trying to keep myself within the limits of this particular measure. What I want to point out is whether this House is competent to pass this legislation which will bring forth strong opposition from the community concerned. I am objecting to this measure on fundamental grounds. I do not want my religion and my sacrament to be interfered with by a body which cannot command a majority of support from my community. (*An Honourable Member:* "Question".) You may question but the answer is clear. I challenge any Honourable Member to take a plebiscite on this subject of social legislation and you will not find many men to support a Bill of this kind. I say it is absolutely detrimental to the interests of those who hold a different view from the author of this Bill. It is not a mere matter of social reform. It practically touches our heart and conviction. After all if superstition is to be judged from one particular point of view, it has got to be judged also from another point of view. We are discussing this subject

in a light-hearted fashion in this House. I would like to mention the case of England where even the King could not marry a woman of his choice and yet maintain his kingdom. I remember Earl Baldwin who was then the Premier of England said to the King 'Your Majesty, your marriage is not the marriage of an ordinary citizen of England, because your wife will become the Queen of England'. He quoted the lines of Shakespeare:

"Thy will is not thy own
For Ye yourself is subject to your birth
You can not carve things as ordinary people do.
For in your choice depends the safety and health of the country."

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: On a point of information? Is there sagotra marriage in England?

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: It is not a question of Sagotra marriage at all. What I want to emphasise is this: that in a country like England where there is no question of gotra or pravara even these marriages are not dealt in a light-hearted manner.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: We are legislating for ordinary people.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: I know you are legislating for ordinary people. These sagotra marriages are valid among the Kayasthas. Will my Honourable friend let me know how many marriages have taken place among them? Will Mr. Sri Prakasa give me the statistics? It is already permissible and I want to know how many marriages have taken place. I can just inform my Honourable friend that in spite of the existing customs amongst Kayasthas permitting sagotra marriages, there have not been many marriages. Then why are you insisting at this stage that there is a demand for such reform. Has the Hindu community as a whole demanded it? I do not think the author of the Bill has been able to put before the House that amount of opinion which is decisive to support the measure. That is the reason why some are dealing with the question of marriages so light-heartedly. Marriage is a sacrament in Hindu society. In other countries, it is not so. My esteemed sister Shrimati Radha Bai Subbarayan questioned me whether there was gotra in England. There is no gotra in England, but all the same, marriage is regarded as a very serious question that the King had to lose his throne because of his marriage. In Hindu society where marriage is regarded as a sacrament, why should you disrupt that society by bringing in legislation of this character? (*Interruption.*) Why should you go on changing customs and usages according to your sweet whims? Have you placed any facts before the House which demand this kind of legislation? My esteemed friend, the Honourable the Law Member has clearly pointed out that even the Government are not in favour of this piecemeal legislation.

An Honourable Member: He did not oppose the measure.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Strictly speaking, his speech was non-committal. I quite appreciate that. He may be neutral, he may be against or he may be in favour. My only question is whether the time has come to bring about a measure of this kind which will not only affect our community but which will shake Hindu society to the very foundations by attacking sacramental marriages. With these words, I oppose the measure.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Mr. Chairman, it is my duty to say a few words on this Bill which is before the House. I do so not merely because I belong to the Hindu faith, but because the grounds on which discussion has strayed have been so diffused and have been so wide of the mark that I cannot agree with most of the grounds that have been advanced. If I vote in support of this matter, it should be clearly understood how and under what circumstances I do so. For, indeed, in the first instance, I want it to be clearly understood that those who sponsor Bills of this character, reforming social code of any particular community, have no right whatever to stand on the footing that that particular code is bad or the very worst in all human associations and societies. It has almost become the fashion with some people, as if every other code founded either on a sacred book or on any other book is sacred, but that we, poor Hindus, seem to be the only targets for a reform which is already overdue and which is so late. I thoroughly dislike the idea

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of being told that when all social codes necessarily arise—very often like all religions—they either become so sacred that they cannot be altered or that they are so bad that they must be immediately scrapped and altered. I wish to disavow the way in which ridicule is poured on every single item which a particular individual as a reformer wants changed. It is a thing against which I wish to enter a very emphatic protest. I do believe myself that all social codes have necessarily a foundation on some faith out of which they grow. A time must necessarily come when the growth is out of all proportion to the original foundation from which it arises, and a time does arise when human society and human reason begins to think that what was regarded as the logical outcome either does not suit society and the environments in which we live or that the very logic of it does not support the growth itself. That is an approach which I fully appreciate; but I do not appreciate the approach of those who seem to ridicule our institution. I am born a Hindu and am a Hindu and I think that the civilised basis on which the Hindu code has grown would, if properly studied, be the real envy of the world, that it is extremely civilised is not to be proved by merely asserting it. If you consider the foundations, it may well be that the time has come when you may regard marriage not as a sacrament but as a contract. That is a matter of opinion. But nobody can be bold enough to assert that sacramental basis of marriage is something which may only stand in ridicule, that is what I want to protest against, or that the manner in which Hindu society developed either in the matter of marriage or in the matter of inheritance is so essentially wrong that everything else is right. It is true that we have a system of succession in which we have got a series of heirs to the exclusion of the next. It may well be that society may consider that a plurality of heirs based on some other consideration may be more suited to the present state of society. But let me say this that I am no party to any legislation, or in the name of legislation to a kind of condemnation which is almost inherent in many of the speeches that are being made on these occasions.

I am coming back to the Bill, the very narrow subject with which it deals:

"This Act may be called the Hindu Marriage Disabilities Removal Act, 194

Notwithstanding any custom, rule or interpretation of the Hindu Law, a marriage which is otherwise valid, shall not be invalid because:

- (a) it is between Hindus belonging to the same gotra or pravara; or
- (b) it is between Hindus belonging to the different sub-divisions of the same caste."

So far as this narrow issue is concerned, one need not either condemn Hindu faith or the Hindu system of marriage, nor be a reformer nor a rationalist as some of my Honourable friends have said here. In every faith, it may take time, but there is no reason why some people may not, in advance of time, educate public opinion on matters on which it may be desirable that society should change. I advisedly use that word and do not call it progress, if my Honourable friends do not like it who are opposed to it, but those who stand for change can justify it on reasonable grounds having regard to the society in which we live and the conditions of life which have altered them ask for change. That is the only ground on which I propose to support the measure. Let it not be understood that I stand for utter eradication of either Hindu faith or Hindu society or Hindu code based on shastras. I think the process that has been followed is a very wrong process and it is time that we do not follow that process. We have a particular measure, as such, that it requires the support of the House, and because it is a change, I submit, it should be done. But if it is to be made into a Hindu mission, then it is a Bill which I cannot support. It is a zeal which I deprecate. At the same time, I do desire that any change that is required in our system of life should be brought about because very often the survival of these matters becomes very difficult consistent with society in which we live. Many of my Honourable friends seem to imagine that this is a Bill which is going to do away with prohibition against agnate marriages. Those who understood in that way did not

understand the words, agnate and sagotra at all. The two things are entirely different. There are two things in Hindu law, prohibition against consanguineous marriages. That is not affected by this Bill at all. I believe that modern science has shown that so far as possible, you must not marry within such near degrees either of blood or on marriage because it is said the deterioration takes place in the condition physical, mental and moral. But that has nothing to do with this point. Therefore we must confine ourselves to the point. I stand for a prohibition of such agnate relationship marriages, which is perfectly valid. But gotra is a matter which stands on a different footing. It may well be that in some ancient time it was a tribal or some other connection which was described as a relationship and which was valued and respected. If you learnt with another under the same *guru* you were known as *guru-bhais*. It was a relationship which was respected and in fact Hindu law recognises a *gurubhai* among distant heirs. But it is a very different proposition from that which makes a marriage undesirable because the man and the woman stand within the prohibited degrees of marriage by reason of consanguinity. In fact I believe that so far as one's gotra is concerned it is a matter of condition. At the time when the sacred thread is given the gotra to which you belong is whispered into your ear,—mine is Kashyap. I was told that some remote ancestor of mine had learnt under the same *guru* with the ancestor of another and so we belong to the same gotra. It is a relationship which is purely traditional, which you cannot trace and which you cannot give any historical reasons for. It must stand on a different footing from blood relationship. Therefore I want the House to realise that it is not the case that by passing this Bill they will be encouraging agnate marriages, as some of my Honourable friends erroneously described it. Pravara, of course, stands on a very much lesser footing than that. In other words, these relationships are purely traditional; the time has come when we cannot even trace its origin and so cannot allow this fetish to continue. When it was near enough in time, when the tradition had not grown and the common *guru* could be actually traced, there was a certain degree of sanctity and sentiment which I can appreciate. But, Sir, many centuries have gone by. Some of my Honourable friends mentioned books by learned people. But can any one find out from any of these books the gotra to which I belong? I defy them to do it. Therefore sagotra and pravara stand on a very traditional kind of relationship, and there is nothing irreligious or unsanctimonious if you do away with it. The time in fact has arrived when you can easily do away with that kind of tradition in the matter of marriages; and that is all that is sought to be done. Let the issue be judged on a purely logical basis. We are not encroaching on religion or on some fundamental principle; we are not making marriage worse than it ought to be; we are not preventing a sacramental marriage; let there be no wrong issues about it. All that is said here is that a Hindu marriage which otherwise might be invalid by reason of people belonging to this traditional relationship would still be valid notwithstanding their relationship; and, as I said, that relationship goes so far back into the hoary past that it cannot be traced, except in tradition.

That is the first part of the Bill; the second part relates to marriages between persons belonging to different sub-divisions of the same caste. It is now universally accepted that Hindu society was divided into divisions for its own self-preservation. That is the only ground on which my friend Mr. Munshi and many others, whose historical tomes I have read, seem to support this particular matter. They say there was a time in Hindu society when their very self-preservation required these narrow bonds in order that there might not be a foreign inroad, foreign either in its origin or in its influence. But now that time and space have for all practical purposes been annihilated we cannot have those same conditions of life in which we lived at one time. And the time has now arrived when we should boldly say that any marriage between members in a sub-caste should be valid. What is there irreligious about it? We are not saying that two members of the sub-caste may marry

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even if they are within the prohibited degrees. All that we say is that people may marry within the caste, so as to remove one of the things which is cast in our face by the rest of the world. We will then have not more than four sub-divisions of Hindus among whom marriages would be lawful. I do not know of any law or principle or reason why, apart from any question of faith, a marriage among persons in the same sub-caste should not be made lawful.

These are the only two matters before the House and I want them to be judged entirely on their merits. It need not be said, and it should not be said, that we are encroaching on the Hindu faith, Hindu religion or Hindu society. I hope and trust that friends who are here, however learned and orthodox they may be, will not stand for this, which in Europe and America and everywhere else seems to be the one outstanding and oft-repeated sin. I believe it is a sin that we have divided and created inequalities between men and women belonging to the Hindu faith, the great faith to which I belong. I believe it is a sin, and I believe the least we can do is to see that this kind of inequality does not stand, in the name of faith, in the name of sanctity or in the name of religion. Therefore it is that I appeal to my Honourable friends not to make wrong issues but to judge this Bill on its merits. Let them see if there is anything in it which goes against their conscience—I do not ask them to vote against their conscience—or anything against their reason; I will reason with them and show them that they are wrong. In future whenever any question of social reform comes before the House by way of legislation let us not imagine that we are at the bottom of the ladder and we alone are the only persons who deserve to be reformed. It is an attitude of mind which will drive people exactly to the contrary course; it will drive people to support wrong things. It may be that others have taken a longer time, but time is not the test in this matter; otherwise there would be no wisdom in this world. Merely because other people have taken 300 years, should we therefore take 3,000, as an Honourable friend said? He might make it three million—I would have no quarrel with him. Let us judge and learn by the accumulated wisdom of time. I always thought that lesser and lesser time was the only way in which we could make any use of all this in the past.

Sir, I stand not merely for the validation of marriages among people in the sub-divisions of a caste but among all people in the Hindu faith and the sooner that is done the better for us. I support the motion.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surma Valley *cum* Shillong; Non-Muhammadan):

Sir, I have only to say a few words to my Honourable friend, Mr. Deshmukh, who wants to carry out this small reform in the Hindu society. Nobody is against reform, and everybody has got the right to advance the cause of the society as he thinks best. But I wish to ask one question: Is there any insistent demand among the Hindus outside this House for this reform? The reform which my Honourable friend wants to introduce concerns the marriages among the Brahmans—it is a small change. It is not prohibited among any other section of Hindu society, except Brahmans. Does he want to introduce this change, which is being opposed by a vast number of orthodox Hindus, only for this small section of Hindus—the Brahmans? Even from the standpoint of expediency I would ask him not to do so. If my Honourable friend is a reformer, if he has the good of the Hindu society at heart, he should first educate the people in this country, and he should create public opinion in favour of this reform. But at present may I ask him who wants this reform? I am sure he cannot show me a good number. So if this reform is not wanted by a large section of the people, what is the meaning of introducing this legislation? I think it is a hasty legislation, and such hasty legislations do more harm than good. In this connection, I would like to refer my Honourable friend to the Women's Right to Property Bill which was passed in 1937. Everyone in this Honourable House knows what kind of difficulties and complications it has led to. The reform was not good. I would advise my Honourable friend to think the matter in all its aspects and then introduce the reform. Things which are far more important can wait, but this small reform in the Hindu

society cannot wait. This is something which I cannot understand. If my Honourable friend, Mr. Deshmukh, wants to help the Hindu society, I think he had better wait.

My other reason is that the Government have appointed the Rau Committee which is touring the country and is collecting all sorts of opinion. They have got this question also on their list; it is included in the Draft Hindu Code. It says:

"Sacramental marriage not to be deemed invalid in certain cases—

No sacramental marriage shall, after it has been completed, be deemed to be, or ever to have been, invalid, merely by reason of one or more of the following causes, namely:—

- (a) that the parties to the marriage did not belong to the same caste;
- (b) that the parties belonged to the same gotra or had a common pravara; or
- (c) unless there was force or fraud that the consent of the bride's guardian in marriage was not obtained."

There are other things also. What I mean to say is that a comprehensive Hindu Code is soon coming out and those legislators who have the good of the country at heart do really want that this piecemeal legislation should not be introduced. A comprehensive Hindu Code was thought necessary and therefore the Government were compelled to appoint a Committee. This Committee is touring the country and is taking the evidence of learned people, people who have read the Shastras, and also those people who want to reform the society from their points of view. We should therefore proceed steadily.

Then, Sir, there is one thing which I would like to point out. My Honourable friend, Mr. Desai, has said that gotra has something to do with the spiritual *guru*. I do not know whether I have understood him aright, but I think gotra refers to blood relationship—it may be distant relationship—and not to any relation of disciple and spiritual guide. What the Hindus want is the purity of blood and it is for this reason that marriage in the same gotra and pravara is prohibited. In this connection, I would refer the House to the opinion of certain scientists—I have already quoted these in my speech on the Hindu Marriage Bill. Dr. S. M. Berwis (Washington) who is an authority on the subject, says:

"My researches give me authority to say that over ten per cent. of the deaf and dumb, and over five per cent. of the idiotic in our state institutions are the offspring of kindred parents. The frequency of imperfection of the children of such marriages has been noticed from the time of Moses or earlier and is proved by the fact that all the great moral codes—Hindus, Mosaic and Roman—have all forbidden such unions."

Sir, there is another opinion also. Dr. Frederic W. Price, M.D., F.R.S., in his "Medicine" quotes the view of Dr. Eric D. Macnawara:

"Consanguinity of parents has been supposed to be a cause of mental defects in children such as idiocy, imbecility, feeble-mindedness, moral imbecility, degeneracy, and oligophrenia, etc. This is also the view of Dr. Fletcher Beach, Shuttleworth, Osler, Savile and many others."

What I mean to say is this: consanguineous marriage was prohibited not only on account of religious reasons, but because of scientific reasons also. Those Hindu saints who have laid down all these rules were not inferior to the modern scientists. Therefore, I say, that when there is a difference of opinion in this House and outside and when a vast majority of Hindus do not want this reform now, I do not see any reason why my Honourable friend should not withdraw this Bill and wait for a comprehensive Hindu Code which we hope will be ready within the next few months. I am all out for reform in the society, but reforms need not be introduced without taking into consideration the effects which it will have on the Hindu society as a whole. The Rau Committee is going into this question and I only warn my Honourable friend not to be hasty in these matters because hasty legislations do not produce good results. They say that it is a small change which is needed for the advancement of the Hindu society, but it is so small that it affects only a small section of Brahmans in the society. Even so, do not introduce this small change for some years more, and I don't think that the

[Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam.]

progress of the Hindu society as a whole will be obstructed in any way. Sir, with these few words I would request my Honourable friend, Mr. Deshmukh, not to press this Bill.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): The question be now put.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I have to thank the Leader of the Congress Party for having explained the scope of my Bill and having lent his support in the way that he has done. I have been charged by some of the Members with several things. First of all that I am an arm-chair reformist. Let me assure my friend that from 1921 I have been doing nothing except putting myself in close touch with the reformists and orthodox people and I have been a believer in working whole-time either for reforms or politics, and if you were to go through the newspapers in my province you will see that I have been agitating about this question.

Let me tell you how I brought this legislation. There was a good deal of agitation in my own province and I remember to have presided over a conference called the Kanwa Brahmin Conference in the year 1926 at Khamgaon and one whole night in the Subjects Committee was devoted for the discussion of only one subject—whether there should be a marriage between persons of the subdivisions of a caste. After discussion in the open *parishad* we arrived at the decision that marriages between persons of the subdivisions of a caste should be considered valid. After two years there was the All-India Brahmin Parishad at Akola. Discussions took place for three days in the Sanskrit and in the Marathi language. There was a great discussion on this question of marriage between persons of sub-castes of a caste; eventually this resolution about marriages between persons of subdivisions of a caste to be valid was passed. After that there was a decision by a *mandal*, called the Dharma Nirnayak Mandal, a body well-versed in all the Shastras. Men like Prof. Kane, translator of Smritis and Mahamahopadhyaya Phatak and others held a meeting at which a number of Shastris were invited and they passed two resolutions. One was regarding marriages between persons of subdivisions of a caste. These were considered to be valid; and the marriage between persons belonging to the same gotra were also to be considered valid. They further said that though we have come to these decisions, it is necessary that there should be legislation to that effect and somebody should try to get them put on the Statute Book. It was after that that I brought this Bill.

So you cannot say that the province was not educated and that there was no agitation over this question and that it was thrown like a bombshell on certain persons who have opposed this Bill. As for making this motion of reference of the Bill to Select Committee, it is not we, who support this Bill, who are hasty. This Bill was introduced on the 13th February, 1941, and circulated on the 29th April, 1941. Then a questionnaire was issued by the Rau Committee with regard to inter-caste marriages and marriages between sagotras. It was found from replies that 80 per cent. of the answers were in favour of sagotra marriage; the bar to be removed. So we had public opinion behind us. Afterwards, I received public opinion on my Bill also.

It will be found that about 80 to 90 per cent. are in favour of this Bill. It need not be said, as suggested by Mr. Ayyangar, that this Bill was not sent to the Pandits and others and their opinion not solicited. It will be found from public opinion on my Bill that religious bodies such as Bharat Dharma Mahamandal, Benares, with its Branches, and the All-India Varnashram Swarajya Sangh with its branches all over India, and the Shri Shankaracharyas of Dwarka and Kumbakonam gave their opinions. It is a different story whether they agree with the Bill or not, but the question remains that this Bill had received as much publicity as desirable and nobody can have any ground to say that this

Bill is being passed through without any public opinion being sought either from orthodox persons or persons who are educated and can think and reason for themselves. Apart from the public opinion received by the House on my Bill, part 2 of the Hindu Code, namely, marriage, was introduced and circulated for public opinion and the Bill was published in the *Gazette of India*, May, 1942. On that also public opinion has been received and again you find that the percentage of public opinion that supports that the disqualification of sagotra be removed is a high one. It cannot therefore be said that sufficient publicity has not been given before this motion was brought before the House. It is for more than four years that this question has been agitating the country. The matters connected therewith have been discussed in Bengal, Madras and in my province in particular.

It has been said: Where is the demand? But public opinion shows and the history I gave that led me to bring this Bill to the House shows that there has been a great public demand for a Bill like this.

Now might I say while I am on this point here that a reference was made by the Honourable the Law Member in his speech that there has been a conflict of opinion and therefore the Government was justified in assuming the attitude that it has done, and it was suggested, Sir, in support of this argument that a ladies' organisation headed by Lady Sircar was against this removal of disqualification of sagotra.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I did not refer to any ladies' association. I never also referred to Lady Sircar.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I am sorry. For the benefit of my friend . . .

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I left ladies alone!

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: You did a good thing.

Let me inform my friend, Mr. Ayyangar, that there have been five bodies against one giving a contrary opinion. I had given him all the references to my speeches on this subject in my speech when I made this motion for reference to Select Committee. If he had gone through his brief I would have thought better of him, whereas he comes here and talks at random against any one and without any sense in it. He mentioned one body against the Bill. But there are now six bodies of ladies who are in favour of the Bill which I am sponsoring. I will give you the names. One is Arya Mahila Samaj, Bombay, Bhagini Samaj, Borabay, the Bombay Presidency Women's Council, then the Arya Mahila Samaj, the Association of the All India Women's Conference, Bombay, the Bhatia Sri Mandal Women's Indian Association, Madras, and the All India Mahila Samaj; that ought to satisfy you when you say that the ladies are against this reform.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are they all pucca Hindu ladies associations?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: How do you know that they are not pucca ladies and pucca Hindu ladies too?

It has been said what is the use of having a Select Committee when people like Mr. Nilakantha Das are not there. In spite of the fact that both he and Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam were against this Bill, I had put down the names of both these gentlemen in a motion for Select Committee previous to the present one. I wanted to have the opinion of everybody and I did not want to exclude anyone, in the last Select Committee which I had proposed. In that I had suggested the names of Mr. Nilakantha Das and Mr. A. M. Dam and Bhai Parmanand. When I made this new motion for Select Committee my friend Mr. Nilakantha Das was not here and I could not put anybody's name without the consent of the Member concerned.

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): I was present that day.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I cannot trust you now. He made a speech the other day opposing my Bill and the next day he told me that he had wanted to support my Bill. On a former occasion the Honourable Member spoke something and then turned round and asked me as to what he spoke. I could have

[Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh.]

understood him if he had asked me as to how he spoke. I am not going to trust him.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: The Honourable Member has no right to slander me like this. On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member has practically slandered me and I request the Chair to ask him to withdraw his remarks.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): There is no point of order. Will the Honourable Member resume his seat? Let the Honourable Member (Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh) proceed.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: It has been said that part (b) of section 2 is not necessary, because the law is clear. I want to show that in spite of the fact that the law is clear the question of the legality of marriage between persons of sub-castes of a caste have always been raised. As far back as 1869 the question about the marriage between persons of sub-castes of a caste was decided (Muir's Appeals, page 141), and yet we find that till the year 1937 cases in this connection have been taken to the courts. Then there is the fluctuation of opinion. I think it is better to have it embodied in a Statute to make the matter clear. As to those who say that the law is clear, that the shastras are clear, that there are no injunctions against marriage between persons of sub-divisions of a caste, I would only tell them that they might profitably read paragraph 16 on page 9 of the Opinion received on this Bill from the Bharath Dharma Mahamandal, Benares. The Sankaracharya Mutt of Kumbakonam is also against the reference is on page 28. The opinion of the Registrar of the Madras High Court is on page 6. He also wants that this question of marriage among sub-divisions should be made clear. I am pointing out to you therefore the necessity of having a clear provision in a Statute regarding marriages between persons of subdivisions of a caste to be held valid.

As regards the provisions of the Bill, they have been explained to a considerable extent. Those who thought that the sapinda marriage was not excluded wanted some argument against this Bill. The Leader of the Opposition—the Congress Party—explained that the sapinda marriage has been excluded. For a valid marriage what are the things that are necessary?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: There must be a man and a woman!

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: For a valid marriage the parties must belong to the same varnam. There must be identity of caste but there must also be other things which make the marriage valid. The parties to the marriage should not belong to the relationship called sapinda. The gotras must be different. The Sapta Padi must take place. The persons may be of same caste, may not be sapindas and may have gone through all the forms of marriage but they may not have 'bhinna gotra'. The marriage is valid except for one factor and that is sagotra. It is to cover such cases that section (a) has been introduced and I cannot understand what reason any one can have against the drafting of the Bill. Sir, I think I have explained the provisions of the Bill and the necessity

for the introduction of the Bill. I hope the House will support my motion. But there is one thing I would like to say. An argument has been advanced that the Code is there and why do you want this Bill. Let me say one thing about it.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): I think the Honourable Member has explained it several times.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I have not explained this point. I think the Law Member might follow a precedent which I will bring to his notice. I had introduced a Bill called Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (Amendment) Bill to prevent the practice of *Phooka* on milk animals.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The Honourable Member will confine himself to the provisions of this Bill. He is straying away from the subject matter of this Bill.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I am merely citing a precedent. Government had not brought in a Bill to prevent this cruel practice. A private Bill was brought in by me, public opinion was consulted, and when the stage was reached

for submitting it to a Select Committee Government brought in a more comprehensive measure. I withdrew my Bill and Government went on with its own Bill. A procedure like that could be followed. The fact that the code is there should not come in the way of this Bill being referred to the Select Committee. That is the one thing I wanted to say.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal stated that he begged that he may be allowed to withdraw from the Select Committee. Therefore, I am omitting his name. The question is:

"That the Bill to remove legal disabilities under Hindu Law in respect of marriage between Hindus be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Asoka Roy, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, Sardar Sant Singh, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu, Mr. K. C. Neogy, Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. Sri Prakasa, Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan, Dr. G. V. Deshmukh, and the Mover and that the number of Members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—22

Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.
Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Gupta, Mr. K. S.
Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.

Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr.
Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
Lalljee, Mr. Hooseinbhoj A.
Piare Lall Kureel, Mr.
Ram Narayan Singh, Mr.
Reddiar, Mr. K. Sitarama.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Srivastava, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad.
Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
Thakur Singh, Capt.

NOES—21

Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Sfr Seth.
Daga, Seth Sheodas.
Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.

Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Mehta, Mr. Jannadas M.
Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
Pande, Mr. Badri-Dutt.
Parma Nand, Bhai.
Raghubir Narain Singh, Choudhri.
Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir
Muhammad.
Sham Lal, Lala.

The motion was adopted.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): On a point of order, may I crave the indulgence of the Chair to permit the Honourable Members who have given notice of introducing a few Bills, which will take a few minutes only, to introduce their Bills, and then you may be kind enough to take up the other items?

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): I am afraid the business of the day will have to be taken up in the order in which it is laid down.

THE INDIAN EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Chairman, I am omitting items 2 and 3 on the agenda and taking up No. 4. I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, for certain purposes, be continued."

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qaiyum): The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, for certain purposes, be continued."

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Insertion of new section 93A)

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I do not move items Nos. 6 and 7 on the agenda. I am moving No. 8. I move:

[Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi.]

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code (*Insertion of new section 93A*) be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Asoka Roy, Sir George Spence, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, Mr. K. C. Neogy, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, Mr. P. J. Griffiths, Sardar Sant Singh, Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, Mr. Badri Dutt Pande, Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh and the Mover and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Sir, the object of this Bill, as would appear from the Statement of Objects and Reasons, is to give freedom of publication to speeches in this Honourable House. Inside the House no doubt the speeches delivered are privileged and no action, civil or criminal, can be taken in respect of such speeches. Then we have an official agency publishing these speeches and those speeches as published are also not actionable either criminally or civilly. But the question arises when a Member chooses to publish his own speech, or rather, which is more pertinent, when the press or any newspaper takes up the publication of any Member's speech in his Paper. So far as the present law goes, the protection does not go to the man who publishes that speech. The official record is protected, but if you copy the official record, you are not protected. That is the position. It is rather inconceivable why the official record of the speeches which can be used by any person and which can be read by any person, should be a protected document, while a copy of that document can be held to be actionable either civilly or criminally. This means a very great handicap not only for the Members of this House but also to the public in general, because we as representatives of various parts of India come to this place to give expression to our views, and we want to convey to our constituents what we have said here, and our constituents want to know what we have done for them. But, as soon as one takes up the risky task of letting his constituents know what he said here, it is possible that the Member himself or the Paper who publishes it or the printer who prints the pamphlet may be run in either civilly or criminally. Of course, nobody takes the trouble of going to the civil law in these matters—it is mostly the criminal law and the criminal action that is taken against the person. A case of this kind occurred in this very Assembly. The late Mr. Krishna Kant Malaviya published his speech in his own Paper called the *Abhyudaya* of Allahabad, and that Paper was served with a notice by the Provincial Government and security was demanded. In that connection an adjournment motion was moved in this House by Sardar Sant Singh which had a very chequered career and continued in various ways for some time and ultimately the Honourable President gave a ruling in that connection on the 27th February, 1936. What was said by the President at that time was that under the existing law the question of privilege for publishing the speech did not arise, because there was no convention to that effect in the Assembly itself and the provisions of the law are against it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member had better read the ruling.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: I will just read a part of it:

"If any action had been taken in any court against Pandit Krishna Kanta Malaviya for publishing his speech in the *Abhyudaya*, he could not plead privilege as a defence to such action, whether such action was taken in a criminal or civil court. But both Mr. Jinnah and Mr. Bhulabhai Desai argued that executive action stands on a different footing to action in a court. But such action would not raise a question of privilege whereas in this case the publication is not privileged. I must further point out that the action of the United Provinces Government was taken under certain statutory powers vested in that Government and if privilege had been made out, that fact would have entailed interpretation of section 67(7) side by side with the Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act before a decision could be arrived at whether there has been a breach of privilege or not."

This is the extract and what I want to say in this connection is that the privilege of the House was not established so far as the publication by another person is concerned. It was with a view to meet that position that the amendment sought for has been introduced. And it is not only a case of convenience

or expediency for the benefit of the Members of the House. We find that the Government themselves are carrying on propaganda by quoting the speeches of the Honourable Members of the Treasury Benches sometimes in Papers and sometimes on the radio. Every Party must be placed on an equal footing so far as the publication of speeches, either in print or orally, is concerned. There seems to be no reason why, as it happened in some cases, the speeches of the Honourable the Leader of the House or other Members of the Treasury Benches should be broadcast on the radio but the Members of the Opposition were not given equal opportunities in any Paper whatsoever. What is the justification for this? Either Government must abstain from taking liberty to publish their own speeches and carry on propaganda that such and such a Member said so and so; if they do not do so, then they must give an opportunity to the Members of the Opposition to publish what they said in respect of the statements made by Government Members. As a matter of fact, there is a little difficulty so far as the present conditions in India are concerned, because the power vests not in persons who are the elected representatives or who are elected by the elected representatives but nominated by a foreign Government. Any way so far as the present Assembly is concerned, we more or less follow the traditions and conventions that have been established in the Houses of Parliament in England so far as different institutions are concerned. There have been many cases in England in respect of this and I shall read out the summary of the present law in England as given by Halsbury, page 683. Vol. 'Slander and Libel':

"Persons, however, who publish under the direct authority of either House of Parliament have the statutory protection of a summary stay of proceeding, civil or criminal, in respect of reports, papers, votes, or proceedings of either House; while those who, although not acting under the direct authority of either House, publish a correct copy of such reports, papers, votes or proceedings have a somewhat similar statutory protection. Further, those who publish an extract only are placed in the position of having to plead the statute, and to aver and prove that that publication was *bona fide* and without malice. Section 3 and 4. The Parliamentary Papers Act, 1840."

This is the statutory provision enacted so far back as 1840 and the question arises—why should this House or why should the members representing the various communities of India be deprived of their right of propaganda and to let their constituents know what they have been doing in this Assembly. With these few words, I move my motion for reference of the Bill to a Select Committee.

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

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code (*Insertion of New Section 93A*) be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Asoka Roy, Sir George Spence, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, Mr. K. C. Neogy, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, Mr. P. J. Griffiths, Sardar Sant Singh, Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, Mr. Badri Dutt Pande, Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh and the Mover and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 15th September, 1945."

It is not that I do not agree with the provisions of the Bill. The provisions of the Bill are such that it is unnecessary to elicit public opinion. Four or five Assemblies in this country are functioning at present. The others are dormant at present and it is only for the purpose of enforcing and re-enforcing the arguments in favour of this measure that I want its circulation within the period mentioned, so that we may have the opinions of those legislators also who are competent to give an opinion on this. Sir, I move. (*An Honourable Member*: "You are delaying it.") No, I am not.

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

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 15th September, 1945."

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The question came before this House in 1935 when one of the Members

[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai.]

of this House who had been duly elected was detained under the provisions of another law and was unable to attend a meeting of this House and a question arose as to whether or not there was such a thing as a privilege of a Member of this House which enabled him in so far as the attendance of the House was concerned, notwithstanding his detention under another law. You might remember that it was then elicited during the course of arguments and the examination of law that there was no privilege of that kind, that the only privilege that any Member of this House had was the statutory privilege to be found in the Government of India Act. It is by reason of that pronouncement, which I respectfully agree is correct, that this particular Bill has become necessary. Under the provisions of sub-section (7) of section 67 of the Government of India Act, there is a very limited privilege attaching to the speeches of Members. Now, Sir, it is a privilege which is much less than what has been obtaining in England, now practically for a century. Section 67 (7) of the Government of India Act, 1935, says:

"Subject to the rules and standing orders, affecting the chamber, there shall be freedom of speech in both chambers of the Indian legislature. No person shall be liable to any proceedings in any court by reason of his speech or vote in either chamber, or by reason of anything contained in any official report of the proceedings of either chamber."

According to the law as it now stands, a Member is privileged and protected only to the extent to which he makes the speech in the House and secondly to the extent to which there is only official report published for all practical purposes by the authority. There is no such word used "by the authority of the House or the rules thereunder". In other words, the position today is this. If any newspaper publishes a report in which there is contained a statement by the Honourable Member which is defamatory to any individual outside the House, then that newspaper is liable today to an action of libel. It happens, fortunately, that the publication of reports of this House, other than official publication, has not been brought up before any court of law. I think it is to the credit of public opinion that people have realised that without the publication of an accurate report of the proceedings of the House and without such publication resulting in any action at law, the proceedings of this House would acquire very limited value. The real value of the publication of the proceedings of this House lies in its education of public opinion by reason of what occurs in the House, though it may appear somewhat anomalous at this stage, the fact remains, and it has always been ruled to that effect, that the mere repetition of alleged libel is no protection merely because somebody else has said it before. The result, therefore, is that a newspaper is liable in the first instance, notwithstanding the fact that the report may be perfectly accurate. Secondly, the individual speaker in this House is equally liable to action at law, assuming it is repeated outside this House by the same person. It rarely happens that the individual probably repeats it, but there is a limited privilege even at common law in England to the extent to which he publishes anything *bona fide* and in public interest and a provision is to be found in one of the exceptions to the Indian Penal Code, the section relating to defamation. Hitherto, fortunately, as I said, no actual proceedings were taken, but I recollect an occasion arose in this House which was referred to by my Honourable friend Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi. I was not quite able to follow the details which he gave and I think this House should know the circumstances affecting that particular incident. That was with reference to the speech made by Mr. Krishna Kanta Malaviya on a motion before this House relating to the question affecting action which was taken by Government against persons who were generally called by a short name, 'terrorists'. But before he referred to the matter, Sir Henry Craik, who was then the Home Member referred to them in a language which was not approved of by Mr. Krishna Kanta Malaviya. Sir Henry Craik described them as mean and dastardly and by many other epithets more or less importing the same meaning of condemnation. Mr. Krishna Kanta Malaviya in replying to that matter said that they were misled persons, but in so far as their motives were concerned, you could not distinguish them from the motives of any other

patriotic individual. He mentioned that he had a friend to whom he gave protection, notwithstanding the fact that there was no actual publication like a proclamation of offender, but still he was being shadowed by the police. I recollect on the same occasion, Mr. Krishna Kanta Malaviya being warned by those in authority at the time that if he dared say that outside the House, they would take action against him at law. When the matter was brought to my notice, I thought it my duty to support him in the stand which he took up, because I felt that though in law we have been protected in this House, yet it was extremely ungenerous, if not entirely wrong on the part of the authorities to deal with Mr. Krishna Kanta Malaviya in the manner in which they purported to do. The matter is reported in the proceedings of this House, and I, on the second day followed Mr. Krishna Kanta Malaviya, who, I regret to say, is no more with us; a courageous Member of the House, even though one may differ from him in many other respects, he was a great journalist, yet I thought it was good that if any action was going to be taken against him, it was much better that that was taken against me. Hence it was that referring to the same subject, I made observations perhaps in language a little stronger and in a manner a little more direct than he had done in reference to the manner in which the terrorists were described by one of the Members of Government at that time. I felt then and I feel now, that it is quite necessary that in order that one may not be exposed to any penalties, one should have that freedom of speech not merely confined to the House, but to accurate publication of its report outside or even extracts *bona fide* given by the Member himself. This three-fold protection given by statute in England dates as early as 1840.

I next wish to call attention to the statement on this matter to be found in May's Parliamentary Practice, page 108 referring to this question, over which at one time, as you might remember, there was a great deal of conflict between the Government and the courts on the one hand and sometimes with the Parliament on the other. And it had happened that notwithstanding the fact that the King's Court had punished a man the Parliament had its own privilege to prevent his arrest not merely while he was in the House but a very much wider extension and protection was given to him. It was not considered desirable that a conflict of this kind should continue. I am reading from page 108, and the case which was decided in the year 1868 is the first one of its kind:

"The Lord Chief Justice of England, in a more recent case, further laid it down, that 'if a member publishes his own speech, reflecting upon the character of another person, and omits to publish the rest of the debate, the publication would not be fair, and so would not be privileged'."

The intention of the decision being that so long as it was a complete publication of the whole debate there was no objection to its being regarded as privileged—

"but that a fair and faithful report of the whole debate would not be actionable."

The privilege which protects debates extends also to reports and other proceedings in Parliament. In the case of *Rex v. Wright*, Mr. Horne Tooke applied for a criminal information against a bookseller for publishing the copy of a report made by a Commons' Committee, which appeared to imply a charge of high treason against Mr. Tooke, after he had been tried for that crime and acquitted. The rule, however, was discharged by the court, partly because the report did not appear to bear the meaning imputed to it, and partly because the court would not regard a proceeding of either House of Parliament as a libel.

By the Parliamentary Papers Act, 1840 (3 & 4 Vict. c. 9) passed in consequence of the decision of the Court of Queen's Bench in the case of *Stockdale v. Hansard*, it was enacted that proceedings criminal or civil, against persons for the publication of papers printed by order of either House of Parliament, shall be immediately stayed, on the production of a certificate, verified by affidavit, to the effect that such publication is by order of either House of Parliament. Proceedings are also to be stayed, if commenced on account of the publication of a copy of a parliamentary paper, upon the verification of the correctness of such copy; and in proceedings commenced for printing any extract from, or abstract of, a parliamentary report or paper, the defendant may give the Report in evidence under the general issue, and prove that his own extract or abstract was published *bona fide* and without malice."

This gives in gist the threefold protection of the provisions of the Parliamentary Act of 1840. It is not my intention to worry the House at this stage by reading out the enactment which is short but of course couched in the language of 1840 which, following the precedents of those days, is extremely involved. But I will take the liberty to state its effect, as far as I am able to

[Mr. Bhu'abhai J. Desai.]

state it, in perhaps plainer words than the statute would convey. In the statute there is a threefold protection. The first is that any report published by the order of the House is completely privileged. The second is that any report that is published by a newspaper or any public body, without necessarily the order of the House, is also completely privileged so long as it is an accurate and complete record. Thirdly, if an individual member publishes an extract of his speech, the extract may be correct but if it is not an accurate and complete picture of the whole debate, in which case the other side would naturally have to be presented also, he has got to prove that the publication was *bona fide* and without malice. That is the threefold protection given by the statute of 1840 to speeches made within the House. And even though the actual form of my Honourable friend Mr. Kazmi's Bill is not sufficiently comprehensive and—if he will permit me to say so—not very accurately expressed, the principle of it is perfectly sound. It is for that reason that I support the circulation motion and I hope that when we have received the reports we shall be able to carry the Bill in the next Session of the Assembly. It is certainly not right that matters of this kind should remain in the doubtful and mobile condition in which they are. And though I confess no action has been taken either by a private individual or at the instance of the Crown, it should be put on a sound footing as a matter of privilege. I do not desire to go beyond the threefold privilege, completely limited as far as the order of the House goes, completely limited as far as any journals are concerned so long as it is an accurate report, and protected in a qualified way so far as an individual extract is concerned, in which case it should be protected only if the publication is *bona fide* and without malice. Sir, I support the motion.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): The first point, Sir, which I desire to raise on this Bill is that, properly understood, it has nothing to do with parliamentary privilege as such. The law relating to the relevant parliamentary privilege is contained in respect of the Central Legislature in sub-section (7) of section 67 in the 9th Schedule to the Constitution Act, and in respect of the Provincial Legislatures in sub-section (1) of section 71 of that Act. As you, Sir, emphasised in your ruling of the 27th February, 1936, the privilege conferred by Parliament does not attach to the publication otherwise than in an official report of a speech made in an Indian Legislature and it is not open to the Legislature to extend the scope of the relevant parliamentary privilege in this respect. An enlargement of the relevant privilege in the case of Provincial Legislatures could only be effected by those Legislatures in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 71 of the Constitution Act. Honourable Members will remember the language of sub-section (2) of section 71.

"In other respects the privileges of members of a chamber of the provincial legislature shall be such as may from time to time be defined by an Act of the provincial legislature; and until so defined, shall be such as before the commencement of this part of this Act was enjoyed by members of the Legislative Council of the Province."

In like manner, with part II of the Constitution Act in force, it would be open to the federal legislature to enlarge by legislation, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 28, the scope of the privilege [identical with that now conferred by sub-section (7) of section 67 in the Ninth Schedule] which would then be conferred by subsection (1) of section 28.

What this Bill seeks to do is to amend the ordinary criminal law of this country by setting up a general exception with the effect of extinguishing any criminal liability which would arise from the publication otherwise than in an official report of any speech made in the Indian Legislature. It is of course, within the competence of the Indian Legislature to amend the Criminal Law by setting up a general exception of this nature, just as it would be within its competence to set up an exception in favour of publication of speeches made, shall we say, in the Calcutta Zoo or in any other place which the Legislature might see fit to select for special treatment.

I submit, Sir, that there is no case for the conferment of the proposed wholesale immunity in respect of the publication of speeches made in an Indian

Legislature. You will have noticed, Sir, that by his Bill the Mover seeks to have it laid down that 'no publication made in good faith, of any speech or speeches in any Indian Legislature, is an offence'. He does not confine himself to the question of libel or defamation. He seeks to lay down a general immunity for any speech made in any Legislature in regard to the criminal law of the land. I submit, Sir, that no support for this proposal can be drawn from the law in force in the United Kingdom. The position in the United Kingdom was clearly brought out in the well known case of *Wason v. Walter* reported in Law Reports, 4 Queen's Bench, at page 73, where it was held—and I shall quote only from the head notes:

"A faithful report in a public newspaper of a debate in either House of Parliament, containing matter disparaging to the character of an individual which had been spoken in the course of the debate, is not actionable at the suit of the person whose character has been called in question. But the publication is privileged on the same principle as an accurate report of proceedings in a court of justice is privileged, viz., that the advantage of publicity to the community at large outweighs any private injury resulting from the publication."

Honourable Members will bear in mind that this was an action for libel and the report in the newspaper concerned was held to be privileged on the same principle as an accurate report of proceedings in a court of justice is privileged. The facts, if I may read the head note, were these:

"The plaintiff presented a petition to the House of Lords, charging a high judicial officer with having, thirty years before, made a statement false to his own knowledge, in order to deceive a committee of the House of Commons, and praying inquiry and the removal of the officer if the charge was found true; a debate ensued on the presentation of the petition, and the charge was utterly refuted."

Held, that this was a subject of great public concern on which a writer in a public newspaper had full right to comment, and the occasion was therefore so far privileged that the comments would not be actionable so long as a jury should think them honest and made in a fair spirit, and such as were justified by the circumstances as disclosed in an accurate report of the debate."

Sir, I might have to quote certain further passages from this Report later on.

Honourable Members will see that the position in the United Kingdom is that no civil action or criminal proceedings will lie for libel in respect of a fair and faithful newspaper report of the proceedings of the Parliament but that the publication in a newspaper of a speech, the publication of which would otherwise render the newspaper liable to prosecution for an offence other than libel, would not be protected by reason of the fact that the speech was made in Parliament and was published in the course of a full and fair report of the proceedings of Parliament.

Sir, not only is there no protection in the United Kingdom from prosecution in respect of the publication of the proceedings of Parliament where such publication would otherwise constitute a public crime, but a proposal to insert a clause with this effect in the Bill, which became the Libel Act, 1843, was rejected and the proposal has never been renewed. I would desire to adopt as my own and to commend to the earnest attention of the House the argument which Lord Brougham used in resisting the insertion of the proposed clause. I am reading, Sir, from page 80 of the Report to which I have already referred. At page 80, in the footnotes, it is stated that Lord Brougham in the course of his speech said that he—

"was decidedly of opinion that parliament could not discharge its higher functions without the most entire freedom of debate. In proportion, however, as there should be an absolute and unrestrained privilege within the walls of parliament, for saying whatever any member might think proper to say, restrained only by his sense of duty, so in the same proportion, was the necessity absolute that there should not be given an unrestrained power to the press to publish everything that was said in parliament. There was no fear of the proceedings of parliament not being published. Practically, therefore, there was no necessity for such provision as this. In the course of all his experience at the bar, he never remembered a single prosecution or action for the publication of a speech delivered in parliament. In the case of Wright, publisher, reported in 6 Term Reports, an action was brought by Horne Tooke against Wright for publishing a report of proceedings in parliament which reflected upon Mr. Horne Tooke. The Court of King's Bench held that it was a privileged publication, because it was good for parliament itself and for the country that the publication should be made. But the Court never held, on the contrary the rule was the other way, that any indemnity whatever should be given to the publisher for printing everything that was said

[Sir Asoka Roy.]

in parliament. It was the only check upon members of Parliament that the publication should rest on the responsibility of the publisher."

The proposed clause was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the Honourable Member propose to finish his speech now?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I would like to go on, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then, I adjourn the House till 11 O'Clock tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 2nd March, 1945.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 2nd March, 1945

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.

SELECTIONS FOR PROMOTION AS ASSISTANT CONTROLLERS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

612. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) With reference to the Honourable the Railway Member's reply to starred question No. 349 asked on the 14th November last, in connection with promotion to the posts of Assistant Controllers on the North Western Railway in order to make good the deficiency in the representation of certain communities, will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing separately for each Division of the North Western Railway and for each community the following information:

(i) the number of candidates sent up for January, 1945, selections held at Lahore, and

(ii) the number of candidates selected?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take against the practice of communal discrimination in the matter of promotions; if none, why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I lay on the table a statement giving the required information.

(b) No communal discrimination is shown in regard to promotions and no further steps are called for.

Statement showing communal composition of staff recommended by each Division for selection as Assistant Controller and those selected in January, 1945

Division	Number of staff recommended by Divisions for selection			Number of staff selected		
	Muslims	Hindus	Other Minority communities	Muslims	Hindus	Other Minority communities
Delhi	1	1	1	1	..	1
Lahore	4	10	1	3	1	..
Rawalpindi	..	5	2	..	2	1
Quetta	2	8	..	1	3	..
Multan	1	2	1	..	1	..
Ferozepore	1	1	..	..	..	..
Karachi	1	4	..	1	1	..
Walton Training School	2	..	2	2	..	2
Total	12	31	7	8	8	4
Grand total	50			20		

RESERVATION OF SECOND CLASS BERTHS FOR SITTING ONLY ON A SECTION OF BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY

613.*Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if he is aware that the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway from Ahmedabad to Bombay, reserve berths in second class on payment of annas 0-8-0 per berth and issue a coupon accordingly?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that after issuing a reservation coupon for a berth they provide only sitting accommodation in the second class to the great inconvenience of the passengers who sit huddled up in their seats and waking up the whole night?

(c) Under what rule or law has this system been adopted on that part of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, when the rules distinctly provide, as is even notified in the Time Table, that berths will be reserved for sleeping accommodation from 9 P.M. to 6 A.M. and sitting accommodation only would be provided during the day?

(d) How is the receipt of annas 0-8-0 per berth justified when only inconvenient sitting accommodation is given similar to that in the Intermediate compartment?

(e) Does the Honourable Member propose to instruct the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway to follow the usual course of reservation of the berths in the second class as is done on the other Railways? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Seats, and not berths, are reserved, but the reservation fee of Annas 8 is not charged.

(c) The system was duly notified by the B., B. & C. I. Railway in a public notice dated 5th January, 1943. A notice to this effect also appears as a Special Slip in the time-table of that Railway. The B., B. & C. I., Railway is competent to make such Rules.

(d) Does not arise in view of replies to (a) and (b).

(e) No.

POST-WAR RAIL-ROAD CO-ORDINATION

614. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether Government have come to any conclusions over post-war co-ordination of the Rail and the Road;

(b) whether it is proposed to float large companies in big areas for road transport with majority of shares owned by the Railway companies; and

(c) if so, whether they have considered the rights and interests of existing transport agencies?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) There is practical unanimity of opinion on all sides that co-ordination is essential but opinions differ as to the means by which it should be effected. Government are considering the whole question in the light of the various opinions expressed.

(b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the replies given by me to his short notice question No. 7 on the 20th February 1945 and to supplementary questions arising therefrom.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know when they expect to come to a conclusion over this matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is entirely for the Madras Government in the first place to come to a conclusion regarding their policy, after which we shall consider the situation.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I think the Honourable Member is mistaken. This does not refer to the Madras Government.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I see. Well, I cannot say when we shall come to a conclusion but we are considering the various opinions expressed.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: If the opinions of the different provinces differ as to their coming in for a share or not, will the Central Government have different plans for different provinces?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That must be the case since road transport lies primarily in the hands of the Provincial Government.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether this is going to be a post-war programme or do they propose to bring this into effect even during the war?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: We may bring it into effect during the war; but that will depend upon the ultimate decision of policy.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member give to the Members of the House an opportunity to discuss the policy of co-ordination by putting up a resolution to that effect?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Will the Honourable Member speak up?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member give the Members of the Assembly an opportunity to discuss this co-ordination by bringing a resolution before the House.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will consider that.

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

ROADS OPERATED FOR PASSENGER TRAFFIC BY RAILWAYS

615. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether any roads are operated for passenger traffic by the Railways themselves or by companies in which Railways have a major interest;

(b) if so, what those roads are; and

(c) how Government have disposed of the agencies who were already working in those lines?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No railway so far is operating departmentally a road service for the carriage of passengers. The N. W. Railway, however, in 1938 negotiated a major interest in the North Western Transport Company and recently in Parry's Kulu Transport, Ltd. It has also negotiated a substantial interest in the Rawalpindi Kashmir Transport Ltd.

(b) The routes over which these companies are permitted to operate are:

Name of Transport Co.	Route
1. North Western Transport Co. Ltd.	(i) Lyallpur-Jhang. (ii) Peshawar-Abbottabad. (iii) Peshawar-Rawalpindi.
2. Parry's Kulu Transport Ltd.	Nagrota-Kulu-Manali (Punjab).
3. Rawalpindi-Kashmir Transport Ltd.	Rawalpindi-Srinagar.

(c) The question does not arise as the railway in the case of the North Western Transport Co. co-ordinates its services with the other road operators who were working at the time of the formation of the company, and in the case of the other two concerns the railway has associated itself with transport agencies previously operating on the routes in question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to clause (a), are the present operating companies run by the railways themselves or by the Companies?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The companies.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: They are operated by companies with Railways having a major share?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, the first two.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Who are the managing agents of these companies?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There are no managing agents. They are operated by the companies without managing agents.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How can that be? There must be some one managing!

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think they are run by a Managing Director. I would require notice of that question.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the Government of India taking a large share in these companies, why do not the Government of India run these motor services themselves?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The principle is that we leave operation in the hands of people who thoroughly understand road operation.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India are incapable of managing these bus services?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Government of India are not incapable of working up an organisation, but these concerns existed and were operated by efficient operators and the Government joined with them in their further operation.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Are the accounts of these companies audited by the Auditor-General or by private auditors?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I would require notice of that.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: How does the Government have any control over the finances of these companies and safeguard the interests of the tax-payers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: They are overseen by the North Western Railway. It is the North Western Railway which is associated with these companies and I have not the slightest doubt that they thoroughly examine the accounts. In the case of the North Western Transport Co., Ltd. (Lyallpur-Jhang route) there is a joint company, i.e., a company in which the railway owns the majority interests and which operates alongside a number of individual operators. They have a working arrangement between the individual operators, and the Government company, the North Western Transport Co., Ltd.; I believe the railway does the booking and the company does the operation of the vehicles.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: This means that all the revenue derived through booking are put into the Government treasury according to what the system is on the railways. Or does the money go into the hands of the various operators?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: In the Lyallpur-Jhang case it is a joint service. There are individual operators who continue to run under an agreement with the Government Company. In the case of the Government company the receipts come into the company and these are distributed in the ordinary way in which a company distributes its surplus.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Does the revenue first go into the Government treasury or does it go into the private banks of the different companies?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: You mean the receipts taken by the booking clerk?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Yes.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I could not tell you how exactly they are handled, but they come into the coffers of the company.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government examined the question of forcing an effective financial control over the finances and management of such companies in which the railways have a major portion of shares?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As far as I am aware, there is effective control.

(At this stage Mr. N. M. Joshi rose thrice in his seat.)

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

PROPOSAL TO RUN ROAD TRANSPORT BY RAILWAYS IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY

616. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether there are any proposals to run road transport in the Madras Presidency through a transport agency in which the Railways will have a major interest;

(b) whether he has received any applications from any of the existing agencies to do this work;

(c) if so, what those agencies are; and

(d) when he expects to come to a conclusion on this matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply to para. (a) of the Short Notice Question No. 7 asked by him on the 20th February 1945.

(b) Yes.

(c) I lay a list of applicants on the table of the House.

(d) No decision can be taken until the Government of Madras intimate their final views.

List of Applicants

(i) *The M. & S. M. Railway:*

1. Royal Motor Service, Narasavupet.
2. Gatti Subbaran, Cocanada.
3. Sri Satyanarayan Motor Service, Guntur.
4. City Motor Service, Madras.
5. Hindustan Commercial Transport Company, Bezwada.
6. Garage Ltd., Madras.
7. Dhanam & Co., Tirupati.
8. Sowriah Brothers, Narasavupet.
9. Krishna & Sons, Kurnool.

(ii) *The S. I. Railway:*

1. Sri Lakshmipathi Naidu, Mettupalayam.
2. The Garage Ltd., S. I. Ry. Street Delivery Contractors, Madras.
3. The Central Auto Parts Co., Madras.
4. N. V. G. B. Motor Service, Dindigul.
5. The New India Corporation, Madras.
6. Premnath Motors, Calcutta.
7. Varadaraja Motor Service, Karur.
8. Marappa Gounder & Co., Palghat.
9. The Kodaikanal Motor Union.
10. Rahim Bros. Motor Service, Periyakulam.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have the Government of India imposed any time limit within which they should come to a decision?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. In the case of Madras we are entirely dependent upon a prior decision by that Government as to what their policy is to be.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Before that decision is taken are certain agencies being allowed to run these services?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The services at present are run by private companies, individuals or associations under license from the Government of Madras.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Are there any under this policy?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The policy has not been settled yet.

HARDSHIP EXPERIENCED BY FIRST AND SECOND CLASS PASSENGERS AT LALA MUSA

617. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the number of first and second class berths accommodation generally available at Lala Musa, North Western Railway, for passengers on the 36 and 58 Down trains coming from Rawalpindi and Peshawar, respectively, and on the 57 and 35 Up trains coming from Lahore for passengers coming from Malakawal side;

(b) if it is a fact that ordinarily almost all the first and second class berths in the trains mentioned in (a) above are reserved and occupied from their stations of start and in the way till they reach Lala Musa; and

(c) whether it is in fact invariably impossible for the first and second class passengers, particularly females, to get accommodation in these trains?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to this and Starred Question No 618, together.

Government have no information on these matters of detail relating to train services and train timings involving the comfort and convenience of 1st and 2nd class passengers, which I suggest should be more appropriately taken up in the Local Advisory Committee than on the floor of this House. I am, however, bringing these two questions to the notice of the General Manager, North Western Railway, for such action as it may be possible to take.

HARDSHIPS EXPERIENCED BY FIRST AND SECOND CLASS PASSENGERS AT LALA MUSA

†618. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that no reservation of berths is made at Lala Musa for passengers going to Lahore and Peshawar side on trains mentioned in the preceding question;

(b) if a third class bogey is attached to the 58 Down train for Lahore and a bogey having first and second class compartments is attached to 90 Down train for Khenra at Lala Musa (North Western Railway) Railway Station;

(c) if these bogies are made to stand in the yard and passengers are not allowed to occupy them before they are attached to their respective trains, unless they tip either the police constable on duty or any of the Railway Staff in charge;

(d) if it is a fact that more than often respectable upper class passengers who prefer to travel by third class than to wait for the morning trains for the whole night at Lala Musa are often insulted if they occupy these bogies before they are attached to their trains;

(e) in view of the facts above, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of placing the bogies at such places on the platforms or in the yard as to allow the passengers to conveniently occupy the bogies before they have attached to their respective trains as is done at Lahore and Delhi; and

(f) in view of the hardships and inconvenience to the first and second class passengers at Lala Musa to find accommodation in trains going to Lahore and Peshawar, whether it will be considered to make arrangements to attach bogies of first, second and inter-classes from Malakwal to Lahore and from Malakwal to Rawalpindi and Peshawar and *vice versa* both in the Up and Down directions?

TRAIN TIMINGS ON MALAKWAL BHERA BRANCH LINE

619. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) With reference to the answer laid on the table in reply to my starred question No. 556(d), asked on the 17th November, 1944, regarding change in timings of trains on Malakwal Bhera Branch Line, will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if the matter was considered by the Time Table Committee of the Local Advisory Committee, and what was the result?

(b) When is a change in the time table expected?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, the question of train timings on the Bhera-Malakwal Section was discussed by the Time Table Sub-Committee of the North Western Railway Local Advisory Committee at their meeting on the 26th January 1945, when they were informed that arrangements were being made to revise the timings of 255 Up and 256 Down between Bhera and Malakwal, so that 255 Up will connect with 95 Up to Lala Musa, which in turn connects with 20 Down as well as 4 Down in the down direction and 19 Up in the Up direction. This decision has been accepted by the Sub-Committee and confirmed by the Local Advisory Committee.

(b) Presumably, the changes will be notified in the next issue of the time table. I am not able to say exactly when this will issue.

INDIAN CHRISTIANS ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

620. *Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state the total number of Indian Christians employed in the Oudh and Tirhut Railway?

(b) How many of them are in receipt of salaries—(i) over 150 p.m., (ii) over 100 but below 150 p.m., and (iii) over 50 but below 100 p.m.?

(c) Is it a fact that the number of Indian Christians employed in this Railway is below the quota to which they are entitled and that those in Service are mostly low paid servants?

(d) If the reply to (c) is in the affirmative, do Government propose to take steps to raise the number of Indian Christians in the service of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway to the quota to which they are entitled?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 617.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The required information will be found in Appendix C-I to the Indian Railways Administration Report, 1943-44, Volume II, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) The percentage reserved for other minority communities, including Sikhs, Indian Christians and Parsis, is not distributed amongst these communities in any fixed proportion. Moreover, it applies only to vacancies open to direct recruitment.

(d) Does not arise.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is great dissatisfaction among the members of the Christian Community regarding the manner in which the quotas for all minority communities are lumped together and administered? Will he be prepared to consider the question of the division of the number of vacancies allotted to all minorities together now into shares for each minority on a population basis?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With regard to the particular question before the House I observe from the Administration Report to which I have referred that the increase in the number of Indian Christians on the O. T. Railway between the years 1942-43 and 1943-44 has been quite substantial. As regards the major question which the Honourable Member has raised I shall require notice of that.

OVERCROWDING ON TRAMWAYS AND BUSES IN CALCUTTA

621. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that there is terrible and intolerable congestion on tramways and buses in Calcutta and people do not find adequate accommodation and have to wait for hours sometimes to go to the places of work;

(b) how many tram-cars have been damaged and put out of order through reckless driving by the military lorries resulting in serious accidents and dislocation of tramline traffic;

(c) how many buses have been taken away for the purpose of A.R.P. and other auxiliary services;

(d) whether he proposes to see that such transport buses are released now in order to reduce congestion on existing transport facilities;

(e) whether it is a fact that 30 trams were ordered from the United Kingdom in 1942 and delivery of which has not taken place even now;

(f) whether he has investigated the possibility of obtaining trams and buses from other countries; and

(g) whether he still persists in his faith of the United Kingdom's possibility of delivering the trams in spite of the fact that the order placed in 1942 yet remains to be executed in the year 1945?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I understand that this is the case.

(b) The information has been called for from the Bengal Government and will be laid on the table of the House if the Bengal Government are in a position to provide it.

(c) 169.

(d) This is being done and 143 vehicles have already been replaced.

(e) I understand that the Calcutta Tramways Co. have been trying to obtain them since 1943.

(f) In so far as trams are concerned, the answer is in the negative. The requirements for buses are being met from the vehicles obtained from North America.

(g) The Company have informed the Provincial Government that there is every chance of these being available in the near future.

INADEQUATE LIGHTING, ETC., ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

622. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether he is aware that there is no proper arrangement for lights in the trains on the Bengal and Assam Railway;

(b) whether there have been increased thefts in trains;

(c) whether there is no arrangement for proper and regular supply of washing and drinking water either in trains or at the station on the Bengal and Assam Railway as there is on the East Indian and other Railways; and

(d) whether the Honourable Member proposes to take necessary steps to remove these inconveniences of the passengers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government is aware of the limited extent to which the Bengal and Assam Railway can provide lights in its trains at present.

(b) It is not clear what thefts are meant, but if this refers to bulbs, electric, and other carriage fittings, the reply is; "Yes".

(c) This is a matter which is constantly under review by the Local Advisory Committee and I have no reason to suppose that the arrangements are inadequate.

(d) Every effort is being made to speed up deliveries of train lighting bulbs from indigenous sources, to expedite supplies by importation in order to supplement indigenous supplies and to improve the arrangements for drinking and washing water.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Am I to understand that the Honourable Member admits that the Bengal and Assam Railway is worse off than the other railway systems in the supply of lights?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not admit that. I should require notice in order to ascertain how the B. and A. Railway compares in this matter with other railways.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: With reference to part (a) of the question, is it a fact that in certain parts of Assam trains are run without any lights in the compartment at all?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not think that trains are run without any lights at all. Occasionally of course lights are stolen with the result that there is no light.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: In certain parts of Assam, especially those parts which are under civilian control, trains are running without any lights at all. Will the Honourable Member make enquiries?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not aware of that. I shall look into it.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: With regard to part (b) of the question, is the Honourable Member aware that thefts of passengers' luggage and property take place due to the trains running without lights? Will the Honourable Member make enquiries?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am afraid that, generally speaking, thefts have increased on the railways and I am answering this particular point in my reply to the next question.

MISSING OF PARCELS AND GOODS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

623. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that missing of parcels and goods have become too frequent on the Bengal and Assam Railway in Assam?

(b) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to find out the causes and adopt necessary measures to stop the same?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The number of claims received by the B. & A. Railway has shown an upward trend and it can be inferred from this that the number of missing parcels and goods has increased in proportion.

(b) Government are aware of the major causes and the question of minimizing the number of missing goods and parcels is already receiving the active attention of railways and of the Railway Board.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the major causes?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Among the major causes are complexities of operation created by the war, heavy increase in traffic, congestion in goods and parcels sheds, increase in the price of consumers goods making thieving more profitable and the black out conditions making theft easier.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: There is one more reason and that is the diversion of goods by some circuitous route which creates a bottle-neck at some station. Will the Honourable Member make enquiries about that?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: To which particular route is the Honourable Member referring? When there is transshipment, there is of course greater risk of theft. I shall make enquiries.

TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES RE-SALT, SUGAR, ETC., IN ASSAM

624. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that people of Assam are experiencing great difficulties for not being able to get their quota of salt, sugar, cloth, etc., owing to transport difficulties?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to take necessary steps for providing Assam with transport facilities for taking the full quotas of the above mentioned articles in time?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I am aware that from time to time difficulties have been experienced but with the co-operation of the military authorities, sufficient transport is provided to meet the needs of the civil population of Assam. The Assam Government, who are responsible for apprising the transport authorities of their requirements for the import of essential civil goods, reported recently that "in spite of the very pressing demands of the war on transport, movement into Assam has been easy". During the six months ending the 31st December 1944, the total imports into Assam of Government supplies were 82,466 tons against 31,985 tons in the same period of 1943.

(b) The necessary steps have already been taken.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the priority given to salt?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: All these foodstuffs move under a programme and there is a quota for the movement of salt, sugar, foodgrains, dal, mustard oil and so on, into Assam. It is not a question of priority: it is a question of quota.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Does the quota refer to wagons or to foodstuffs?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is a quota of wagon loads, generally speaking.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the operation of the B. and A. Railway by the Americans anything to do with this shortage of supply of wagons for the transport of these commodities to Assam?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I was just reading out the report of the Assam Government which says that "in spite of the very pressing demands of the war on transport, movement into Assam has been easy." There is no shortage.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: In view of the great and distressing shortage of salt in Assam, will the Honourable Member make enquiries in regard to that particular commodity?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. I have personally made investigations into that. There was at one time a shortage of salt, when I think there was also a slight shortage in Calcutta. Figures of stocks which I have in front of me appear to be very satisfactory at the present moment. The position of movement has improved since October and has been maintained. Whether there is any difficulty about distribution into the districts is another matter which lies outside the sphere of railway transport.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How long is it since the Government of India have heard from the Assam Government and are the Government of India satisfied that there is no shortage of supplies of the commodities mentioned?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: We have to take the word of the Assam Government and the report I have from them is a note by them on the stock position of imported commodities in Assam as on the 1st of January.

SCHEDULED CASTES CLERKS TRANSFERRED FROM RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE TO RAILWAY BOARD

625. *Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) the total number of clerks transferred from the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, Delhi, to the office of the Railway Board since the commencement of the war, and how many of them belong to the scheduled castes;

(b) whether it is a fact that the scheduled caste clerks employed in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office who wish to serve in the Railway Board are not recommended by the Director even when there is a call from the Railway Board; and

(c) whether Government propose to make an enquiry into this matter with a view to see that scheduled caste clerks are fairly treated?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) 36 Clerks were transferred of whom one belongs to the Scheduled Castes.

(b) No. The number of Scheduled Caste clerks employed in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office is small and they are comparatively junior men in the lowest grades. Selection of men for transfer to the office of the Railway Board is based both on their suitability for work in that office and their willingness to be transferred and not only on the latter.

(c) It is not considered necessary to hold an enquiry.

Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: Has the Honourable Member received any complaints of injustice from clerks belonging to the scheduled castes of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have no information of any, Sir.

Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: Will he please consider if any such complaints are received from clerks belonging to the scheduled castes?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Any complaints on that score will certainly be considered.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that there is a paucity of clerks of this community in the Railway Board what steps are proposed to recruit them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: This particular question relates to transfer of clerks from the Clearing Accounts Office to the Railway Board. There are, as I have said, very few Scheduled Caste clerks in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, 29 out of 2,000 clerks, and they are mostly in the junior grades.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I have understood that, Sir. In view of the fact that there is a paucity of members of this community in the Railway Board's office, I ask whether Government propose to take any steps to recruit more of them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government is not indifferent. Government has taken special steps to recruit more members of the Scheduled Caste; but as the Honourable Member knows, the steps must take time to show effect.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the steps?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If he will put down a question I will set them out in detail.

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE NAME OF DEHRI-ON-SONE RAILWAY STATION

626. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been approached now for the fifth time by Seth Ram Krishna Dalmia or his men with a proposal to change

the name of Dehri-on-Sone, a station on the East Indian Railway, to Dalmianagar;

(b) if he is aware that there is a strong feeling against this and the public and people of the place are carrying on agitation through the press and platform;

(c) if he is further aware that on each occasion when a proposal for change of name of Dehri-on-Sone was afoot, there had been strong agitation against this in the past and Government had to abandon the proposal in view of the strong feelings and sentiments of the public; and

(d) if the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to drop the question in view of their past decisions as also of the present strong feelings and sentiments of the public?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No.

(b), (c) and (d). I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies given to Mr. Ramayan Prasad's starred question No. 1192 on the 6th April, 1938.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: May I know whether the Honourable Member will consider the public resentment at this?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Public resentment—which way?

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Has Government received certain representations against the station's name?

SELECTION OF PRESS REPRESENTATIVES FOR TOUR ON RAILWAYS

627. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the replies to (e) and (f) of unstarred question No. 47, given on the 9th November, 1944, regarding Press Conference invited by the Railway Board to visit Railway workshops, etc., viz.: "There is no rule or convention concerning such consultation and Government are free to consult any Associations or persons they think fit", and state:

(a) the names of the Associations or persons who were consulted during the preceding three years; if none, the reasons therefor;

(b) if Government propose to consult in future both registered and unregistered Associations, Federations, Unions, etc.; if not, why not; and

(c) if Government received any protest against the nominees of the unregistered non-statutory Press Associations from the Orient Press of India (News Agency); if so, whether he proposes to lay that protest on the table of the House together with the action taken thereon, and if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Government will, in the future as in the past, consult those Associations, etc., as may be most appropriate to the occasion.

(c) I cannot trace the receipt of any such protest. The second part of the question does not therefore arise.

RESERVATION OF BERTHS AT DELHI RAILWAY STATION BY CENTRAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

628. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the number of the Honourable Members of this House who requisitioned for reserved berths from Delhi in First and Second class compartments separately during the preceding six months;

(b) if the accommodation was provided; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the arrangement Government have made for providing accommodation to and from Delhi for the Honourable Members who may be required to leave on a very short notice; if no arrangements have been provided, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I regret that it is not possible to compile this information without an expenditure of time and labour which would not be justified in war time. The Honourable Member will no

doubt realise that to compile this information it would be necessary to scrutinise all the entries in the Reservation Registers for the last six months.

(c) No special arrangements have been made by Government except for journeys to and from Sessions of the Assembly. To devise any working arrangement whereby Honourable Members could at any time secure reserved accommodation for their journeys at short notice would involve the setting up of a system of "passenger priorities", an expedient which, on examination, Government have found to be impracticable in the present conditions of passenger traffic.

RAILWAY MEMBER'S VISIT TO DELHI RAILWAY STATION

629. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that he paid an official visit to Delhi junction station or on about the 27th October, 1944; if not, what the fact is;

(b) if he has seen the condition of the waiting rooms, passenger halls; if so, with what result;

(c) if the water taps of the wash-hand basins and baths in the waiting rooms were in order and running after the opening of the water taps in the other rooms; if not, what steps he has ordered to be taken; if none, why not; and

(d) if he was satisfied with the arrangements made for the stay of Indian Commissioned Officers in Delhi while in transit; if not, the steps he proposes to take to make their stay in Delhi comfortable and to relieve the over-crowding in waiting rooms; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I visited Delhi Junction station on October 28th to inspect the lay out and working of the yard.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of paying another visit and examining the conditions so that he can satisfy himself in what condition bath rooms are being kept there?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is not the function of the War Transport Member to visit all the lavatories on the railways.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not his function, Sir, to see that the railway services are kept in good condition?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is the function of the Administrations.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it the intention of Government to provide a separate room for military officers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is a new point which I have not considered.

RELAXING OF RULE RE-PRODUCTION OF TICKETS AT RESERVATION IN THE CASE OF CENTRAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

630. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Does the Honourable Member for Railways propose to consider the desirability of relaxing the Rules regarding production of tickets for reservation in the case of the Honourable Members of this House and their staff due to the inconvenience caused for attending at the Reservation Office and to their unexpected and unavoidable movements; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, as the reservation of accommodation without the purchase of tickets could only be on a provisional basis, which would not be of advantage to Honourable Members.

POLICY RE-CATERING CONTRACTS ON RAILWAYS

†631. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the principles observed in giving contracts for refreshments and foodstuffs on various Railways in India?

(b) How many contractors cater refreshments on the East Indian Railway?

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

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The principles observed are those laid down by the Central Advisory Council for Railways from time to time, and I would refer the Honourable Member to the Summaries of the Proceedings of the Meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Railways held on 3rd October 1935, 16th September 1939 and 15th to 18th March 1940.

(b) Ten.

DISCONTINUANCE OF TELEPHONES OF PRIVATE SUBSCRIBERS

632. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to refer to his reply to starred question No. 540, dated the 17th November, 1944, regarding discontinuance of telephones of private subscribers and state:

(a) if he has made sure that no political considerations were involved in the disconnecting of various telephones from private premises;

(b) why the telephonic connections from the residences of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr. Kailash Nath Katju were taken away at Allahabad;

(c) if the money due to subscribers whose telephones were thus disconnected, refunded to them for the unexpired periods for which payments had been taken in advance;

(d) if his Department has received applications for re-connection of telephones thus removed;

(e) if the department is considering the matter;

(f) the exact position of a District Magistrate in the matter of ordering the disconnection of telephones from private premises; and

(g) whether the Honourable Member has made sure that payment of subscriptions to war loans has not been made a condition precedent to the grant of telephone connections and the payment of the same has not brought back the telephone that had been taken away?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) As stated in the reply to the Honourable Member's starred question No. 540 on the 17th November, 1944, telephones of private subscribers have been disconnected to meet the requirements of essential subscribers for war purposes or to avoid excessive overloading. Some private subscribers have been disconnected under the orders of District Magistrates under rule 17 of the Defence of India Rules. Government are not aware of the considerations which led the District Magistrates to pass the orders.

(b) The telephone connection at the residence of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was closed on 6th January 1943 in accordance with the advice received from the Collector of Allahabad as the building was reported to have been locked up by the Police. No telephone of Dr. Kailash Nath Katju was taken away. The Honourable Member is probably referring to the telephone of Mr. S. N. Katju. This telephone, along with a number of others was removed in order to provide for more essential military and A.R.P. connections and to reduce the load on the Exchange.

(c) Yes, on application. Where no applications have so far been made the amounts are lying in deposit and refunds will be granted as soon as an application is made.

(d) Yes, in a number of cases.

(e) Every application received is duly considered.

(f) I would refer the honourable member to rule 17 of the Defence of India Rules. Under sub-rule (1) of this rule the Director General has authorised District Magistrates, among others, to exercise the powers conferred by that rule.

(g) No such condition has been prescribed but some of those who apply for telephone connections mention that they have subscribed to war loans and urge this as a consideration for the grant of their request.

*Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I know what considerations Government have when they take away particular telephone connections. The Honourable Member said that certain telephone connection were taken off in order to reduce the load. How is it that particular connections are taken off and not others? What is the basis of their consideration in the matter?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The first question to decide is whose connections are less important and whose are more important. In order to decide this question the usual thing is to constitute and consult an Advisory Committee in each important place. On that Committee there are the District Magistrate, the local Telephone Officer, and some non-official representatives who are selected by the District Magistrate. The subscribers' list is placed before this Committee, and the Committee is told that it is necessary to take off so many connections. The Committee goes through the list and decides which subscribers' telephones should be taken away and in which order. The main consideration is whether the particular work of the subscriber is essential for the war effort or not.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With reference to the reply to part (b) of the question, has the Honourable Member made sure that the house of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was actually locked up on the 6th of January, because his house was never locked up at all?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Well, Sir; that is the report that I have got here.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is he mixing up Anand Bhawan with Swaraj Bhawan?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The report I have got is this:

"The telephone connection at the residence of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was closed on the 6th January 1943, in accordance with the instructions of the Collector of Allahabad, as the building was reported to have been locked up by the police."

It was obvious that if the building was locked up by the police there was no sense in leaving the telephone inside.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member make sure about the facts of the case, because I believe there is some confusion? The portion of the premises that Pandit Motilal Nehru gave to the nation is called Swaraj Bhawan and that was the portion that was locked up; while the residential portion, called Anand Bhawan, was never locked up. The Home Member knows everything about it and he will be able to help. Will the Honourable Member make sure about this because a grave injustice has been done?
(No answer was given.)

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

DISCRIMINATION AS REGARDS BASIC PAY OF FOREMEN, ETC., IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES.

633. *Mr. Frank R. Anthony: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that before July, 1931, there was no difference in basic pay as between Asiatic and non-Asiatic Foremen, Assistant Foremen and Chargemen in Ordnance Factories?

(b) Is it a fact that since July, 1931, these Asiatic personnel get a revised and much lower scale of pay than non-Asiatic personnel?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the differences of basic salaries as they exist, at present, between Asiatic and non-Asiatic personnel in the cadres of Foremen, Assistant Foremen and Chargemen?

(d) What is the reason for this differential treatment and discrimination in scales of pay as between Asiatic and non-Asiatic personnel who are doing exactly the same work and performing the same duties?

(e) Do Government propose to see that the present differences are done away with and the scales granted to Asiatics, in Ordnance factories, before 1931 are restored?

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

(c) I place on the table of the house a statement giving the requisite information.

(d) and (e). Revised scales of pay were introduced for personnel of Asiatic domicile in accordance with the general policy of Government. These had effect from the 28th September 1931. At that time it was decided not to introduce revised scales for personnel of non-Asiatic domicile as it was

thought that men with the requisite qualifications would not be obtainable if the scales were lower. Admittedly, it might have been formally more correct to have applied the revised scales of pay to personnel both of Asiatic and non-Asiatic domicile and to have adjusted the rates of overseas pay for the latter accordingly. This was not done. To do it now would be a formidable administrative task which would have no effect on total emoluments and cannot be undertaken during the war.

Scales of pay in force for non-gazetted technical staff employed in Ordnance Factories

	Old scales of pay applicable to staff of non-Asiatic domicile and staff of Asiatic domicile recruited up to the 27th September 1931.	New scales of pay applicable to staff of Asiatic domicile recruited after the 27th September 1931.
Principal Foreman	Rs. 600—20—700 <i>plus*</i> Rs. 75 increase of pay.	475—15—535.
Foreman	Rs. 500—20—600 after 10 years } <i>plus*</i> Rs. 75 increase of pay.	400—15—475 (Efficiency Bar)—25/5—500.
Assistant Foreman.	Rs. 375—15—435 6th year —450 8th year —470 10th year —490 } <i>plus*</i> Rs. 75 increase of pay.	300—12—360 (Efficiency Bar)—15/2—390.
Chargeman	Rs. 200—10—300, after 5 years Rs. 350.	Rs. 170—10—250 (Efficiency Bar)—40/4—290.

* For those of non-Asiatic domicile only.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: May I ask if these non-Asiatics were recruited from outside India or were these persons living in India during the war and they were recruited here; and if they were living in India, what salaries were they getting and why this differentiation has been made?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I must have notice of that question. I cannot say what salaries each individual was getting; but they are all of non-Asiatic domicile.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: How did they come to India if they were from outside, and does it mean that South Africans are getting preference along with the other non-Asiatics?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I am not aware that any South African is here at all in these services.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: With reference to the answer to part (c), is the Honourable Member aware of the anomalies that this policy has led to, for instance, a fairly junior non-Asiatic assistant foreman often draws very much more than the basic emoluments of a senior Asiatic foreman?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Yes; I am aware of that anomaly and that has been brought to my notice. The way to adjust that anomaly is to grant overseas pay and to have equal basic pay for both Asiatic and non-Asiatic domicile men. But while that would remove the anomaly it would not in any way interfere with the scales of pay actually drawn; and that is a task which I feel it is not possible to undertake at the present moment.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Will Government consider restoring the 1931 scales to Asiatic personnel? That will solve the problem, because you have really highly qualified Asiatic personnel and it is felt that there was no justification for having introduced these revised scales. Will Government consider restoring the old scales?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: At the present time there is no intention of reconsidering the question.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to the statement made by the Honourable Member that these revised scales of pay were introduced as part of the general policy of Government, is it not a fact that apart from getting the higher basic pay, the persons of non-Asiatic domicile employed in these services also get an overseas pay?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Not in these services, according to my information.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member look up the rates of pay admissible to these two classes of persons because I have myself seen them?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I have placed just now on the table of the House a statement of the rates of pay. The Honourable Member may look into it.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I ask whether these non-Asiatics have been employed during the war?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: A certain number, yes.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Are they refugees?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No; they are men specially recruited with great trouble and we have not been able to get the requisite number of men.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any effort being made. . . . ?

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

OCCUPATION OF SERVANTS COMPARTMENTS BY PERSONS IN MILITARY UNIFORM

634. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that persons in some sort of military uniform occupy servants' compartments in Railway trains and prevent *bona fide* servants of first and second class passengers from boarding those compartments;

(b) if Railway Officers are unable to help in this matter even when appealed to; and

(c) if he would consider the desirability of circularising Railways to permit servants to travel with their masters in such circumstances?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I understand that this sometimes happens.

(b) No; railway officials are often able to help, and I am informed that Military Movement Control personnel have frequently assisted in the removal of other than *bona fide* servants of upper class passengers.

(c) No; as this would only add to the congestion in upper class compartments and would quite rightly be resented by those passengers who were travelling either without servants or whose servants had found accommodation elsewhere.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: With reference to part (d), does the Honourable Member know that railway staff themselves help outsiders to get into the servants' compartments?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have said that the railway officials are often able and willing to help in the other direction. I have personally frequently seen evidence of that.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: But may I inform the Honourable Member that I have seen myself in many cases the staff allowing other people to enter into the servants compartments and not helping the servants of the first and second class passengers to get into them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have no doubt that that occasionally happens; but if he would be good enough to give me information I should be able to deal with it.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member says that this occasionally happens, may I know what exactly I should do when that occasion arises?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Mention the matter to the senior railway official present.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: And if, when I do draw his attention to this, he says he is unable to do anything, what then am I to do?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Report the matter, if it merits report, to higher authority.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I inform the Honourable Member that I had to bring my servant in the first class compartment this time under similar circumstances?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I hope the Honourable Member paid the excess fare!

INSIDE BOLTS AND CATCHES IN COMPARTMENTS

635. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that first and second class compartments are provided with bolts and catches on the inside, which enable passengers to lock up their compartments at night and prevent passengers at wayside stations to come in the compartments even when room is available;

(b) if similar bolts and catches are not provided in Intermediate and Third class compartments; and

(c) if he proposes to take steps to remove such bolts and catches from the higher class compartments or to provide them in lower classes as well?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Bolts and catches are provided in first and second class compartments for the safety of passengers and their luggage. Station Masters, or other competent railway servants at wayside stations can and do wake up occupants of compartments, where necessary, if room is available for other passengers.

(b) No, except in those reserved for ladies.

(c) If there is any general feeling that such bolts and catches be removed from the upper class compartments or be provided in lower class as well, Government have no doubt that members of the Local Advisory Committee on the various Railways will bring it up for discussion at their meetings.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the Honourable Member's reply to part (b) of the question, may I know if the Honourable Member is more concerned about the comfort and safety of the first and second class passengers than of the intermediate and third class passengers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No; not at all. But the position is that there is no sleeping accommodation in the third class and that is why there are no bolts because when the passenger goes to sleep it is desirable that he should be able to bolt the door so that no one may intrude without his knowledge.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that in several cases, even when the guards themselves ask these bolts to be removed and the doors should be opened, the passenger refuses to do so and the guards are helpless and the passengers who wish to find berths are very much inconvenienced?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes. The Honourable Member is of course censuring the passengers—not the railway administration. But such passengers are liable to a penalty.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask, Sir, if Government will consider the possibility of providing latches which can be operated from inside and opened by the guard with a key from outside, as is done in some of the continental trains in Europe?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am glad of the suggestion. Of course it could not be done all at once. . . . (Interruption by Prof. N. G. Ranga.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should not be constantly interrupting like this.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is a suggestion which I will have put before the people who are considering the post-war designs of coaches.

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

RENOVATION OF DUFFERIN RAILWAY BRIDGE AT BENARES

636. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made in the renovation of the Dufferin Railway Bridge at Benares;

(b) if he is satisfied with the present condition of the Bridge; and

(c) when he expects the Bridge to be reconstructed in accordance with the programme in that behalf?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) 3,000 tons of fabricated steel have been delivered to the Railway. Fabrication of the rest of the steelwork is continuing; and tools and plan are being collected at the site. At the request of the War Department work at the site was postponed and is now expected to commence in October 1945.

(b) The present condition of the Bridge is not satisfactory, but it can safely continue in service under existing restrictions until reconstructed. The reconstruction has been delayed by more urgent War requirements.

(c) According to the present programme, the reconstruction of the bridge should be completed by February 1949.

CAUSE OF RECENT DERAILMENT OF PUNJAB MAIL

637. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that some responsible officer of the Bihar Government was reported to have said that a certain political party was responsible for the recent derailment of the Punjab Mail; and

(b) if enquiries made by Government in the accident have justified the statement of the officer concerned?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that the Governor of Bihar did say that this derailment was due to the activities of the Congress Socialist Party?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not aware of that. It is not a fact.

PAY ON CONFIRMATION OF APPRENTICES OF THE DINAPORE SHEDS

638. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state year by year from 1928—1936, the number of persons who completed their apprenticeship in the Dinapore Sheds in 1929 and who were confirmed in the old East Indian Railway scale, grade II (Rs. 90—20—250)?

(b) Will the Honourable Member please state whether some of the persons referred to in (a) above, after drawing their salaries regularly in the old scale for about six or seven years were informed that they had been wrongly confirmed in the old scale and that they were eligible only for the new scale of pay in accordance with the Agent's Circular No. 485/AE-388, dated the 1st October, 1928?

(c) Is it a fact that the circular referred to in (b) above lays down that "such of the existing staff as elect to accept the revised scales may be permitted to do so on the distinct understanding that once this option is exercised they cannot under any circumstances be allowed to revert to the old scales"?

(d) Was the Agent's circular of 1928 brought to the notice of each of the officers concerned, and were they at the time of confirmation given the option of electing the old or the new scales of pay in accordance with the instructions contained in the circular? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government have no detailed information regarding the number of persons described in this part of the question and the year in which they completed their apprenticeship.

(b) and (c). The reply is in the affirmative but the sentence quoted by the Honourable Member applied only to subordinates in permanent service on the 1st October 1928. The old scale of pay refers to that in existence before that date and the new scale to what is termed the co-ordinated scale.

(d) Staff who were not confirmed prior to the 1st October 1928 were on confirmation, eligible for the co-ordinated scales of pay only and the question of an option did not arise in their case.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Has the Honourable Member made any inquiry as to how this mistake came to be made and how is it again that this mistake was allowed to continue for six years and some persons were made to suffer for that mistake?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. I have not yet made an inquiry into this but I will do so.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Will the Honourable Member consider the legal aspect—in that the Railway offered to these persons certain conditions; these persons through no fault of their own accepted those conditions and that contract was implemented by the railway. Will the Honourable Member see that the onus of this mistake does not fall on the railway employees?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: All relevant facts are considered.

PAY ON CONFIRMATION OF APPRENTICES OF THE DINAPORE SHEDS

639. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that in Minute Sheet No. A.W.-2464, dated the 19th June, 1935; it was decided that those apprentices who were absorbed in the permanent establishment without break of service before July, 1931, would automatically receive the old scale of pay? Is it also a fact that provision has been made in Minute Sheet No. A.W.-2664, dated the 19th June, 1935, for giving old scale of pay to the apprentices who were absorbed in the permanent establishment without break of service before July, 1931?

(b) Is it a fact that old scales of pay have been allowed to improvers who were absorbed prior to 1st November, 1928? If so, why has an exception been made in the case of some officers referred to in parts (a) and (b) of the preceding question who were initially improvers?

(c) Does the Honourable Member propose to consider the facts stated above and rectify the injustice done to a number of officers who *bona fide* accepted service on the old scale of pay and who after a number of years were called upon to accept new scale of pay for no fault of their own?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the affirmative except that the old scales referred to were either those in existence before 1928 or the co-ordinated scale according to the scale for which individuals were eligible.

(b) As explained in part (d) of reply to the preceding question, the old scales of pay, i.e., those in existence before 1928, did not apply to staff who were confirmed after the date of issue of the orders introducing the co-ordinated scales of pay, viz., 1st October, (not 1st November), 1928.

(c) Government do not consider that any injustice has been done.

APPOINTMENT OF CAPTAIN J. P. WILLIAMS AS SALVAGE OFFICIAL

640. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state if it is a fact that Captain J. P. Williams, an Australian, is being imported from Commonwealth of Australia as a Salvage official for India?

(b) Are the Government of India aware that the import of foreigners is being resented by Indians?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Captain Williams, of the Australian Commonwealth Salvage Board, is being employed by a Port Authority in India for a short period in connection with the salvage of a wrecked vessel. He is not being imported into India to take up an official appointment.

(b) This question does not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How long will he be employed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Until the job is done.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member said 'short period'. Is there any time limit?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: He has been imported to do a particular job and his work will be finished when that job is done.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: Is the period of his work co-terminous with his stay in India of his own choice?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No. He will stay until his job is finished.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Have any Indians been appointed in Australia?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is his pay on a contract basis or a monthly basis?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: On a monthly basis.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: What is the particular salvage that this particular officer is concerned with?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: His work is in connection with the salvage of a vessel which has been sunk in a port and which presents peculiar salvage difficulties.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: Previous to this, who was attending to this work?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Previously various people in India were attending to this work and they were unable to get a satisfactory solution as to how to raise the vessel. That is why we had to import this particular expert who had had experience of this sort of work.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: Have those in India proved themselves inefficient to discharge their duties?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Not inefficient, Sir. There are particular difficulties about this particular problem.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any official going to be appointed to salvage the Government of India?

ESTABLISHMENT OF AEROPLANE INDUSTRY.

641. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state if it is a fact that Australia has, since the War, not only established the manufacture of aluminium and a large rolling mill but also the manufacture of aeroplanes?

(b) What information have Government got on the progress of Australia in this manner, and what is the capital and number of men and the output of the enterprises mentioned in each of the three factories?

(c) How many schemes for the manufacture or assembling of aeroplanes were started in India?

(d) Which of them are now functioning?

(e) Have Government considered whether this industry will be established in India, and, if so, at the hands of the State or under private enterprise? What progress, if any, has been made in this direction?

(f) How many assembling plants exist in India at present?

(g) How many of them have been established by (i) the Government of India, (ii) the British Government, and (iii) the Government of the United States of America?

(h) What is the arrangement with regard to these plants after the war?

(i) Have Government taken care that these plants will remain and function? If so, how is it proposed that they should be controlled, directed and managed in future?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Government are aware that, while Australia had certain aircraft resources at the outbreak of the war, manufacture has very largely been established since the war began. Government are also aware that Australia has made provision for establishing an aluminium industry but they have no information about a rolling mill.

(b) In the first five years of the war Australia is reported to have produced about 3,000 aircraft of all types. Government have no further information.

(c) One for manufacture and one for assembling.

(d) Owing to difficulties in obtaining supplies of materials for the manufacturing programme and the urgent need for repair and maintenance capacity the scheme for manufacture had to be abandoned and the factory for manufacture is now engaged on repair and maintenance work. The Assembling unit is still functioning as such.

(e) The matter is under the consideration of the Government of India.

(f) One, excluding those operated by the Services themselves.

(g) One, by the Government of India.

(h) and (i). These matters are under the consideration of Government of India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know what proposal there is in order to equip India, for security reasons, for the manufacture and not merely repair of aeroplanes in future?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That is under consideration.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is under consideration? What is the proposal?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The question whether aircraft can be manufactured in India or ought to be manufactured in India and if so under what circumstances, for what purposes and so on.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why the Government of India has not even considered anything for five years, while the Australian Government have already in the first five years of the war produced 3,000 aircraft of all types?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The Government of India is different from the Australian Government.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: My Honourable friend has answered that question for me.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is this going to be a post-war scheme?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Yes, Sir.

POSTPONED STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ORAL ANSWERS.

(Postponed from February 15, 1945)

INDIA SUPPLY MISSION IN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

(a) whether the Government of India contemplate a change in the status and in the personnel of the India Supply Mission in the United States of America; and

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what the reasons are that have prompted the Government of India to make this change?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) and (b). The Government of India have decided in view of the stage which the work of the India Supply Mission has now reached and in view of the additional powers recently vested in the Agent-General of general supervision over the activities of all Missions and organisations accredited to the United States by the Government of India that permanent officials of the Government of India should be appointed to such Missions and organisations. Mr. K. C. Mahindra, a businessman, who was till recently head of the Mission has therefore relinquished his charge and the Government of India have decided to appoint Mr. J. Vesugar of the Indian Service of Engineers as head of the India Supply Mission in U.S.A. in succession to Mr. Mahindra. Mr. Vesugar was till recently Chief Engineer in the Punjab and is now Industrial Adviser to Planning and Development Department of the Government of India. Mr. Vesugar will shortly be proceeding to U.S.A. to take up his appointment. Meanwhile the Indian Trade Commissioner at New York, Mr. S. K. Kirpalani, has temporarily taken charge of the post as head of the India Supply Mission.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member if he is aware that for over three months the talk has been current that the Government of India are finding Mr. Mahindra rather inconvenient and are contemplating a change? Has the change been made because of the fact that Mr. Mahindra was found to be inconvenient?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Sir, I should protest against Honourable Members, by way of supplementary questions,

importing gossip and rumour for which they do not find themselves any verification. There is no truth at all in the suggestion that has been made in the supplementary question.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member referred to certain additional powers that have been conferred upon the Agent General, as a consequence of which this change in the organisation was necessary. Will the Honourable Member be pleased to indicate what additional powers have been conferred upon him and the reasons for the conferment of such additional powers on him?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The additional powers are of general supervision over the activities of all missions. It was considered desirable that when a trade mission or a Trade Commissioner has the necessity of approaching at a high level American authorities, it was better done if that approach is made through diplomatic representative of the Government of India. It is those powers that have been referred to in the answers.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Did the India Supply Mission at any time report that they were finding it inconvenient to contact the required official authorities without the intervention of the Agent General?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No, Sir, the Indian Supply Mission did not report that.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Did the Government of India satisfy themselves that the India Supply Mission was experiencing no such difficulty?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The Government of India were satisfied that a more satisfactory course would be that on such rare occasions, the Agent General should come into the picture.

INDIA SUPPLY MISSION IN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

(a) whether before the India Supply Mission in the United States of America places an order in the United States of America, the matter has to be referred to the British Embassy and through it to some agency in Britain; and

(b) whether it is a fact that there are delays in placing orders arising from following this procedure?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(Postponed from February 23, 1945)

PROPOSED TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF INDIA SUPPLY MISSION IN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

506. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state if it is a fact that the India Supply Mission in the United States of America is going to be transferred to the control of the India Agency-General in the United States of America? If so, what are the reasons for this transfer?

(b) Has the opinion of the India Supply Mission been obtained on the proposal? If so, will the Honourable Member state the substance of the opinion?

(c) In what respects, if any, will such transfer affect the practical functioning of the Mission from day to day, and the official relations between the Mission and the Supply Department?

(d) Is it proposed to consult the organisations representing Indian Commerce in India, regarding the advisability of the proposed transfer?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) and (b). I invite attention to the reply I have just given to Question No. 280 of the Honourable Member Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.

(c) No. These will be unaffected.

(d) Does not arise.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I know whether the Honourable Member replied to part (b) of the question:

"Has the opinion of the India Supply Mission been obtained on the proposal?"

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No, Sir, the opinion of the India Supply Mission has not been invited?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Was it considered unnecessary or superfluous to obtain the opinion of such an important person in the Indian commercial world as Mr. Mahindra before a change was made?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The additional powers that were conferred upon the Agent General were conferred as a matter of policy at a high level or including supervision over all agencies accredited to the United States of America by the Government of India and so no agency which was there in the United States of America was consulted on this issue.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: The Honourable Member was talking of some high level. Will the Honourable Member indicate what is the altitude fixed?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: As high as New Delhi.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the past two incumbents of this job on the India Supply Mission happen to be non-officials and now an official is being appointed, is it the opinion of the Government that experienced non-officials are either not forthcoming or that they are not a happy choice and that therefore they should try the experiment of appointing officials?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No, Sir. The Supply Department is quite satisfied and is grateful for the work that has been done by non-official heads of the India Supply Mission. I think Honourable Members have not sufficiently realised the importance of another phrase which was used in this reply "in view of the stage which the work of the India Supply Mission has now reached". This work of the two non-official Indian gentlemen has now reached a stage when permanent officials could carry on the work under the supervision of the Agent General.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member explain in some detail the particular stage at which these activities have reached? I am afraid I cannot follow what is the stage that has been reached and that requires implementing by permanent officials?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The thing has been set more or less on working level now, all the initial difficulties which arose from time to time have all been overcome.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government considered the advisability of associating one or two non-officials with this official who is appointed as the head of the India Supply Mission in order to help him in understanding the non-official view point so far as the business world of India is concerned?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The India Supply Mission is engaged in the task of getting supplies for the Government of India for war purposes, and I do not see where the help of non-officials in this matter would arise at the other end.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Do I take it that while the problem presented certain difficulties, the permanent officials were not competent to deal with those matters and the non-officials were competent enough to resolve those difficulties; and now that those difficulties do not exist, the permanent officials may carry on the administration in a routine and humdrum fashion?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No, Sir. That is not the implication of my answer. My answer implied that at the stage at which it has reached, high businessmen may usefully be employed on other work.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

HIGHER GRADE OFFICERS EMPLOYED IN THE COAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

38. **Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Supply Member please lay on the table of the House the information promised by him in reply to part (c) of my starred question No. 16 on the 1st November, 1944, regarding higher grade officers employed in the Coal Commissioner's Office?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The information was laid on the table of the House on the 23rd February 1945. As the Directorate of Open Cut Coal Mining is in the process of being staffed, it has not been possible to include information regarding officers of that Directorate.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER POSTS AND AIR DEPARTMENT

39. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p.m. and above in all the Departments and offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I regret that the information is not readily available and its collection would involve an expenditure of time and labour that would not be justified in war time.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

40. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above in all the Departments and offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The collection of the information asked for by the Honourable Member will involve a great deal of expenditure of time and labour out of all proportion to the results that are likely to be obtained. The attention of the Honourable Member is, however, invited to the information I gave in reply to starred question No. 107 in the 1944 Autumn Session of the Legislative Assembly.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

41. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above in all the Departments and offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I regret that I am unable to collect the information required by the Honourable Member, as its collection would involve an amount of labour that would be unjustifiable in war-time.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER RAILWAY DEPARTMENT

42. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 500 p. m. and above in all the Departments and offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I regret I cannot undertake to collect the information in the present circumstances.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

43. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for War Transport be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 500 p. m. and above, in all the Departments and offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I regret that the information required is not readily available, and the preparation of a complete statement would involve an outlay of time and labour that is not justifiable in War time.

NON-PROVISION OF FREE QUARTERS FOR ELIGIBLE RAILWAY SERVANTS IN DELHI

44. Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state why some of those railway servants in Delhi who are not entitled to free housing accommodation as per term of their service are provided with accommodation by Railway on rent when there are many who are entitled for free housing accommodation and are not provided with Railway quarters?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Persons entitled to free quarters are those who, prior to 1928, when the rules were revised, held a post which carried the concession of free quarters, and who now hold posts in the same categories. There are only a limited number of Railway quarters which are allotted in order of priority to those who have to live near their work be they entitled to free quarters or not. If they are not entitled to free quarters these pay rent. Some of those entitled to free quarter under the old rules cannot be accommodated and are given an allowance in lieu in accordance with long standing practice.

PRIVILEGES TO STATE RAILWAY SERVANTS

45. Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the various privileges allowed to State Railway servants (superior non-Gazetted) working (i) on line and (ii) in administrative offices, e.g., Divisional Superintendent's Office, Chief Commercial Manager's Office, General Manager's Office; and the Railway Board in matters of free uniform, railway passes, education of children, transport facilities when on transfer, free housing accommodation and medical attendance, etc.?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Information regarding the various privileges admissible to State Railway (Superior) non-gazetted servants is given below or contained in the publication (a copy of which is in the Library of the House) shown against each item:-

	Line Staff.	Office Staff.
Free Uniforms	State Railway General Code, Volume I, Rule 1307	Nil.
Railway Passes	A statement giving the required information was laid on the table in reply to Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani's Starred Question No. 7 in the Legislative Assembly on 14th September 1942.	
Education of children	State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, Chapter XI.	
Transport facilities on transfer.	State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, Chapter II, Section IV.	Nil.
Free Housing Accommodation.	State Railway Code for the Engineering Department, Chapter XIX.	
Medical Attendance	State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, Chapter IX.	

Information regarding other privileges, such as Travelling allowances Compensatory allowances, Leave, Provident Fund (including special contribution) and gratuity, will be found in the State Railway Establishment Code.

CONSOLIDATED ALLOWANCE TO SPECIAL TICKET EXAMINERS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY AND TO TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

46. Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the consolidated allowance paid to the Special Ticket Examiners on the North Western Railway and to the Travelling Ticket Examiners on the East Indian Railway forms part of their pay; if not, what the fact is;

(b) if it is a fact that the said allowance is calculated on 25 days' average working in a month and daily allowance at the rate of Re. 1 per day; if not, what the fact is on both these two Railways respectively;

(c) if it is a fact that the daily allowance rate of Re. 1 per day has, with effect from the 1st March, 1944, been increased by 50 per cent., that is instead of Re. 1, it has now been fixed at Re. 1-8 per day, if not, what the fact is; and

(d) if the Central Government have also increased the consolidated allowance of those staff by 50 per cent.; if not, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No. Travelling allowance is not in the nature of pay.

(b) No. The sanctioning of consolidated travelling allowance is within the competence of General Managers subject mainly to the following conditions:—

(i) No such allowances shall be granted unless the Railway servant has to be absent from his headquarters on duty for more than 20 days in a month on the average.

(ii) The allowance must be so fixed as not to be a source of profit and shall be so calculated as to be equivalent as far as possible to the travelling allowance admissible under the Rules if consolidated travelling allowance were not granted.

(c) The reply is in the affirmative.

(d) The Railway Department have increased the consolidated travelling allowance by 25 per cent. in conformity with that allowed to other Central Government Servants.

LUGGAGE GUARDS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

47. Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

- the scales of pay of the Luggage Guards on the North Western Railway;
- their sanctioned and actual strength in each stage of the scales of pay;
- their method of recruitment and procedure of promotion from one stage to another of the time scales of pay;
- their distribution into Headquarters; and
- the comparative scales of pay on the other State-managed Railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) There are no separate scales of pay for Luggage Guards. They are, as a general rule, Gurds—Grade II, whose scale of pay is Rs. 40-3-52-4-60-8-68 (old)/30-5-50-5/2-60 (Revised); but those in higher grades are also employed as Luggage Guards in the exigencies of the service.

(b) According to the information available with the Government, the position in November 1944 was as follows:—

Scale of pay	Sanctioned strength.	Actuals.
Rs. 75—5—105—10—115 (old)		
Rs. 100—10/2—120		
65—5/2—85 (New)		
Rs. 40—3—52—4—60—8—68 (old)	1	16
Rs. 30—5—50—5/2—60 (new)	104	89

(c) The method of direct recruitment of Guards is given in Appendix II to the State Railway Establishment Code, Vol. I, a copy of which is in Library of the House. A certain percentage of the vacancies in this category is filled by the promotion of staff in other categories, and Guards who fail in the vision tests are also eligible for absorption as Luggage Guards. The grant of increments from one stage to another of a time-scale of pay is governed by Rule 2020 of State Railway Establishment Code, Vol. II.

(d) The information is given below:

Headquarters.	Number of Luggage Guards.
Bhatinda	11
Ambala	7
Bahawalnagar	3
Karachi	7
Kotri	6
Rohri	4
Lyallpur	4
Multan	4
Samasatta	4
Khanewal	7
Rawalpindi	2
Lahore	14
Saharanpur	26
	10

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

NON-AVAILABILITY OF MOTOR VANS FOR MEMBERS OF CENTRAL LEGISLATURE

48. Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that, if and when a Member of the Central Legislature desired to transport his Motor Car by rail to and from Delhi, he was never provided with the Motor Van during the preceding year; if not so, what the fact is;

(b) if it is a fact that Motor Vans are only supplied to those Government officials who are transferred from one station to the other permanently, if not so, what the fact is; and

(c) whether Government now propose to provide the Honourable Members of the Central Legislature with Motor Vans for the transport of Motor Cars, if and when desired; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:—(a) No. Many movements of motor cars to and from Delhi have been arranged on the requests of Members of the Central Legislature to Priority Officers of the War Transport Department.

(b) No. Regional Controllers of Railway Priorities have instructed Railways in their regions to move Government motor cars and motor cars which are the property of officers on transfer, but in addition other movements are made under specific orders of the Regional Controllers of Railway Priorities.

(c) Instructions have been issued to Regional Controllers of Railway Priorities that on receipt of applications from Honourable Members of the Central Legislature they are to arrange the movement of Motor Cars which are the property of Honourable Members, to and from Delhi. Ordinarily the movement will be for one return journey of one motor car per Honourable Member on the occasion of each session of the Legislature.

RESOLUTION RE. NATIONAL WAR FRONT—concl'd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan on the 17th November, 1944, and not concluded on the 9th February, 1945:

"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 Organisation."

Mr. Sami Vencatacheiam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): Sir, I would conclude my remarks by merely making a suggestion to the Government that the fogeys and the flunkies in this Department might be replaced by persons more patriotic. But I quite realise that the present Government situated as it is would be unable to secure such patriotic men, but I think it must make a very honest attempt if the National War Front should be successful to further the cause of the war against the enemies and further the cause of the country.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): Sir, this Resolution was adjourned to enable the Government to come to a decision and it was stated by the Honourable the Leader of the House that by the time the discussion was resumed, Government would be in a position to state their decisions on the question. I should like the Honourable Member who is in charge of this subject to get up and enlighten the House.

Mr. G. S. Bozman (Secretary, Department of Information and Broadcasting): There are some other Honourable Members who would like to speak.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: This is the third day on which this Resolution is coming up for discussion. I submit further discussion would be more relevant to the point if the Government were to state their position at this stage. We do not yet know what the Government position is. This is why it was adjourned last time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not know whether this discussion was adjourned last time to enable the Government to come to a decision.

Mr. G. S. Bozman: I understand that the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting said that he would be in a position to make a statement at a later date, early in March, but I do not think that he thereby wished to shut out other Members who wished to speak.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The discussion will now proceed on the Resolution.

Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. President. With your permission, Sir, I propose to give a very brief account of the activities of the National War Front in Bombay Province. The National War Front was inaugurated in Bombay on the 16th May, 1942, and was organised as a non-official and non-political body. Bombay city was divided into a number of divisions, each of which was placed in charge of a Director, and in the Mofussil District and Taluka Leaders and their helpers were appointed. The main objects of the National War Front were to stiffen the will of the people to resist aggression, to counteract enemy propaganda and every other defeatist influence, and to rally in an intensified and organised manner the people of the province into a body united in their determination to win the war. The National War Front did a good deal of work to keep people calm and at their work during the days of panic.

After the tide turned, it applied its energies to constructive work and carried on several campaigns and activities such as Recruitment Propaganda, the Grow-More-Food Campaign, the Savings Drive, the Controls Campaign, the Village Defence Parties, War Services and Agricultural Exhibitions, School Propaganda, Propaganda by and amongst women, Course of Studies in International Relationship for high schools and college teachers, and observance of special occasions such as Tunisia Day, the United Nations Day, Russia Day, Armistice Day and the Anniversaries of the war.

Now, Sir, with your permission I shall just say one word as regards the most important activities. The National War Front carried on vigorous propaganda for recruitment both to the Technical and Defence services. The Propaganda Vans constantly toured in the Districts. People have joined the army because they believe in the cause and because they have been persuaded by an organisation like the National War Front to do so. I strongly deprecate the statements to the effect that recruits have come forward from mercenary motives.

The Grow-More-Food Campaign has been one of the outstanding activities of the National War Front since its inception. This campaign has covered various aspects such as growing vegetables in gardens, the utilisation of vacant plots, the distribution of seeds, and the holding of conferences to discuss the food situation. The workers of the Front have brought the grievances of the people as regards food supply and distribution to the notice of the Authorities. At the time of the Floods in 1944 the workers of the Front did their utmost to relieve the distress and sufferings of the people.

The Savings Drive also has been an important activity. Talks were given through the loud-speaker system of the Bombay War Publicity Committee, and were also broadcast from the Bombay station of the All-India Radio; and advertisements were inserted in the local newspapers which have a wide circulation among the classes for whom the appeal to spend less was specially intended. In Bombay Province the Savings Drive has been conducted by persuasion and not by the exercise of force and pressure and improper methods. Personally I think that every endeavour should be made to promote small savings which affect the middle and the poorer classes of the population. The Savings Drive was specially intensified during the recent National Savings Fortnight. During that Fortnight the Bombay Province subscribed about a crore of rupees to the National Savings Certificates.

In the city as well as in the Districts the workers of the Front explain the various Control orders, and advise the people to ascertain the controlled prices of articles before purchasing them, and to bring to the notice of the Authorities any infringement of the Control orders and thus help to smash the Black Market.

The Village Defence Parties help to extinguish fires, to assist the police in tracing thieves, to assist the Authorities in the equitable distribution of food-stuffs, to assist the villagers in securing medical aid and in the work of village sanitation, and to educate the poor, destitute illiterate rural masses.

One of the special features of the National War Front in Bombay Province is the inauguration by the Provincial Leader of the Course of Studies in International Relationship for high schools and college teachers. The object of this course is to give to the teachers and through them to the student world and the public generally a balanced background for a clear understanding of the issues underlying the present war, and the manner in which they affect the nations of the world in general and India in particular. Lectures on International topics such as Germany and Nazism, Italy and Fascism, the four freedoms, India's place in the new world order, etc., and are delivered by Authorities on International subjects.

I think it is right that I should refer to the very valuable services which the Provincial Leader, Sir Rustom Masani, has rendered to the National War Front. He has been a bulwark of strength to the National War Front Organisation. He is a man of great independence, a gentleman of the highest probity, and possesses great organising powers; and his value to the National War Front has been tremendous.

Sir, I think it is a great pity that in other Provinces Officials were appointed Leaders of the National War Front. In some Provinces with a view to gaining the favours of the Officials the workers of the Front resorted to nefarious methods. That has certainly laid the National War Front open to criticisms of all kinds.

Sir, as regards the expenditure on printing, posters, and advertisements, I would point out that what was necessary in the early days is not now wanted. I think a good deal of expenditure on that account can now be reduced.

The expenditure on account of the National War Front in Bombay Province was Rs. 2,63,000 during 1942-43, Rs. 2,36,000 during 1943-44, and Rs. 2,28,000, up to the 31st December, 1944, during 1944-45—that is, Rs. 7,27,000 in all. Sir, I submit that the results of the working of the National War Front in the Bombay Province are commensurate with the expenditure, and I am of the opinion that the war effort should still be sustained. So I strongly support the continuance of the National War Front.

In conclusion, I can truthfully assure this Honourable House that everything that can be done has been done in the Bombay Province to so build the National War Front that we can honestly spell it with capital letters—in other words, everything has been done to secure a united determination transcending all racial, religious, and political differences to strengthen the war resistance of the people.

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, this National War Front consists of two ideas: National and War Front. I can speak from my personal experience that it is neither national nor has it anything to do with war, or its front. Nothing is being done to maintain the morale of the people. During the last Ministry of Orissa, for the formation of which I was mainly responsible, at the request of the then Premier I accepted the duty of working for the organisation, as its chief. I do not want to go into details. I found that it was meant to be a non-official organisation, which it ostensibly was, but only 'safe' non-officials were wanted, and real non-officials were discarded. If real non-officials offered to serve on this organisation, they were not accepted. It came to such a pitch that within a few months of its inception, I, being a non-official myself, had to sever all connection with it by tendering

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my resignation publicly. In the resignation I stated that so long as this mentality prevails in this organisation, people like myself cannot serve on it. To describe this organisation in one word—and here I only speak with regard to its working in the Province of Orissa; I cannot say about other provinces—it may be called 'a nuisance'.

We have heard of the Savings Drive, the Grow More Food Campaign, and many other such campaigns in which this organisation is engaged during these days, and as everybody knows—people may not speak out, but they know it—our organisation of food, civil supplies, grow more food organisation are replete with corruption and bribery. When officials indulge in it, you have got some remedy, you can bring their case to the notice of higher authorities, and personally I do not think that higher authorities everywhere are either themselves indulging in these things or permitting them. At least there is some way open to bring them to book, but in the case of non-officials—all street boys and young men—what can you do? They create panic among the people, they threaten the people by saying, 'Do this and do that, otherwise you will be punished under the Defence of India Rules'. They create panic and prepare the ground for all sorts of corruption—at least that is what is happening in my province. The propaganda van is moving and I know that some people if they were otherwise war-minded, they are now non-war-minded only on account of this war front propaganda.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): What about other catches—drinking and dancing?

Pandit Nilakantha Das: My people fortunately are not addicted to drinks, but all the same, perhaps the idea proceeds from the Centre, dancing parties are organised. Sometimes when I go out I find arrangements being made for holding dance parties. I ask on occasion and I am told that the National War Front has organised dancing parties and the singers are to sing for the "Fifteen days saving drive" or some such thing. Things like that happen of course, but I do not know whether any drinks are also served. Perhaps I cannot speak with authority, because I am not in close touch with this organisation.

Sir, I do not propose to take much time of the House. I am definitely of the opinion that if this organisation must continue to help the Government in their Grow More Food campaign, or procurements, or in connection with their Savings Drive, let it be official. Don't you have this non-official organisation to protect your officers indirectly against charges of corruption. I appeal to the Government that if they want this National War Front and if they want to make people war-minded, they should not adopt such means which only result in making the people panicky and the officers corrupt.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, as I listened to the long discussion on the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, I felt that two facts emerge from this discussion. The first is, in my opinion—and I hope I am not doing my Honourable friend a wrong—that the Honourable Mover moved this Resolution because he was offended, or he disapproved of the activities of the National War Front in a certain province, and that he felt that, in one particular province at least, the activities or the resources of this organisation had been used to further causes which should not have had the support of this organisation. Secondly, Sir, I felt that after the Honourable Member in charge of the organisation had given him assurances or made certain remarks, the Honourable the Mover of this Resolution was practically convinced and that he was very halfhearted about continuing this discussion. I feel that at that time it was not he who wanted prolonged discussion and urged the immediate ending of the National War Front, but that he was more or less coerced into it by his neighbours or by the people who sat round about him. Therefore he was forced to allow the discussion to be carried on and did not withdraw his Resolution. But that is certainly, Sir,

my feeling as I listened to the debate. At all events, whether this discussion has done any good, it has done one thing. It is that this Resolution has provided an opportunity to a very large number of Honourable Members to criticise the National War Front and some have criticised it vehemently. A few from this side, who are not very vocal ordinarily, have supported it.

Now, Sir, I assure you that I have never held office in the National War Front nor has anyone held office in it in whom I am particularly interested. I am not here to recount the work done by the National War Front, because others have done it and probably they were better fitted to do so. I am not here to criticise because the amount of criticism leveled on this organisation has already been tremendous. There has been a flood of criticism and I feel that I have tried to listen in a dispassionate manner. I have tried to weigh the arguments on both sides and I have come to this conclusion that enough has been said to show us that the organisation needs reform. The criticism which has been levelled on it has been, I am sorry to say, in some cases in language extremely violent or at any rate vastly exaggerated. At any rate the speakers have made out a case for a certain amount of reform in this organisation and that is always good. Criticism of an organisation is good and this criticism has been probably taken note of by those who are responsible for the National War Front. But, Sir, the Honourable Members who have spoken in favour of the Resolution have not asked for reform. They have not asked for the betterment of the organisation. They want to scrap it lock, stock and barrel. As a practical man and unbiassed in this matter I feel that the case for reform and improvement is a very strong one while the case for its immediate ending and its suspension lock, stock and barrel on the other side is very weak and my reasons are two.

Firstly, so long as there is a war on and so long as we believe that this war is a righteous one, and that it must be fought out and won, it is absolutely impossible to carry on a war of this kind efficiently unless there is a strong organisation at the home front. I consider Sir, that there is no nation engaged in this war which has not such an organisation and I also am convinced that the war, if it is to be won speedily and completely, must have a strong and efficient home organisation and that the National War Front, whatever its faults and deficiencies may be, is the only substitute in this country for the home front. It does propaganda. It does a number of things to keep up the morale in this country. My friend, the Honourable Sir Cowasjee Jehangir had his finger on the pulse when he said that he gave cent per cent support to the war front because he gave the war cent per cent support. I am in the same position. I am not ashamed of giving wholehearted support to the war effort. As long as we are of this mind—and I do not know if anybody in this House is not of this mind—so far as they have expressed their opinions, this organisation ought to continue.

Secondly, not only is it necessary while the war lasts, but it is also necessary as an efficient organisation for useful and constructive propaganda even after the war. In a country like India, the value of correct propaganda the value of an organisation of this kind cannot be overestimated. In a country where so large a population is illiterate, in a country where so many millions live in villages and where they do not have any opportunity of education, or of acquiring public knowledge this is just the kind of organisation which can be used with great efficiency, even after the war. I will take just one instance.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): As a preparation for the next war!

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: I hope there will not be one—at least not in your and my life time!

I will proceed by saying let us take the hopes we have of universal education in this country. Even a thing like that needs a tremendous amount of propaganda and education of the public and this is an organisation which can freely be used for that purpose. It has been said that it is the last refuge of certain

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people who according to a man like Dr. Johnson are described as taking refuge in patriotism. I do not think there is anything to be ashamed of, if it is said that this organisation has done nothing better than give employment to a large number of people who, according to an Honourable Member, were only half-clad I feel, Sir, that it provides a preparation for such people so that they may be used later on in constructive work.

I do not wish to go on very long but I would make this one appeal, that while I say that a great deal of reform is necessary, which I admit that there has been probably a good deal of misdirection of funds or energy, the organisation is capable of improvement, and I am surprised that out of all the people who have tried in some cases to court contempt on it, and of others who have tried to make it into a laughing-stock, not one constructive suggestion has been forthcoming as to how to improve it.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: That is left for you.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: I will try to make some as I go along.

At all events we must realise that this is an imperfect world. This country is not an Utopia. There is no organisation which can be completely perfect. Do my Honourable friends claim that when at one time another organisation made great efforts to build up a swaraj fund or to raise a Khilafat fund there was no misdirection of funds and no evils? Yet did we condemn those organisations merely because there were a certain number of black sheep in it or misuse of money? I say the position is exactly the same in this case. Let us try to be constructive. There is no city in the world where this truth is borne out by the study of history as in the case of Delhi. In the cities of Delhi, the Persian proverb which says—

"Har keh amad, imarat-i-nau Sakht."

"Whoever came, built a new edifice."

—has been fully illustrated and it has also been illustrated in all the ruins that lie around that the value of a constructive programme is much greater than that of a destructive programme. If all the powers that followed one after another had not tried to destroy the other, and not tried to dig up the foundations of buildings which others built, Delhi would have been a greater and grander city. I feel therefore that it is of no value to try to scrap a useful organisation, an organisation which has great potentialities for good, but that we should try and continue and reform it and use it for useful purposes during the war and after the war for which it is admirably fitted.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Sir, this debate has gone on for a day and a half which is quite an unusual thing for a Resolution. The debate was carried on to the 2nd of March to enable the Government to make up their minds as to what they are going to do about this so-called National War Front. We hoped that when the debate opened this morning the Honourable Mr. Bozman would come out with a statement. Surely the Government of India know the mind of the people on this question. Surely they know that the vast majority of the people in this country have nothing but contempt for this National War Front, which has been set up by an irresponsible Government. We thought that the Government would come out with some sort of statement, but as usual they have remained as unresponsive as they have always been to popular wishes and popular feelings.

Now what is this National War Front? The Government of India seems to be very much in love with the word "National". Ever since the war began the word "National" is being used by the Government of India times out of number, for instance with regard to the National War Front and then with regard to the National Defence Council. Now what is the National Defence Council? For the North-West Frontier Province, to which I have the honour to belong, a paid Government servant is representing that Province on the National Defence Council.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member would do well to leave alone the National Defence Council.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: It is not doing any useful work in my opinion and it is only a waste of money. But as far as the National War Front is concerned, after all if the Government of India are so much in love with the word "National", they should have consulted this nation when the war began. They should have come to the elected representatives of the people and asked them before declaring war against Germany and Japan whether India wanted to be in this war or not. Then you would have seen some response from the people of this country. But you did not trust the people of this country. The way you have been governing this country, the way you have been stifling our industries, the way you have been robbing us for years and years on end and the latest Budget is another robbery, one of the many robberies which have preceded it

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member should confine himself to the subject of the Resolution.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: The Government of India did not consult Indian opinion when the war began. They would have all sorts of national organisations but the one thing which they hate and dread is a National Government representing the wishes and feelings of the people of this country. These organisations are meant only to throw dust into the eyes of other countries like Russia and the United States of America, countries whose people have a sympathy with the cause of Indian freedom. A very large amount of money is being lavished, and is being squandered, by agencies of the Government of India and the British Government to misrepresent this country in other countries.

I will now come to the objects for which this National War Front Organisation was set up. It was set up on a very bad day indeed, on the 11th of March, 1942. This organisation started its career with the blessings of His Excellency the Viceroy and I cannot do better than quote a few sentence from his speech in order to show whether in the two and a half or three years during which this organisation has been in existence, it has at all been able to achieve the objects for which it was brought into existence. This is what the Viceroy said:

"The object is to do every thing possible to help and maintain public morale, that is to say to strengthen the war resistance of the people to eradicate all attempts to undermine it and, in particular, to counteract fifth column activities of all kinds, including specially all talk, (and the next word is very important) thought, writings or rumours likely to produce a defeatist mentality, to inculcate faith, courage and endurance and to consolidate the national will to offer united resistance to Nazism and Fascism in every shape or form."

Now these are the high-sounding words with which this organisation was brought into existence. In the first year of its existence, in the year 1942-43 33 lakhs and 26,000 rupees were spent on this organisation. In the year 1943-44 something like 45 lakhs was spent on this organisation and the expense has gone on mounting and mounting and even in the present Budget provision has been made for this organisation. Have the Government inspired a hope in the Opposition that they were going to improve or modify or extinguish it? Nothing of the kind has been done.

Let us see how this organisation functions in the Provinces. The Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting, answering a question on the 10th November, 1943, in this House (I think it was a question by my Honourable colleague Mr. Azhar Ali) stated that the Provincial organisations are more or less independent of the Central organisation and that it was not the intention of the Government of India that this organisation should be used for party politics. Let us see how this intention has worked out in practice. I can say this much from my experience of this so called National War Front in my Province. This National War Front organisation was not being so much used against the Axis powers, namely, Germany, Italy and Japan, as against the popular parties in the Province: this machine was directed against the political parties. The people recruited to this organisation are absolutely useless people and I can say that without fear of contradiction. They are paid agents of the Government of India and fifth columnists of the nation, a majority of them, and they have been recruited to run this organisation against the popular parties, the Indian

[Mr. Abdul Qaiyum.]

National Congress, the Muslim League and other organisations. It has not been so much used in order to further the war against Japan, Germany and Italy. This is the use to which it has been put: and the complaints from the Province of Punjab have been very loud and frequent that the National War Front organisation has been used in that province for collecting funds and for purely party purposes. But the Government are silent, because, in the Punjab they have a Government which is to their liking, a Government which will obey any command given to them. Therefore the National War Front in the Province has been allowed

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin (Punjab: Landholders) On a point of order, Sir, is the Honourable Member justified in criticising a Government which is functioning with the support of the people and is responsible to the Legislature?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: If that is really a point of order, it would stifle all criticism of the Punjab Government and that Government will be in office for ever and ever.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot criticise any Government of a Province.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Sir, I was dealing with the National War Front. I was saying that the complaints were loud and frequent from the Punjab against the abuse of that organisation. If my friend Mr. Ghiasuddin who raised this pointless point of order had taken the trouble of reading the newspapers

Mr. Ghiasuddin: My point of order has been upheld by the Chair.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I will say something about the manner in which the work of this organisation is being conducted. The various methods adopted by this organisation are the following—advertising, publishing something which they are pleased to call literature, meetings, war services exhibition and propaganda vans. I know, that as far as these meetings are concerned, it is a well known fact that very few people take the trouble of attending the meetings which are organised by the National War Front organisation and even those who take the trouble of attending these meetings receive some kind of remuneration for attending them. It is really an irony of fate that while millions of people were starving in Bengal, because adequate transport could not be found for carrying food to areas where men, women and children were starving for want of food, the Government of India should squander the taxpayers' money by handing over as many as 50 motor vans fitted with cinema projectors to enable this organisation to carry on warfare against popular parties in the country. I consider the handing over of 50 motor vans to this organisation as a scandalous waste of public money. Those vans could have been much more effectively employed in Bengal to carry food to the areas where millions of our people were starving for want of food, which was the direct result of the wrong policy of the Government of India when their transport system collapsed and failed to cope with the situation. This was the scandalous way in which public money was squandered.

Now, Sir, one of the speakers who spoke last, I think it was Dr. Chatterjee, said that we must make some constructive suggestions to improve this organisation. Now, we, on this side of the House, believe that you can improve a thing in which there is some good, but if the entire organisation is rotten and does not deserve to exist for a single day, we would be wasting our time and energy and also the tax-payers' money by suggesting improvements for keeping alive an organisation of that kind. The Honourable Member quoted a Persian couplet referring to the ruins of Delhi. He said:

"Har keh amad imarat-i-nau Sakht."

I assure him that we on this side would like to add one more ruin to the numerous ruins which exist in Imperial Delhi, and this will be the ruin of the National War Front Organisation. We are not going to allow this criminal

waste of people's money for bolstering up an organisation which is heartily disliked by the people.

Now I want to say something about the majority of the people who are in this organisation. The Britishers in India may flatter themselves thinking, here is a set of Indians who will be loyal to us at any cost, but I have some experience of them, and I assure the Britishers that the majority of them will flatter and fall at the feet of any Government which is established in this country, whether it is British or otherwise. When the Congress Government was functioning in my province, some of these people vied with one another in flattering and dancing attendance on the Ministers for getting personal favours. These gentlemen have developed the art of making money into a fine art. They will deal with any Government which is in power in this country. It is not a fact that they have any liking for the British people or that they believe that the war which is being waged by Great Britain is a war for democracy. Their only interest is to make money, and if there is any other Government which can forcibly take people's money and keep these parasites employed and well provided for, they will be even more anxious to support that Government. Therefore, do not think that there is a body of people in this country who have some regard for the so-called high-sounding principles for which you say you are fighting for.

I am going to conclude my speech. I demand from the Government of India that this useless and rotten organisation, which means a scandalous waste of tax-payer's money should not be allowed to survive one day longer. This is the demand from this side, and I hope that the Government of India will bow its head before this demand. Sir, I support the motion.

Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, the Mover of this Resolution has demanded the abolition of the National War Front Organisation. According to him, firstly, the danger of war is receding from the borders of India; secondly, the organisation is not serving the purpose for which it was established; thirdly, the organisation is being misused; and, fourthly, money is wasted. Does the Honourable Member realise that the war in the Far East is yet to begin?

An Honourable Member: It has begun.

Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh: As soon as the European War is over, all the forces of the United Nations will be used to fight Japan. In that case India is bound to be used as a base, and the National War Front Organisation is essential to help the United Forces which will be operating from this country.

Now, I want to tell this Honourable House what the National War Front Organisation is doing in the Punjab. During the last four months the National War Front has been responsible for arranging 2280 meetings, and has given its active support to recruiting; to publicity for civil supplies, and to the Red Cross, to the Small Savings Scheme, to the W. V. S., and W. A. C. (I.), and to the Central Government's publicity for Travel less, Grow More Food, Security, Propaganda against Japan, and similar campaigns.

It would be a most serious blow to war publicity and a complete breach of faith with our non-official workers at this stage and before the war is over to abandon the National War Front. If the work is unsatisfactory in other provinces than it is for the Central Government and for the Provincial Governments concerned to improve their organisations. Where the organisation has been a success and originally started at the express request of the Central Government, the only reason for stopping the work can be the end of the war with Japan.

It has been said that the National War Front workers are getting money out of the National War Front. This is absolutely wrong. Our Provincial Leader Lt. Col. Sir Khizr Hyat Khan has not drawn even a single anna from the National War Front funds. I myself am District Leader, Rohtak District,

[Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh.]

and I know there are 38 District Leaders and 8 District Secretaries not drawing a single pie from the National War Front by way of honorarium or remuneration. I may tell the House it is very easy to say that they are drawing monies and have become rich, and this and that, but it is all absolutely wrong. In the Punjab this organisation is doing very useful work, very very useful work and I know that my neighbouring Province, Delhi, is doing very well. I have heard speeches from my Honourable friends, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta and Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, that their provinces are doing well too. Then as I have said, if any province is not doing well, it should be corrected or improved. I say if this organisation is abolished at this stage, there will be a great loss. With these words I oppose the Resolution.

Mr. G. S. Bozman: Sir, I must open my remarks with an expression of regret that the Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed is not able to be here to reply to this Resolution himself. That regret will, I believe, be shared by the House, not only of course, from their point of view, because of Sir Sultan Ahmed's indisposition, but because unfortunately I now have to inflict myself upon them. I should also say a word in explanation in regard to the remarks made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum. I fear that there must have been some misunderstanding and had I been in a position to put that position in which he finds himself right, I should have been very glad to do so.

Now, from the various speeches that have been made on this Resolution, I think there is a certain amount of misunderstanding and misinformation about the functions and objectives of the National War Front. Statements have been made by Members of this House coming from individual provinces as to how the front is working in their provinces. We have to speak of the War Front as viewed from the Centre, and I hope that the facts that I place before the House now will help Members to arrive at a correct and unbiased conclusion. It is not surprising perhaps that there is some misinformation about this organisation. It is not the business of a publicity organisation to publicise itself. The National War Front was started early in 1942 shortly after Japan entered the war and won a series of startling victories. The situation which then arose called for a quick remedy. The Japanese were almost at the gates of India; their ships appeared in Indian waters, and we seemed to lie at the mercy of their air arm. Certain cities in Eastern India were evacuated by nervous citizens; food stuffs and other civil supplies went underground, and even currency coins began to be hoarded very much to the detriment of the country's economy. It was therefore imperative to restore confidence as speedily as possible, not only for the sake of the country's war effort but also for the day to day life and welfare of the people. In these circumstances Government felt that steps should be taken immediately to mobilise public opinion and forestall a lowering of morale. They also felt that this purpose would best be achieved by an organisation which would appeal to the popular imagination, which would do everything possible to maintain public morale, counteract defeatism and rumours and to inculcate—as His Excellency the Viceroy said—faith, courage and endurance, and to stimulate generally the will to resist all aggressors. What was required was the organisation of a body of men of good will who would subscribe to its objects and pledge themselves to do their utmost to give effect to them. Non-official men and women of public spirit and influence, as well as trade unions and other groups who were willing to identify themselves with these objectives were welcome and could join. Thus the National War Front came into existence. Each Provincial Government was asked to organise a Provincial National War Front on a purely provincial basis, and the Central Government confined itself to maintaining a Central office whose function was to advise and co-ordinate provincial fronts and to supply them with information and material as necessary to enable them to carry out their activities; and I would like to emphasise that although provincial activities were substantially subsidised from the Centre, in the provincial sphere each Provincial National War Front has enjoyed complete autonomy. That is how the national war front originated. Its chief function has been to build up correct understanding of the war and to arouse and maintain the right type of

war-mindedness and morale. Understanding must be created by an appeal to facts and reason, showing that rumour is demonstrably false, and morale cannot be maintained by mere propaganda unless it is backed by a realisation of the issues at stake; and such understanding had to be created among lakhs and crores of human beings; not only among the citizens of towns, who have also the benefit of other aids to understanding such as newspapers, radio and the cinema; but also among the inhabitants of the rural areas whose facilities for keeping in touch with the course of events, not only in the world but in their own country are somewhat limited; and this was exactly how these many public spirited non-official men and women ran it, and carried out with great success, under most difficult conditions, the work of dispelling rumour and panic. They rendered a most valuable service at a time of the greatest emergency and stress—not to say the greatest crisis—that India has ever faced. I would like to pay a sincere tribute to these patriotic and energetic non-officials who undertook the initial direction of this organisation and to the thousands of other patriotic workers drawn from all walks of life and from every community who carried it on. India, I believe, should be grateful to them for the part they played in restoring normal conditions, often at very considerable cost to themselves.

Now that period to which I have referred seems already remote. The war is now contained within steadily narrowing margins, thanks to the matchless war efforts of the United Nations in which India has played so gallant a part. This has taken time. After we had withstood the first shock of the war, there was a time when nothing startling seemed to happen—a time of marshalling our strength, a time of mobilising all our resources. The national war front, as the only field publicity organisation in the country, had an important part to play during this period also, in attempting to maintain the country's morale when victory seemed far and uncertain, and inculcating faith, courage and endurance in the tasks which lay ahead. It has been alleged that the national war front has dabbled in politics. Well, there may have been a few—but I would emphasise the word 'few'—cases where individuals confused the objectives and the mission for which they were working. In such a widespread organisation of such recent and rapid growth I conceive it to be impossible to secure a 100 per cent. understanding of the objectives and a 100 per cent. discipline. But I can most definitely affirm and assure the House that the national war front's policy has always been and is to keep out of party politics, and I do not think the stray case of a few individuals in this enormous organisation should be sufficient to condemn the whole.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Has any action been taken against these individuals?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: Some rather strange remarks have been made in the course of the debate as to the work carried out by the national war front. It has been alleged for one thing that most of the literature produced by the national war front is in English. This I regard as a very curious charge. The chief medium of the whole organisation is the spoken word and I cannot imagine an organisation functioning at all throughout India, unless the spoken word was in the language of the area. It is true of course that the material issued from the Centre has been in English; but that material is meant either for the guidance of the speakers or is sent to the provincial units to be translated into their local languages, and this in fact is exactly what the provincial organisations have done. It has also been stated that no recruits have come in because

of the National War Front. Well, Sir, the National War Front is not a recruiting organisation and recruiting as such is not its business. But if it is implied that the efforts of the National War Front to inculcate faith and courage and the will to meet aggression have not helped recruitment, directly and indirectly, then I think I must correct that impression. Many young men, after attending the National War Front rally, have voluntarily stepped forward and joined the ranks of India's fighting men and this has been a feature of the meetings particularly in the Punjab, where the working of the Front has been an outstanding success.

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Some of my Honourable friends have also given an impression that money has been spent recklessly. Well, Sir, if you consider the widespread nature of this work, I think I can say without hesitation that its cost is cheap by any standard. The Centre spends about one pice per head per annum. Compared with the money spent on publicity by the Governments in the United Kingdom or the United States of America, the expenditure in India is microscopic. I would just give one instance, if I may, and this will also refute the charge that the National War Front is subsidising newspapers by placing advertisements with them. Advertising is, of course, an important medium of publicity used for its obvious merit by all Governments. British newspapers have no need to be subsidised and I think they would scorn such a proposal with contempt. I have no reason to believe that Indian newspapers would adopt any different attitude; but the British Government have spent on advertising alone, which is only a small part of Government's publicity work, on an average 14 annas per head per war year. The Government of India's annual expenditure on all its publicity, including the National War Front, All-India Radio, advertising, films and so on is about 3½ pice per head per war year.

An Honourable Member: What is the income per head?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: There are also one or two smaller matters to which I might refer. My Honourable friend Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan said in his speech in November that the National War Front was a useful organisation when it started but he expressed the belief that, now that the country is united, there is no need for such an organisation. Well, Sir, I wish I could subscribe to that view but I cannot. There is very much stern work ahead before the war is won and I think we should be doing wrong if we relaxed our efforts to help the war one jot. I should also say that I noted that Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan said that recruiting had stopped. That seemed to me a curious statement. Recruiting has not stopped and I think that we are proud that there are still many places in all branches of the armed forces for which resolute and patriotic young men and women are competing.

Then Mr. Abdul Qaiyum in a diatribe, which to my mind seemed remarkable for its self-denigration, referred to motor vans being bought and used by the National War Front when there was no transport to provide food where it was wanted. I think he overlooked the fact that the vans bought by the National War Front were bought long before the famine either began or indeed made its first appearance.

Now, Sir, the speeches made by Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Mr. Ghiasuddin, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta and Sir Ratanji Dalal and others are, I think, a fair answer to the critics of the National War Front and I can assure these gentlemen that any publicity organisation of the Government of India will continue consistently to support all efforts and all individuals who stand for the destruction of Germany and Japan. But, Sir, with the change in the war situation from about the middle of last year and the steadily mounting offensive of the United Nations, there has been a shift of emphasis in India from the danger of invasion to the discomforts and restrictions of war life. The man who was at one time alarmed at the prospect of an air raid is now equally alarmed about his stocks of rice or his ability to clothe himself and his family; and directly arising out of the war have come these problems of scarcity of food, shortage of consumer goods, problems of inflation, problems of black market and the hoarders. For the solution of these problems, we believe that the same war morale needs to be maintained. The Government have had to initiate many measures such as the Grow More Food campaign, rationing, controls of all kinds, controls of transport, control of speculation, promotion of savings and so on. The success of these measures which are for the good of the people at large depends on the co-operation of everybody in the country. Here again arises that important need for building up understanding of how the problems have arisen and how the countermeasures can solve them, and above all understanding not only of the duties but of the rights of the people at large.

low, Sir, to get that understanding, we must exhort the people to grow more food. We must exhort them to save and invest. We must tell them what the controls are—controls of prices, controls of stocks. We must tell them what their approach should be when they suspect the black market or the hoarder. These publicity campaigns are, I venture to believe, of so non-controversial and so beneficial a character that public support should not and will not be withheld from them and I believe that the House will support them.

And from that I now come to the question of the future. As I have just said, there has come a shift of emphasis in India from the danger of invasion to the discomforts of war. What we want now is a publicity organisation to give information and instruction which would help to secure the co-operation of everyone in working the controls, the rationing system, smashing the black market, fighting inflation by savings, in short in dealing with all the problems which have arisen out of the war. With this change in requirements we believe it is necessary either to reorganise the National War Front or to replace it by a more suitable organisation. For nearly a year now, we have been considering this question and the Government of India have now decided in favour of the latter and I am in a position to announce the general outline of the new scheme. We propose to replace the National War Front by an official publicity organisation, essentially mobile in character and designed to reach the most inaccessible elements of the population. In each province, we suggest an organisation in three layers—the District Unit, the Regional Unit and the Provincial Unit. The District Unit will consist of a whole time paid organiser, a motor lorry equipped with a talkie film projector, a loud speaker, a gramophone, lantern slides and a singer.

An Honourable Member: Male or female?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Why not a dancer?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: They will come under the head non-official co-operators. Now, Sir the district units would be able to hold about 15 meetings a month. They will collect their audience from the adjoining villages and on the average, we think that a unit would cover the whole district in about three to four months. They would show films, broadcast radio programmes and arrange lectures, they would co-operate with small cattle fairs, they would organise exhibitions and they would organise singing and dramatic parties, in which some of my Honourable friends over there seem to be so interested.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: How would it help the war?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: They would also get the local notabilities to preside at meetings. Official organisations interested in anti-hoarding and profiteering measures, recruiting, small savings, controls, grow more food campaigns and so on, could use these media for their work. The intention is to make these performances sufficiently entertaining so as to provide some recreation to the villager and to attract large crowds and thus furnish excellent opportunities for publicity for war and the problems arising out of war. The district organiser in charge of the unit would work under the supervision of the district officer. The regional units would be almost entirely supervisory and their function would be to tour throughout and to make certain that the district units carry out and arrange programmes and function efficiently, and the regional units, if required would work under the divisional commissioners where divisions exist. The agency controlling district units would be provincial units and this, we propose should be a branch of the provincial publicity or other appropriate department under the Provincial Governments. These units would produce material in local languages, films of provincial interest and songs to suit local tastes, and also arrange for exhibitions in small towns. We suggested that these units should run refresher courses to train mobile units and should be assisted by a lady organiser for work and advice in connection with special work among women.

The existing organisation at the Centre would be replaced by a Field Publicity section of the Department of Information and Broadcasting. This would

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represent the appropriate counterparts of the sections in the Provincial units, i.e., the Production section, the Song Publicity Section, the Women's section and the Exhibition section. This Central organisation would supply publicity guidance, notes on All-India problems and literature to the Provincial Units but the Provinces would be free to adapt the material to their own needs. The Central organisation would also arrange for refresher courses for training the staff down to the level of Regional organisers. The cost of the scheme would be shared between the Centre and the Provinces in the ratio, it is proposed, of two-thirds to one-third for recurring expenditure and fifty-fifty for non-recurring expenditure.

This new scheme differs from the existing National War Front in two important respects. The basic approach to the people will be informative and factual rather than emotional or exhortatory and the staff will be paid by and work under direct Government supervision and control. While the primary task of the organisation will continue to be publicity of an educative nature for war and problems arising directly out of the war, there is nothing to prevent it from being utilised for nation-building activities such as instruction in co-operative credit, agriculture, cattle, health, education and Central and Provincial Government's reconstruction and development schemes. We have told the Provincial Governments quite clearly that we do not in the least wish to interfere with the publicity work, much of it of an excellent standard, which they themselves have been financing. And, I should like to explain here that if, on account of our proposed reorganisation, it becomes necessary for them to rearrange or reorganise their own work in any degree, we shall do all we can to afford them every assistance, through the new organisation, in furthering all kinds of war publicity.

The new organisation will be wholly, as I have said, under the administrative control of Provincial Governments. But that would not mean that contacts with non-officials which have proved so valuable in the past would be abandoned. The new organisation must rely a great deal on non-official co-operation, advice and assistance. We have suggested to the Provinces that for every District Unit there might be an advisory committee consisting of non-officials and officials concerned with war publicity. In addition, Provincial units could constitute with the Minister or the Adviser in charge of the Department concerned and with non-officials a similar committee for the whole Province. Here again, I should emphasise that any publicity for the war effort carried out by the Provinces themselves with the assistance of non-officials can certainly count on the fullest co-operation and assistance of the new organisation.

This, Sir, in broad outline is the new scheme. It proposes in effect to create a new highly mobile and disciplined body of workers whose basic approach to the many problems we have to face till the war is over, will be informative and factual. And, if incidentally they provide a little entertainment, a ray of cheer in the monotonous life of the village, I think there is no one who would object very much to it.

Now, Sir, I do not wish to take up much more time. I have placed all the facts before the House and I hope these facts would help it to reach an impartial conclusion. I have not claimed that the National War Front has reached that perfection which President Roosevelt recently characterised as unattainable. I have only shown how at a time of great emergency it rendered most valuable service, and how in the light of experience gained, it is proposed now to replace it by a more efficient instrument of public information and instruction. The new scheme is generally acceptable to the Provinces, subject to modification on points of detail. We are not insisting on absolute uniformity, and we have met or will meet Provinces on these points. One Province may decide finally to stand out of the scheme: if so we shall have no objection. One or two Provinces may decide to continue at their own cost non-official organisations comparable with the National War Front, but these will be separate from the new organisation and none of the finance will be provided by

the Central Government. Our thanks are due to the non-officials all over India who have done sterling honorary work. We hope that many of them will continue to help under the new scheme, and we know that in many Provinces they will do so.

After this explanation, Sir, I request my Honourable friend to consider whether it is necessary to press his Resolution.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore cum Trichinopoly Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I share the regret of my Honourable friend Mr. Bozman about the absence of the Honourable the Leader of the House who promised this House on the last occasion that he would suggest or rather outline the new proposals that he had drawn up in regard to the National War Front. We miss his militant eloquence. At the same time, we have had a fairly good story from Mr. Bozman in a style which was completely non-provocative, but Mr. Bozman's speech does not wholly cover what lies behind the whole scheme. Sir, when my Honourable friend Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan brought forward this Resolution, I felt that it ought to have been more comprehensive and that it should have included a request for the liquidation of the publicity section of the Department of Information and Broadcasting. Sir, the mischief does not lie in any particular phase of the activity of this publicity section, but in this publicity section itself; and today we have been told just now that the cloak will be taken off the National War Front and it will be amalgamated with the publicity section of the Information and Broadcasting Department. Sir, I have no desire to go over ground that has been trodden by previous speakers. It is no doubt a fact that in this House on my left there have been many speakers, honourable men, who have spoken of the wonderful work done by the National War Front in their own provinces. Sir, it is the curse of this country that there are in this country people, eminent, honourable and certainly not self-seeking, who feel that if the British leave this country they will be absolutely helpless and that they would not know where to turn for support and inspiration. Still, what we in this country probably want is an organisation which will teach the people of this country not to be afraid of freedom. I am afraid that if we ever are in a position to constitute that organisation, those gentlemen on my left who have spoken would be the persons who have to be educated against the fear of freedom.

Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Bozman has not chosen to deny the allegations against the National War Front. He said that cases of men who were engaged in this work and have gone off from the rails, were few. That itself is a good enough admission, so far as we are concerned. He has also told us about the history of this organisation, the very good intentions that surrounded it. Sir, we know that practically every new thing that is commenced in this country under the aegis of either the Secretary of State or the Government of India is surrounded by good intentions. It often happens, Sir, that when a proposal is made which indicates a concession to the demands of the people of this country there is a rider added to it which says that if the proposal was not acceptable to the people of the country generally it shall be then used to disintegrate them. Sir, I would refer to a letter written by the late Lord Birkenhead when he was Secretary of State, to the Viceroy of India at that time, which finds mention in his biography by his son where referring to the appointment of a Royal Commission to report on further constitutional reforms for India (which happened to be the Simon Commission) Lord Birkenhead has said: "Make this offer to the Swaraj Party; if they will not accept it put it on the bargain counter and use it to disintegrate them". Perhaps the genesis of this National War Front was also something on these lines. It was started undoubtedly at a time when perhaps the Government of India and their masters in England felt that something must be done to sustain public morale. Nobody in this House knows more of the then need to sustain public morale than I do, coming from Madras, having lived in Madras in April 1942, when the Government of Madras ran away lock, stock and barrel from Madras. It looked as if an organisation was needed to sustain the morale of Government rather than the morale of the people.

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.]

Be that as it may, we are now convinced, at any rate even by the partial admission of Mr. Bozman, that the utility of this organisation no longer exists; but we should here and now protest against any further use of that type of organisation in order to dissipate the morale of the people of this country and make them fight against any prospect of freedom that might be in store for them. Sir, it may be that there are gentlemen like my Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir engaged in this task, in the work of the National War Front; but for one Sir Cowasjee Jehangir I assert there are twelve people who are merely hirelings who have no interest either in the work of the National War Front, who have little interest in the continuance of the British Government in this country except as their paymasters, and who merely use that opportunity to malign the good people who are leaders of public opinion in this country.

Sir, I now come to the prospects of this new publicity organisation. A very responsible member of the Secretariat of this Government said in my presence—I shall repeat this for the benefit of my Honourable friend Sir Jeremy Raisman—that he felt that Government must undertake publicity of its own just because of the wilful and deliberate misrepresentation of the activities of Government carried on by the Indian owned newspapers of this country. It is not hearsay; let not my Honourable friend the Supply Member stare at me; it is a thing which I heard.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Supply Member): I am only endorsing that statement.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I thank my Honourable friend; I am always obliged for assistance that comes from quarters from which I least expect it.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Is not that a glimpse of the obvious?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I have no second sight, apparently my Honourable friend is blessed with it; I cannot glimpse the obvious, if any, in this case.

This is what it comes to. Government want to make use of this organisation for purposes of their own propaganda. And what is this propaganda that this Government want to do? If it is honest and fair propaganda, if it is propaganda that will benefit the people, naturally the people will not be averse to it and they will probably go even to the extent of putting themselves up to aid this Governmental machinery. But Government are seeking to entrench themselves behind their publicity organisation so that their own acts may be boosted to the people and any indication of cohesion amongst the people, any desire on the part of the people to win freedom for this country may be dissipated.

Sir, I heard in Madras some time back, or rather it was reported in the papers, that the chief executive of the National War Front in Madras—a gentleman who, if the normal laws of this country were in operation, would probably be found amongst the category of those people who have had no ostensible means of livelihood—that this National War Front, according to this gentleman, was going to become the National Peace Front organisation. Apparently that gentleman is more in the confidence of the Government of India than any Member of this House. And that is exactly the proposal that has been outlined to us. The various details given by the Honourable Member are very fascinating indeed. The fact that Government contemplate spending only 3½ pies per head of the population of this country which is just an infinitesimal thing, whereas the poor people would probably like to be given that 3½ pies in their hands rather than all the songs and dances that you can provide for entertaining and educating them. And that brings me again to where I started. The Resolution, I think, has been more or less accepted by the Government because they are ashamed of the continuance of the existence of the National War Front. But it does not matter very much if Government say, "We want this Resolution to be withdrawn". They have themselves accepted it because they do not want this National War Front organisation to continue in

that name. But it is the sequel to it that I object to. May I ask my Honourable friend who sponsored this new scheme whether the amount spent by the Government of India on this new publicity monster is going to be votable, or is it going also into the last column of the demands for grants in which case we have no chance of even expressing an opinion on this expenditure.

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

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. T. T. Krishnamachari: Mr. Deputy President. Resuming where I left. I would like this House to make the position very clear. It is not a question of the House expressing its disapproval of a particular organisation which is financed by the Government of India, and in the meantime the Honourable Member in charge just changes the name and says, "This organisation is to serve a different purpose altogether, the scope and nature of it will be changed, and therefore we would ask you to withdraw the Resolution". The House cannot be deceived by a change in the tactics of the Government in this manner. Granting, Sir, that there has been a change, I think it is time that the House expresses its categorical disapproval of any strengthening of the publicity organisation of the Government of India which could be for one main purpose, namely, to fight against the nationals of this country so that this present Government can remain entrenched where they are, their acts glorified and the people led to believe—which they would not believe in any instance—that this Government stands for them and for their ultimate good.

Sir, it has been suggested by my Honourable friend, Mr. Bozman, that this new organisation will act in encouraging the Grow More Food campaign, in helping rationing and things of that sort. May I not ask him whether the Provincial Governments are not competent to do their own propaganda in this manner, and whether those Governments that are responsible to the people would not be able to convince people that they are doing the right thing, and why should the Central finances at all be spent in this manner. Sir, I referred this morning to an attitude of the Government officers in the matter of the Press in this country. The whole scheme of the war which the United Nations are supposed to be fighting, as the House knows, is to curb the totalitarian spirit. The monster Propaganda has been the handmaiden of these totalitarian governments.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Here is a move to create another monster, a monster which will help to strengthen the position of the Government of India by means of propaganda and publicity. The House will not tolerate any copying of Goebbel's methods in order to strengthen this particular Government. I wish to make it clear, absolutely crystal clear, that the change in the front of the Government does not affect the issue. The National War Front remains, no matter by what name it is called, no matter whether non-officials shall not play such an important part in it as they did before and that it shall become a purely official organisation, so long as the Government of India are paying for this, so long as it is intended to boost the Government of India's actions, and I think that the House should make it very clear that the vote is not merely against the National War Front but against any organisation by whatever name or form in which it might re-appear on the scene. Sir, I support the motion.

Mr. Piare Lal Kureel (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I stand to oppose the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan. I oppose it on principle. Since the beginning of the war, I have been wholeheartedly co-operating with the British War efforts; not myself alone but the whole community, the community which I represent, is wholeheartedly co-

[Mr. Piare Lall Kureel.]

operating in the British war efforts, not only with men, but also with money and provision. I think the present war is a people's war; it is a war against the Fascist domination of the world; it is a war against the Fascist regime; it is a war against the oppression of the Nazi tyrants; it is a war in which we are vitally concerned, and therefore, I, on principle, cannot support this motion.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What about this Fascist Government?

Mr. Piare Lall Kureel: If we go back to the time when the National War Front was founded, we find that at that time the people in India were disorganised, there was chaos and confusion in the country and Congress members were not willing to co-operate with the British war effort. They were after creating all sorts of mischief; they were creating suspicion in the minds of the public; they were telling the people that they should not co-operate in this war.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: They were fighting Fascism in their own country.

Mr. Piare Lall Kureel: At that time, Sir, an organisation like the National War Front was greatly needed to educate the people. In a country like India where most of the people are illiterate, where people are not educated, and can be easily misled and misguided, where people are led by sentiments and emotions, an organisation of this type was greatly needed in order to mobilize public opinion.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: You have been misled and misguided.

Mr. Piare Lall Kureel: At that time, Sir, the war had reached the gates of India and the gates were almost open. The Britishers were not ready to face the situation that had arisen as a result of the entry of Japan into the war. That being the position, you can very well realize the importance of an organisation like the National War Front. I think, Sir, that it was most important at that time to mobilize public opinion, and it was the duty of some organisation to take up the work of procuring recruits, to collect funds for the successful prosecution of the war, to remove suspicion from the minds of the people, and so on. This work was taken over by the National War Front organisation which has proved very useful. It is due to this organisation that now we find millions of soldiers in the Army who are fighting for the cause of democracy, for the cause of poor and down-trodden people, for the cause of the defence of this country. It is due to the National War Front that the Rationing and Grow More Food campaigns have been made a success, and have been organised on extensive basis. It is due to this organisation that we have been able to collect war loans.

Sir, I can quite understand that there are certain draw-backs and certain weaknesses in the organisation, but to condemn it altogether is not proper. Sir, I will not take much time of the House, but I will only say that it is not proper to abolish this National War Front organisation at this moment when it is the duty of every Indian to contribute something towards the victory of the present war.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Certainly not.

Mr. Piare Lall Kureel: With these few words, Sir, I oppose the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): The Resolution which is for consideration before this Honourable House asks for the liquidation of the organisation known as the National War Front. Some of the Honourable Members of this House who have spoken in opposition to the Resolution have made the mistake that this Resolution is intended as a move against mobilising the resources of the country for fighting this war. I am sorry that an experienced parliamentarian like my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, should have committed the same mistake. It is not that we on this side of the House are opposed to the war effort, but it is that we are opposed to the misuse of the public money,

to the prostitution of the National War Front organisation by interested people and to the objectionable conditions that exist in this particular organisation.

Sir, before I deal with this organisation, let me say a word about the speech of the Honourable Mr. Jamnadas Mehta. He described the attitude and the policy of the Muslim League with regard to this war as of malevolent neutrality.

(At this stage Mr. Jamnadas Mehta shook his head.)

My Honourable friend shakes his head. But I think

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I said benevolent or malevolent.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Let me tell him that it has been neither benevolent nor malevolent. But it has been a policy which any decent party and self-respecting person would have followed. It was the Muslim League that drew the attention of the Government in this country as far back as June 1940 to mobilise the resources of India for the defence of the country. It was the Muslim League which asked this Government to take into equal partnership the people of this country to fight Nazi aggression. But this Government has always depended on those who are willing to dance to any tune that may be played on the flute of British imperialism.

Credit has been claimed for the National War Front organisation on account of the enrolment of two million soldiers from India. It has been made quite clear by the speech of the Honourable Secretary that the recruitment of the soldiers in the Indian army was not one of the functions of the National War Front organisation. So I am afraid those of the Honourable Members who have tried to claim this credit for themselves cannot have that credit. Apart from that, is it really such a wonderful achievement? A population of 400 millions of people to supply two million soldiers! Is it such a wonderful achievement that the people sitting on the opposite side should be proud of? If this Government had taken the peoples of India into their confidence and if it had asked the people of India to defend their country, then instead of two million there would have been twenty million Indian soldiers. My Honourable friend, the Education Secretary, has described the *per capita* expenditure which is incurred.

Mr. G. S. Bozman: I have no connection with education.

(At this stage Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan informed the Honourable Member that Mr. Bozman belonged to the publicity side.)

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I am afraid I was giving him a little more credit. Anyhow, the Secretary in charge of the (mis) Information Department.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Who broadcasts ignorance!

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: But it is not safe to give percentages. You should not feel proud that in a country like India only .5 per cent. of the population has joined the Army. Sir, the Honourable Mr. Chatterjee who, I find, is not in his seat.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: He is in another Member's seat!

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: ... but all the same is present in the House, has said that he agreed that there were some defects in the organisation. He said that it was necessary to have the right type of propaganda done in the country, and he said that it was necessary that correct information should be given to the people. He said that it was necessary that the right type of Indians should be associated with this organisation. All this is very good, but as my Honourable friend's premises were wrong, therefore his conclusion is wrong. Neither does this propaganda give the right type of information, nor has it got the right type of people in it. Therefore its achievements cannot be of the right type.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Is it not capable of providing the right type?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable friend says is it not capable of doing the right things?

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Why not?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Because it is mismanaged by Government which has to its credit millions of blunders and a magnitude of sins. That is why it is not capable.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: You can manage it better.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable friend says that I can manage it better. I thank him for giving us on this side of the House the credit for doing things so much better. But as long as he chooses to follow those who do not know how things are managed in a better way, I am afraid his advice to us will not have any effect.

Sir, it has been stated by Members from their personal experience that the public money which has been spent during the last few years on this organisation has been so much waste. My Honourable friend from Assam, who was very closely associated with this organisation in that province, a province which was the subject of direct invasion by Japan, has told you what your organisation has achieved, and he has also told you how the public money has been wasted even in that province. It is claimed for this organisation, Mr. Deputy President, that it has raised and maintained the morale of the peoples of India. Let me tell you that it is a claim which is neither justified nor true. It is not this organisation that has kept up the morale of the people of India but it is the inherent qualities of the people of India that has kept up the morale of the people. It is claimed that this organisation has done a lot in relieving the suffering of the famine-stricken areas. One Honourable Member claimed that due to the activities of this organisation there is more food in this country today than there was before. I would have liked to hear what was the achievement of this organisation when millions of people were dying in Bengal, thousands dying in Orissa and thousands and lakhs starving down in the South. I happen to have visited Bengal for nearly four weeks and during that time I never came across anyone connected with the National War Front who was doing anything in connection with the famine there. I do not want to say anything very harsh against anybody but it is a fact that the money which has been spent over this organisation has been so much waste. All luck to those who have accepted the policy of being camp-followers of the British Government in India. They have joined and they will join any organisation of any type which may be set up by the British in this country.

Now, Sir, my Honourable friend the Secretary for the Department of Information and Broadcasting has given us a very sketchy picture of what the Government propose to do in the future with regard to publicity. I am afraid that the picture was so sketchy and the ingredients of mischief are in such full strength in that picture that we find it very difficult to accept it. The mischief that was done through the National War Front organisation will be done through the organisation which the Government propose to set up. Whatever may be stated by any Honourable Member in this House, any organisation whose object is to keep in power the present Government of India is an organisation which is working against the interests of the people of India. And it is a well known fact that this organisation (the National War Front) in the past and the future organisation which is intended to be set up will continue to do that. As I said before we have not placed this proposition before this House with the intention or idea of impeding the war effort. We have placed this proposition before this House because we feel that this organisation is not only not doing any good as far as the war is concerned but it is doing a definite harm and will do greater harm to the real interest of the country at large.

Mr. Deputy President, my Honourable friend, Mr. Bozman, appealed to the Mover of the Resolution that he should withdraw it. I suppose he made that appeal because indirectly he has accepted the spirit of the Resolution. Am I right in understanding that the Government know and feel that this organisation is a useless organisation, that this organisation in the past has not achieved for itself what was hoped of it, and that this organisation has been responsible for so much waste of public money? I do not think my Honourable friend will accept all these charges and yet he is willing to liquidate this organisation.

Why do you want to liquidate this organisation, if it has been of such tremendous value in your war effort and in keeping up the morale of the people? You know that it has done nothing of the kind. It has only provided some jobs for certain people who are always hanging about the Government offices. There are of course honourable exceptions amongst that lot. It is within the knowledge of every one that there are a number of M. L. As. in the various Provinces who are given jobs in the National War Front organisation, so that their votes may be available to the Government of that particular province. I know it for a fact and I think the Honourable the Secretary for the Department of Information and Broadcasting knows it for a fact that this is exactly what is happening.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): How about the Central organisation?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, an organisation which is supposed to be run in the name of the people cannot succeed unless it has those people in it, who are respected by their countrymen and who have any influence with their countrymen. It is no use their camouflaging any Government organisation by associating certain non-official with it and declaring it as a non-official organisation of the 400 million people of India. It cannot serve any useful purpose and I am as positive as anything that in spite of the number of meetings that may have been held, in spite of the type of speeches that may have been made at these meetings, it is not due to the efforts of the National War Front that the people's morale has been kept up.

My Honourable friend, the Secretary for Information and Broadcasting, said that this new scheme which they have in view will provide entertainment for the villagers whose life otherwise is very dreary and dull. Then why not come out openly with that object? If that was the object of this organisation, that it should provide some entertainment for the villagers, I will give you double the amount of money that you want. But that is not the object of this organisation. If that were the object, I assure you that we on this side of the House will not grudge whatever amount may be spent by the Government for this trivial purpose, because there is not the least doubt that the lives of these or villagers are dull and dreary. I thought that a thing like providing entertainment for the villagers in seven lakhs of villages in India should be a part of post-war planning and therefore this particular work should be transferred to the Honourable Member for Postwar Development and it should not be under the Information and Broadcasting Department. The fact of the matter is that the Government want to continue with their policy of deceiving the illiterate villagers. They want to continue with their policy with the help of the publicances of the country, and we, on this side of the House, cannot be a party placing funds at the disposal of Government for such a purpose. I submit that the Resolution is one which should receive the support of every one who does not want that public money should be wasted. I submit that the Resolution is not intended to impede the war effort. I submit that this National War Front Organisation has neither done in the past, nor is it capable of doing in the future, any good to the people of India. I support the Resolution which is for consideration before this House.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I am very sorry that I cannot respond to the appeal which has been made to me by my Honourable friend, Mr. Bozman, to withdraw this Resolution. On the last occasion I agreed that a chance might be given to the Honourable Member in charge to put up his scheme which I was then to understand would be acceptable to this House. If I had known, Sir, that the scheme which would be proposed, would be like the one which has been placed before the House by the Honourable Secretary of this Department, I should certainly never have agreed even for a minute to withdraw my Resolution. I know, Sir, that the scheme which has been there is bad, and the scheme which is coming in the future will be worse than what we have at present. This will give all those kinds of evils which we have experienced in the past. Now, Sir, I will say what they are, but, before doing so, I will deal with some of the Honourable Members who have made certain remarks.

[Sir-Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

One Honourable Member was very right when he said that this organisation provides some livelihood for some *badmashes* in the country, and it is better that they should be so provided in order that they may not do some other mischief outside. If that is the idea, I think it speaks very well for the organisation that it is only for providing jobs for the *badmashes* in the country to keep them busy and keep them away from doing greater mischief. I do not know who these *badmashes* are. I have found many Honourable Members coming forward speaking on behalf of the organisations either in their provinces or in their district. I hope the Honourable Member who made this remark did not include any of these Honourable Members.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): You were once a member of the War Front.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: My friend Mr. Chatterjee says there is no nation which is engaged in the war, which has not got a similar organisation. I quite agree that is so where a nation is fighting as a nation, but here the difficulty is—he has made a mistake which has been pointed out by Mr. Abdul Qaiyum—it is not the nation which is fighting. You are using the word wrongly when you say that the Indian nation is fighting the war or is taking any part in this organisation.

(Interruption.)

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Order, order.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: One can easily understand that there is some national war front when a nation is engaged in the war, but is it a fact that the Indian nation is engaged in the war? That is where the mistake has been made, and I think those Honourable Members who speak on behalf of the Government or who are put up by Government, should take care that they do not make Government ridiculous at least in their advocacy on behalf of the Government.

An Honourable Member: That is the only good thing they do.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Then, another gentleman, Capt. Dalpat Singh, who was put up by Government, spoke for a few minutes. Sir, I do not know what he means when he says that war in the Far East will start after the defeat of Germany. I think he ought to have been wiser, he ought to have known that war has already started, not only started but has gone far ahead, in the Far East. Half of Burma has already been conquered, Tokio has already been bombarded, many islands have already been taken away from Japan. So, war has already started, there is no such thing that it will start after Germany has been defeated. You cannot wait till you have defeated one enemy as the other enemy will come up into your house. So, to say that until Germany is defeated and war starts in the Far East time may be allowed for this organisation is a novel kind of argument.

My Honourable friend, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal, has, as usual, put up the case which had been put up by Sir Cowasjee Jehangir the other day in much better way. He has done full justice to his Presidency but I do not know whether the things he mentioned that the National War Front was doing, come under the purview of the National War Front at all. They have been repudiated by the Secretary of the Department. So I think this will open his eyes.

Now Mr. Bozman says that some patriotic and energetic gentlemen, non-officials, have been helping in this National War Front Organisation. It may be so as regards a few exceptions, but most of the people, who are engaged there, are the exact reverse of the people as described by my friend Mr. Bozman. I find that a man who has joined the National War Front goes next day to the District Magistrate, and says—give me a monopoly for such and such a thing, I have worked for the National War Front. He goes and says—“look here, here is my son or my nephew or somebody else who wants a job, what are you going to do for him, I have taken part in the National War Front”. If the Honourable Member will scrutinise all the applications for jobs, he will find in 99 per cent. of them it is put down “I have rendered such and such services in the

national war front”. They want their price. If a man wants his price for the work, can you call it patriotic or that he has done the work on account of patriotism? That is not a good and proper description of his work. There are some people who are patriotic—I do not doubt it. Some of them have worked and sincerely helped in the war effort; but to say that all the persons engaged in this war front are of this description is absolutely wrong.

As regards the scheme which has been proposed: there are to be three classes or categories—district, regional and provincial. Now, I ask whether the kind of things which I condemned and in which I have been supported even by Honourable Members like Sir Cowasjee Jehangir and Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, that if these evils existed they ought to be condemned—cannot these be carried on through the organisation which is now being proposed to be substituted for the present organisation? I have said that public money has been wrongly used and there has been party propaganda and terrorising and all other evils mentioned by me. Is this organisation now proposed to be set up not liable to these abuses?

Mr. G. S. Bozman: No.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I say ‘yes’: when the Ministry in any province wants to make propaganda in the villages, what will they do? They will, as my Honourable friend says, take a lorry with a cinema show and gramophone records and then there will be a singer—I do not know whether it will be male or female and I take it as being usual in this country, it is a female singer that will sing, and as he says, there will be people who will dance in front, who will, I suppose be the non-official patriots. I would like to know whether Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Sir Ratanji Dalal and Captain Dalpat Singh will give demonstrations of their dances as patriotic people: then I will gladly go to see that cinema where this show is organised by this department

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: That will happen when you are a minister.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I will ask Sir Cowasjee Jehangir to come and dance before this show.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Provided the Honourable Member is minister, I will do so.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I would like to see how beautifully he dances. I am sure he knows the art well: as he can speak well, he can dance well. This will be interesting for the non-official patriots who have been described by the Honourable Mr. Bozman

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated: Non-Official): We object to Sir Cowasjee Jehangir dancing.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Yes; but what about Sir Ratanji Dalal? This organisation will be going into the villages, just like the *Bhanda* and *Sanshyas*, who go about and make propaganda for this Government

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have got one minute more.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: They will say “The Provincial Government has done such nice things for you; they have brought so much redress and plenty for you: look at all the benefits they have brought for you: will you not vote for them?” The ultimate thing is the vote. It is a vote catching device and the Honourable Member is placing the whole machinery in the hands of people whom I have condemned, and the organisation will be more open to abuse than before. I am glad that my Honourable friend says that after all light has come on him and the poor villager should be provided a little amusement. May I know how many times in the year this party of dancers and musicians will go to the villages?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Your time is up.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Therefore this scheme is unacceptable to me and I am sorry that I cannot accept it. I will press my Resolution to vote,

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

and I hope that the Government will wipe off this item from the Budget if they have provided anything there.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: They have: I have looked into it.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): There is an amendment to this Resolution. I will put the amendment first. The question is:

"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 motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I will now put the Resolution as amended. The question is:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to immediately take steps to abolish the National War Front Branch of the Department of Information and Broadcasting and to liquidate forthwith the National War Front Organisation in the Centre and the Provinces."

The Assembly divided:

AYES.—55.

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Ahsan, Mr. Muhammad.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachalam.
Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.
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.
Habibur Rahman, Dr.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.

Kailash Bihari Lal, Mr.
Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Manu Subedar, Mr.
Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
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.
Reddiar, Mr. K. Sitarama.
Satyanarayana Moorty, Mr. A.
Sham Lal, Lala.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Srivastava, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad.
Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

NOES.—43.

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.
Bentham, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.
Bhagehand Soni, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth.
Bozman, Mr. G. S.
Caroe, Sir Olaf.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Daga, Seth Sunder Lal.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardesair.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Gwillt, Mr. E. L. C.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.
Haider, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haider.
Ismaiel Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.
James, Sir F. E.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shamsul-Ulema.

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION RE. REMOVAL OF SECTIONS 111 TO 121 OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1935

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that early action be taken for the removal of sections 111 to 121 (both inclusive) of the Government of India Act, 1935."

Sir I wish to make it quite clear at the start that I am not attempting to deal with any large political issue involved in the 321 sections of the Government of India Act. I am only referring to the removal of certain offensive clauses in the Government of India Act, which have crept in by the backdoor, which are derogatory to the dignity and the self-respect of the people of this country, and which seek to restrict the legislative power of this House and this Assembly. The history of these clauses is a very long one. The Simon

Commission, while it recognised that there were certain interests which must be attended to recommended that these should be attended to by a convention. Later on, there were various further deliberations, there were the three Round Table conferences, there was the Joint Select Committee and at various stages, all the people, including the European commercial interest of this country represented by the then Mr. Edward Benthall, all of them wanted these provisions to be made by convention and treaty and not by statute. Sir, Indian leaders were at no time advocating any discrimination. The Nehru Committee in 1928, definitely laid down that there shall be no discrimination on racial grounds. The first formula which was agreed upon in the first Round Table Conference was a small and narrow one, namely, that there shall be no discrimination on racial grounds of any person or company from the United Kingdom. From that first simple formula, how the ponderous march of files went round; how it grew into eleven complete complicated sections which restrict the power of this legislature as well as the power of all administrations in India, both Provincial and Central, in order to deal with the simple economic issues affecting the life of the people—that is a long history. I have got many extracts here, but I would content myself by saying that many of our senior leaders got step by step into consenting something more, then something more and then something more, but one leader who was at all times consistently opposed to them was Mr. Jinnah. Sir, these are sections which were described by the then Prime Minister as during the transitory period. I do not know how long that transitory period is going to continue, but these sections have continued with us. These sections were introduced through mistrust, through a suspicion of the Indian people. It was deliberately done as the Right Honourable Mr. Sastri described as blackmail. We had no choice, our people were told, either take these sections or there is no political progress and reform. They were made to accept these provisions, they were forced to accept. Then, Sir when these sections were introduced, the particular ground which was put forward was that England had lent India considerable sums of money and that India was a debtor country and that if the debtor should default, there should be definite guarantees and assurances. It was in this atmosphere and on the pretext that the creditor was entitled to these guarantees that these sections were passed. Sir, the boot is now on the other leg. Every one of the loans outstanding at that time has been taken back by England with compound interest, they have all been repaid. Then against our will and without any consultation with this House, large sums of money belonging to this country have been taken away to United Kingdom in the form of sterling balances, for the accounts of which, for the disposal of which, for the orderly return of which we are making attempts in this House but without any results. Sir, the situation has very much altered. These sections which disfigure the Statute book of the constitution governing this country find no counterpart in the constitution of any Dominion in the British Commonwealth. These are issues on which there never was any difference of

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opinion between any section of the Indian population. All the leaders who went to the other place, all of them—and I have got numerous quotations from most of my friends sitting on the opposite side to show that—all of them agreed that this was not desirable even in the interest of England that such provision should exist in the statute book and that they will not create goodwill, but will lay the foundation for ill will, the foundation for bitterness and suspicion and that they should be removed. These extra territorial rights which European firms, individuals, companies, and corporations seek in this country have no counterpart in any free constitution. Further the most objectionable feature of these particular sections is that they were extracted from India on the plea that they were reciprocal and that they betoken equal partnership. Sir, much has been said about this reciprocity and this House will remember the famous dictum of Mahatma Gandhi when he described the partnership as one between a gaint and a dwarf. Sir, we have also in the Income-tax Act a section which gives reciprocal tax relief to Britishers in this country, a section under which I estimate Indians gain to the extent of about three lakhs and India gives benefit to Englishmen to the extent of about 70 lakhs. We have such reciprocity in so many other fields and I have no doubt that Honourable Members who will follow me will be able to point out how this plea of reciprocity and partnership, every time it is mentioned between England and India, is onesided.

Sir, the phrase used by Mr. Jinnah with regard to these safeguards of commercial discrimination was 'iron wall'. He said 'I am being sought to be confined between two iron walls', referring first to the Princes and then he referred to commercial and other safeguards. Now, Sir, these may be called sentimental grounds why we do not want these sections. A kind of new self respect has grown over this country, as over the populations in other parts of the world due to war and the moral upheaval and we see the almighty conservative Premier Churchill thinking it proper to go and pay his respects to King Farouk of Egypt! The three great Allies are saying that they want to serve the world and not rule it. The Atlantic Charter which the two wily politicians, like Roosevelt and Churchill repudiated has had to be swallowed by them at the instance of Mr. Stalin as being applicable not merely to the small nations in Europe but as applicable to all mankind. There is a new spirit in the world and India shares in that spirit, in spite of the unusual harsh methods applied by the Government of the day with regard to many matters, political as well as economic. Sir, these may be called sentimental grounds. But there are practical grounds on which also I desire that these sections should be removed. What are the practical grounds? The Government of India have set up the Department of Planning and Development. They have appointed an Honourable Member in charge of this Department. He moves from department to department and from one provincial centre to the other; and we have been blessed with two books purporting to be a preliminary report of the Policy Committees. We have been blessed with plans of 400 crores to be spent for making roads. In this country where men are dying for want of a little food, they are going to make roads at an expenditure of 400 crores. What do you want to make these roads for? To reach the villages in order to pick up dead bodies? Sir, British vested interests are behind this road programme. There is the motor interest and the petrol interests, there is the asphalt interest, there is the cement interest; there are so many other interests behind all these plans and programmes which are coming out from the Government of India that we have very serious apprehensions. Now, look at the other method. Twenty-nine panels, which my Honourable friend Sir Ziauddin criticised the other day, have been set up, picking out one man here and one man there and their reports are embodied and they are all summarised and we have them in the Policy Committees reports. What is this? You pick out a suitable, convenient business man, move him over here, feast him at lunch, talk him over and make a plan of some kind. That is not the kind of plan that India wants.

I think there is also a mystery. I do not know whether the Bombay planners have converted this Government or whether this Government have converted the Bombay planners. But let me say that neither the Government plan nor the Bombay plan will be acceptable to this country. We do not want a plan which is made behind the back of the people. Sir Chintamani Deshmukh, the Reserve Bank Governor, said the other day that no plan can succeed without a tremendous popular drive and without the support of the whole people behind it. Even the *London Times* was compelled the other day to say the same thing. Sir, what do we find? Here are missions going to England; private missions like that of Sir Jeremy Raisman, secret missions like that of Sir Theodore Gregory, service missions like the Hydari mission. These missions are going to England. The reply of the Finance Member always is, "Please refer to my Budget speech last time" or "Please wait till the Budget speech next time". Nothing is told to us about these missions before they start from here. We are told nothing of what they did, we are told nothing after they return from there. A more deliberate slight to this Legislature I cannot imagine; and now on top of that comes the Mission of big business proceeding to the United Kingdom. What they are going for we are not told; what will they do there? What is their agenda, what are the proposals or purposes? We are told nothing; now we hear a most disturbing piece of news that the Honourable the Planning Member is himself proceeding to England! May I know what he is going for? Is he proceeding there to officiate as a priest in the illegitimate marriage of big business from India with big business of the United Kingdom?

Thus we see that the Planning Member has a lot of difficulties. In those difficulties I do not know whether he is assisted uniformly by all his colleagues, whether particularly he is receiving assistance from Sir Edward Benthall who represents interests which fear that they will have something to lose from the kind of planning which this country wants.

Sir, another indication of the kind of reception which the planning programme of this country would get was given by the Finance Member in his Budget speech. If I wanted to characterise the career of the Finance Member I would say that he has thought of nothing except the war, the whole war and nothing but the war. This is the position he has taken throughout his stewardship; this is the position which he has now taken. In other words, he has now created a definite set-back and a definite speeding down of the Planning Department's activities as even the *Statesman*—generally a pro-Government paper—was compelled to remark.

In all these difficulties which the Planning Department has, I find the biggest, however, is the existence of these sections which must go. Sir, what is the kind of industrial progress which we want in this country? Do we want industrial progress by the companies which are known as India, Limited, which have been set up in this country by the hundreds? Do we want the kind of progress that we had in match manufacture, when not only a British registered company but a foreign company registered in Britain came and established itself in a supreme position in the field of match manufacture and literally killed and sent into liquidation so many match factories? Sir, we have the phenomenon of Lever Brothers establishing themselves on a large scale in Bombay. What is the result? Forty-two small soap factories in Bombay have gone into liquidation. We have various other concerns of this kind, big giants like Imperial Chemical Industries; large corporations in shipping, banking and insurance. On this issue I want to read to you a passage from a joint memorandum which was submitted by several members, including the President of this Assembly and including also my Honourable friend Dr. Ambedkar. They said:

"These, however, do not exhaust the methods by which other countries, including Great Britain, have attempted to develop indigenous industries or to counteract attempts made by foreign companies to frustrate the objects of a protective tariff. The particular difficulty, which is disturbing the minds of Indian commercial men, is the possibility of powerful foreign trusts establishing themselves in India and making it impossible for Indian industries

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to develop, not necessarily by methods which in ordinary commercial practice would be regarded as unfair, but by their superior resources, powers of organization, political influence, etc."

This is the kind of cartels and pools and large corporations which we fear would invade this country, take advantage of the tariffs, take advantage of the patronage which Government are throwing about. And what is the Planning Member to do so long as there is the existence of these sections in the Statute book?

Besides that, Sir, what we feel is this. It is not what industry we shall have in this country afterwards; we are more concerned with the industry which exists now, which is in very dire distress because it is not getting coal, it is not getting raw material, it is not getting priorities, it is not getting spare parts, it is not getting licenses and permits, it is not getting the dollar exchange. There are so many difficulties on which representations are being sent from Chambers of Commerce; questions are being asked. Has the Planning Member any power to intercede at this stage? He was told off yesterday; he was told where to get off, he was told that he is the post-war man and has nothing to do with the industry in these times. Then may I know whether the direction in which we are going is,—the same as was the case after the last war—*via.*, heavy liquidation—such humble development in industry as has been achieved during the war in this country, permitting that to be destroyed in the first instance and after that planning and promising big affairs? And when these big affairs are being planned, where is he going? To England. He is taking his colleagues to England. Sir Jeremy Raisman is going; and I understand two or three other Members of the Executive Council also are going. None of our work can be done in this country; it seems we can plan better when we plan out in England in company and consultation with Englishmen. These are not the sort of ideas we have on planning and we feel that the first things should come first. Amongst the very earliest things which we want is the elimination of these sections, which unduly tie down the hands of this Legislature, of this Government, of every Provincial Government, in doing legitimately and properly whatever is necessary in order to start industry in this country exactly on the lines which were adopted by the United Kingdom itself and other European countries.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Does the Honourable Planning Member know about the British Key Industries Act? Is he in a position to have such an Act established in this country? Sir, it may appear as if we are trying to attack British trade, established lawfully and properly in this country. I assure my Honourable friends that nothing is further from our minds. Sir, what we have been trying to do, what we have been trying to achieve in this country fruitlessly for the last thirty years is to get in our own country equal opportunity and equal chance to develop the resources of this country and to exploit the trade of this country for the benefit of this country. I will read, Sir, from the late Sir Phiroze Sethna than whom there could not be a more moderate man in the political field. He says:

"I stated to the Federal Structure Committee, and I repeat, that this is not a case of racial discrimination. It has to do with inequality. Up to now very considerable inequality has prevailed. I had occasion to refer to it at some length at the last Plenary Session, when I said that it was quite easy for an ordinary European merchant to settle a business matter with a Government officer over a whisky and soda at his club; but that it was very difficult for even a prominent Indian to do so; in fact, he would have to kick his heels for hours together before he could gain admission to the official's room; I know all that has been changing since the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms and will go on improving in the future, but this inequality in the past has rankled in the minds of the Indians and made the position of the Britisher so very much stronger in commercial affairs, stronger than it would otherwise have been. My friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, quoted yesterday the case of a prominent Indian firm, whose senior could not get anything out of the Government, whereas his paid British official was able to do so. These instances can be multiplied, and our European friends at this Conference or outside have not dared to contradict them and cannot dare to do so, for the simple reason that until recently this sort of thing was an every day affair. Indians do not want to discriminate against the Britishers in the matter of commerce."

Sir, our effort has been throughout to remove this preference. May I tell this House that the biggest business house in India is even today compelled to engage a European representative at the headquarters of the Government of India in order to get their work done?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Supply Member): And English business houses employ Indians for the same reason.

Mr. Manu Subedar: It is the business house which knows what the value of money is. They would not spend the money if they did not feel that they were getting their money's worth, and, Sir, that they have to do this today is itself a sufficient commentary and speaks volumes.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir says the same thing. Mr. Jayakar also says the same thing:

"Even now, I would urge upon the attention of His Majesty's Government some method by which these difficulties might be overcome and an appropriate convention established between the two countries, even after the new Constitution is offered to India."

But what Mr. Jayakar says with regard to reciprocity is worth listening to:

"Reciprocity in any case, between a rich and industrially powerful country like Great Britain and a poor and backward country like India is a bit of camouflage, but as applied to administrative discrimination it is nothing less than moonshine."

This is exactly the law which still exists on the Statute book of this country and I am asking the Government to accept this Resolution and to remove this section.

Now, Sir, how much influence and support the European business houses in India give to the European officials and *vice versa* will be noticed when reply is given to what few remarks I am making. It will be noticed in this House that a solid column of unity and combination will emerge from the opposite side.

Perhaps I might tell Sir Ardeshir Dalal something which he probably never imagined and that is that in 1942 after Sir Stafford Cripps came here and in his offer he mentioned very clearly that there would not be these guarantees and discriminatory clauses, there was an agitation set up in India. As a result of this agitation, there was a debate in the House of Lords, a debate which took the usual course of such debates but in which the Duke of Devonshire, Under-Secretary of State for India, representing his chief Mr. Amery, made the following remarks: He said:

"If Your Lordships think of it, it is really impossible both to make an offer of complete self-government and to exact guarantees for specified British interests. . . . We mean what we said about India's constitutional future, and that means we have passed from the conception of tutelage to that of a free and willing partnership. Guarantees other than those arrived at by a process of free negotiation are incompatible with equal partnership, and so are all those restrictions upon the freedom which is to be conferred upon India."

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): What is the date of that debate?

Mr. Manu Subedar: July 30th, 1942.

Sir, he went on further to say:

"We"....."We", meaning the Dominion Office where he had been Under-Secretary,—

"We deal with them and all safeguards and guarantees by discussion and negotiation as between equal partners. I wonder if any of Your Lordships can really doubt which is the better system. The one led to the 'Boston tea-party', the other to the Ottawa Agreement."

Sir, this is a very emphatic statement from the Government of India and I say that the Government are already committed both to the removal of these sections and to the initiation of the negotiations by which this will be substituted. They should have started this on their own as the Joint Select Committee indeed desired and recommended that it was the better course.

That a convention is better instead of a statutory provision has been the universal opinion. It was the opinion of the Symon Commission, it was the opinion of the Prime Minister, it was the opinion of many of my friends who are sitting here who attended the Round Table Conference, it was the opinion

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also of the Parliament because in section 118 there is a very specific provision made for the substitution by convention and treaty of the sections which I am objecting to. Sir, I will read what Sir Parshotamdas Thakurdas said at the second Session of the Round Table Conference:

"Mr. Benthall says we are equal partners in a Commonwealth of Nations, and asks me to avoid the risks of discrimination and bitterness. In fact he asks us to come into an equal partnership where, if I may use a colloquial phrase, 'what is mine is my own, and what is thine is ours jointly'. It would be a partnership in a Commonwealth which has no precedent or parallel."

I will quote Sir Edward Benthall himself. In 1937 when he negotiated the Trade Treaty between England and India, he said:

"With my colleagues I also attach the greatest importance to the negotiation of an agreement which will give reasonable satisfaction to both parties, the only form of agreement which is likely to be of lasting benefit."

The United Kingdom has shown a *bona fide* desire to meet India's political aspirations.

We have not still seen the fruition of these political aspirations, Sir, because safeguards were put on one side and freedom on the other. We have got the safeguards, we have not got the freedom yet. Sir, I quote:

The United Kingdom has shown a *bona fide* desire to meet India's political aspirations. "a time when both countries are menaced by outside dangers a liberal approach to the requirements of the United Kingdom is likely to have an immense moral effect in India's favour."

Now, Sir, when I appeal for the repeal of these offending sections, I also use the words of Sir Edward Benthall that it would have a tremendous moral effect in favour of England; it would be a great goodwill gesture if England is at all capable of making it.

Now, Sir, in the joint memorandum of which, Sir, you have been one of the signatories yourself, we find the same emphasis put with regard to a treaty instead of the statutory provisions:

"India desires to shake hands with Great Britain, to demand a friendship based on a recognition of equality. A proposal that she should be hand-cuffed before she is allowed to shake hands lest she is tempted to strike is hardly the most expedient method of beginning a new era of cordiality and mutual understanding."

Further on:

"We strongly hold the view that a friendly settlement by negotiation is by far the most appropriate and satisfactory method of dealing with this complicated matter. Any statutory safeguards given to British commercial interests would irritate public opinion and would operate as impediments to a friendly settlement. We therefore earnestly suggest the omission of clause 123 of the White Paper and the corresponding clauses in the re-draft. . . . We see grave practical objections to any constitutional provisions against administrative discrimination."

I would have quoted, if I had the time, Mr. Jinnah who described the signatories of this memorandum as the moderate of moderates and who asked: "What happened to this joint memorandum?" Contemptuously he said, "It has gone into the waste paper basket."

Now, I would like to reply to some of the objections which might come, namely.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already spoken for half an hour.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I will finish in two minutes. . . . namely that the Government of India Act cannot be amended piecemeal. It has been so amended ten times over since it was passed. Then they say that many hard things have been said in the past and there is plenty of suspicion now. I think harder things have been said between the United Kingdom Tories and between Russia and still today Churchill has said that Stalin's word is as good as a bond. Times have changed not a little, and I would be surprised, if the same Churchill would not change with regard to us.

In conclusion, Sir, I would only say one word with regard to Mr. Amery. A deputation of scientists had gone to England recently and they say:

"Mr. Amery and the other Cabinet Ministers tell us repeatedly that India now enjoys the fullest economic freedom—the fullest freedom regarding her economic development—and if she fails to take any effective measures in that direction, the responsibility rests solely with the Members of the Government of India."

In other words on you (pointing to Treasury Benches.).

I make an appeal: Give us free collaboration and mutual reciprocal partnership: give us an understanding: extend to us the hand of friendship and we are willing to have a self-respecting treaty with the United Kingdom. But if the Government will not accept this Resolution on the plea that Mr. Amery, the Secretary of State may not want them to do so, then let me point out that Mr. Amery is putting on them the entire burden for India's economic development being hindered: "If she fails to take any effective measures in that direction". How can the Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal take any effective measures so long as these sections continue, and yet, "If she fails to take any effective measures in that direction the responsibility rests solely with the Members of the Government of India".

One last word I will say and that is that the American who cannot be bluffed, and who has got penetrating intelligence, has a name for this Government H. A. G.—

H for hypocrisy,
A for arrogance,
G for greed.

I hope that this definition of this Government will not be proved to be correct so far as this little revision of the statute for which I am asking is concerned. We ask for this revision so that the self-respect and honour of this country may be vindicated.

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

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that early action be taken for the removal of sections 111 to 121 (both inclusive) of the Government of India Act, 1935."

Some Members have given notice of amendments to this Resolution.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris; Muhammadan): May I suggest that these amendments be moved formally and the speeches deferred.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is the Honourable Member moving any amendment?

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: I am suggesting that these be formally moved and the speeches deferred.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member had better move both his amendments.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: There is one previous to mine.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I am not moving it.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Then I move this one. Sir, I move:

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There are two?

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: I am moving the shorter of the two. Sir, I move:

"That for the words 'for the removal of' the following be substituted: 'to constitute a Committee consisting of members representing all interests concerned to report to this House on the necessary provisions for replacing or repealing'."

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

"That for the words 'for the removal of' the following be substituted: 'to constitute a Committee consisting of members representing all interests concerned to report to this House on the necessary provisions for replacing or repealing'."

Do you want to move the other amendment?

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: No, Sir, I think the arrangement is for the Government Member to speak.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Sir Ardeshir Dalal.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal (Member for Planning and Development): Mr. President, the fact that an amendment has been moved and the speeches

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on it deferred puts me in a somewhat difficult position because I do not know what the implications of that amendment are. Therefore I shall confine myself mainly to the remarks of the Honourable the Mover.

The motion before the House is of great importance and interest both inside and outside India. I congratulate the Honourable the Mover on the studied moderation of his tone and his speech and I would appeal to the other Members of the House to discuss this matter in a dispassionate spirit so that no ill-will or misunderstanding might be created which might complicate an already complicated and difficult situation. It is mainly for that reason that I have decided to intervene at this early state of the debate so that I may be able to explain the attitude of Government in the hope that discussion at a later stage may be confined to the right lines.

The history of the safeguarding clauses is somewhat a long one and I trust the House will bear with me if I give a summary of it.

The question of the future of British commercial interests in India came up for the first time during the Montagu-Chelmsford Enquiry. In paragraph 345 of the Report the joint authors made observations which have not lost their validity through lapse of time. They stated:

"What then are the obligations of the various parties. Clearly it is the duty of British commerce in India to identify itself with the interests of India, which are higher than the interests of any community; to take part in political life; to use its considerable wealth and opportunities to commend itself to India; and having demonstrated both its value and its good intentions, to be content to rest like other industries on the new foundation of government in the wishes of the people. No less is it the duty of Indian politicians to respect the expectations which have implicitly held out; to remember how India has profited by commercial development which only British capital and enterprise achieved; . . . and to abstain from advocating differential treatment aimed not so much at promoting Indian as at injuring British commerce."

These, Sir, are sage words enunciating a wise principle which, if followed in the letter and spirit by both sides, might have avoided much subsequent ill will and misunderstanding, and might perhaps have rendered the enactment of these clauses unnecessary.

The Simon Commission, which considered this question, came to the conclusion, as embodied in para. 156 of Volume II of their Report, that it was not feasible to prevent discriminatory legislation by attempting to define it in a constitutional instrument. Any such provision would in their opinion have to be drawn so widely as to be little more than a statement of abstract principle affording no precise guidance to courts in deciding whether any action complained of was discriminatory.

The question came up again for consideration before the First Round Table Conference in 1930 which adopted the formula that there should be no discrimination between the rights of the British mercantile community, firms and companies trading in India and the rights of Indian born subjects, and that an appropriate convention, based on reciprocity, should be entered into for the purpose of regulating these rights. The second Round Table Conference thought that it would be more appropriate for the future Federal Government of India to negotiate the convention and in the meantime suitable provisions should be embodied in the Constitution Act. The Third Round Table Conference recommended that safeguards should operate in regard to legislative discrimination through specific provisions in the Act and with regard to administrative discrimination through the special responsibilities of the Governor General and the Governors. The distinction sought to be drawn at one stage between persons and companies residing or incorporated in India and those merely trading in India was given up.

The White Paper of 1933 embodied the recommendations of the Reading Committee, but they were modified at a later stage by a memorandum submitted by the Secretary of State to the Joint Parliamentary Committee for the reasons that the White Paper proposals were expressed in too general terms. The British Indian Delegation criticised this memorandum on general lines, and particularly

on the ground that the clauses were drawn up so widely as to prevent legitimate discrimination in favour of Indian industries. The delegation went on to say that if these provisions were embodied in the Constitution Act, the Government would be driven to State Socialism as the only method by which the provisions of the Act could be circumvented. The Delegation further went on to observe that friendly settlement by negotiation was by far the most satisfactory and proper method of dealing with the problem and that statutory safeguards would irritate public opinion and operate as an impediment to friendly settlement.

The Joint Select Committee accepted the Secretary of State's memorandum, including the provision of the "unconditional eligibility" of British businesses already in India to subsidies. I might perhaps explain what this 'unconditional eligibility to subsidies' means. It means that if, for instance, the Government decided to give a subsidy to a comparatively small Indian shipping company to promote the interests of Indian shipping, then they would be compelled to give similar subsidies to the P. and O. and the B. I.

Indian opinion has never reconciled itself to these provisions of the Act. In the Cripps' declaration there was no reference to this matter. The policy of His Majesty's Government was reaffirmed in the House of Commons on the 30th July 1942, when Sir Alfred Knox asked the Secretary of State for India whether he would give him an assurance that in any post-war arrangement for the future Government of India adequate provision would be made for guaranteeing British commercial interests. My Amery replied:

"His Majesty's Government made it clear in connection with the recent offer that a guarantee of special protection for British commercial interests in India would not be a condition for the acceptance of whatever constitution Indians might evolve after the war and that any such provisions would more appropriately be a matter for negotiations with the future Government of India."

My friend Mr. Manu Subedar has already quoted the Duke of Devonshire. But besides that, in the House of Lords on the motion of Lord Cragmire, when several speakers including Lord Cato had spoken and Lord Hailey participated in the debate, in the course of his speech Lord Hailey observed:

"I can only say for myself and, I think, for a large number of others who have interested themselves in the Indian question that when the British Government and the British Parliament representing the British people have made a solemn declaration and made it in the most authoritative form, I should regard it as alike impolitic and dishonourable to suggest that we should hold out to India now anything less than full Dominion Status. It is certain that the imposition of restrictions similar to those contained in the 1935 Act would place India in a position inferior to other Dominions; it would place her, for instance, in an inferior position, if you were to attempt to deny to her the power requiring all companies operating in India to be registered there or if you were to attempt to deny to her the power to require all companies to comply with the Indian law in respect of their constitution or their directorate and the like."

The position then is that in regard to British commercial interests in India His Majesty's Government will negotiate an agreement with a future Government of India. Till that time, the provisions of the existing Act, both in the field of legislation and executive action, will continue. With the adoption of the policy of economic planning and development of the country, including industrial development, these provisions have acquired a significance which they did not have before. Government intend to take a far more active interest in industrial development than they have done in the past. It is contemplated to expand existing industries and to develop a number of new basic industries of great importance to the wellbeing and advancement of India. Under these clauses it is open to any British company with a hundred per cent. British capital and a British directorate to establish itself in India and control such industries. More important still, it is possible for powerful combines and cartels with international ramifications, to do the same. The chances of Indian industrialists competing on equal terms with such combines and companies with their vast experience and resources are very poor. As the Act stands at present, it is not possible for the Government of India to take any measures to help the indigenous industry against such competition. Government realise that Indian opinion does not regard such a state of affairs with satisfaction. It will be a bold man

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who will prophesy when exactly the new constitution is going to come into force. It will probably take some years before the new Constitution Act is placed on the Statute Book, even assuming that all the present outstanding issues are settled at a comparatively early date. But planning for the economic development of India has already commenced and is going ahead. It cannot wait till a constitution is finally settled and becomes the law of the land. The problem is to arrive at some satisfactory solution of this issue. The solution must be sought not in a spirit of mutual antagonism and mistrust but of mutual co-operation and good-will. Under happier political conditions, one can look forward to an ever-widening and almost endless vista of trade and business relationship between Great Britain and India for the benefit and prosperity of both. In the immediate post-war years India has to look to the United Kingdom to a large extent for the supply of capital goods and the expert advice and assistance in the development of its industries which India so sorely needs. Co-operation should be welcome if it does not involve control or domination. That Indian industry should desire to control and direct its policy is a legitimate aspiration which should not be looked upon with hostility or mistrust.

The problem, therefore, is to consider whether it is possible to arrive at any kind of convention or agreement now without waiting for a complete constitutional settlement, so that the industrial development of the country may not be hampered. The difficulties in the way should not be minimised. The trade agreement is intended to be a part of a general political and constitutional settlement. It is difficult to isolate one part only of the whole complex of issues, political as well as economic; and to insist upon its settlement without considering its effect upon the rest. If the spirit in which a solution of this difficult problem is sought is misunderstood either here or in Great Britain, it may have an unsettling effect upon the business communities in both countries, which it is very desirable to avoid at a time when in the interests of India's own development, closer trade relations are being sought. If it is not found feasible to proceed by way of Parliamentary legislation at this juncture pending consideration of the political and other issues involved, it will be necessary to explore the possibility of arriving at some kind of understanding which may remove the apprehensions of the Indian business community regarding the effect of the future operation of these safeguards on the post-war industrial development of India.

I believe, Sir, I have made it quite clear that the Government of India are fully seized of this matter. It is engaging their active and earnest consideration.

As regards the amendment that has been moved, since the speech on the question is deferred, it is very difficult for me, as I have said before, to say anything definitely on the subject. It is not quite clear what the Committee which Mr. Essak Sait proposes, is intended to do, whether it will confine itself to the question of the "safeguards", or whether it will take upon itself the formulation of a comprehensive scheme for the running of key industries, shipping, public utility services, etc., by Provincial Governments or local bodies, and questions of a similar nature as propounded in another amendment by Mr. Essak Sait. Government would desire the object of the amendment to be elucidated further in the course of the debate. They would then like to have an opportunity of further consideration of the matter in the light of the discussions before they decide upon the appointment of a committee or otherwise.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): That is a different amendment altogether.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): The Honourable Planning Member is correct.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: All that I have to say at the present moment I have mentioned. Government are fully aware of the situation, but they would like to have an opportunity of further consideration of the matter. If what I have said satisfies the Honourable Mover, we can have the matter fully ventilated. It will be reported to the Secretary of State, and then he can make

up his own mind with regard to what he would like to do in respect of this Resolution.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What is in your mind?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I have already stated that Government is fully seized of the matter, they are considering it, they will have further discussion with His Majesty's Government, and will inform the House of the result of that discussion. We will communicate the result of the present discussion to the Secretary of State.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): That means nothing.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: May I know from Mr. Abdul Qaiyum what he wants Government to do.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I was very anxious to know what they were going to do. In your speech you say that Government has been considering, and are considering. Government will go on considering till perhaps the Doomsday. Their speeches lead nowhere.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Discussions will be carried on with His Majesty's Government in order to see whether a solution of this problem can be arrived at. The discussions that will take place will be communicated to the House. It is not possible for us to do anything more. That is all I have to say.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Mr. President, it is most unfortunate that the debate on so important a subject should have to be postponed for a whole month, because I understand within five minutes we shall adjourn. Our memories are short and by that time we shall have forgotten a great deal of what has been said today. I hope the Honourable Planning Member will send us copies of his speech. Sir, I support the Resolution which has been moved for more than one reason. This matter, as has been explained, is not a new issue by any means, it was discussed threadbare for three to four years in England, and my Honourable friend, the Mover of this Resolution, has quoted extracts from the speeches made during those years. It is not a secret that the whole of the Indian Delegation that went to the Round Table Conference were unanimous that there should be no restriction of any sort on the discretion of the future Government of India. As Mr. Manu Subedar read out, the First Round Table Conference came to a tentative conclusion which, so far as I am concerned, I was not prepared then to accept, but it was by no means as extreme as the resolutions that the British Government came to, not the Indian Delegation, but the British Government came to during the Second and Third Round Table Conferences. I believe it was during the Second Round Table Conference that a Committee was appointed, a more or less non-official Committee, over which Lord Reading presided, representing the British Government. He was not then a member of Government, but he played the part of guide, philosopher and friend of Government during the three Round Table Conferences, and so he was asked to meet some members of the Indian Delegation and try to come to some understanding. I have vivid recollection of all those Committee meetings. There were only three or four of us present with Lord Reading, and you can well imagine that it was not easy to deal with a man of his capacity, knowledge, experience and charm of manners. Notwithstanding all that, we had to adjourn on more than one occasion because we could not come to terms. It is most unfortunate that during that period we received no support from our own countrymen in this country, and one of the reasons for our failure, I say it was a failure, was lack of support from India which sealed our lips and made many of our arguments, may I say, weak and untenable. For instance, as Mr. Manu Subedar pointed out, our attention was constantly drawn to the large sums of money this country

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owed England by way of sterling loans. At that time there was some talk in this country of the repudiation of these loans. It might have been only a whisper but it was magnified to such an extent in England that it was thrown in our faces on every possible occasion. We were told that India was already considering repudiating these very loans and we were demanding that there should be no safeguards. Mr. President, do you want me to continue now . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member might stop now and continue on the next occasion. The House will adjourn till Monday.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 5th March, 1945.

Monday, 5th March, 1945

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. Robert Howell Hutchings, C.M.G., C.I.E., I.C.S., M.L.A. (Secretary, Food Department).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

APPLICATIONS FOR INCREASE IN NEWS PRINT QUOTAS BY *TARJUMAN-I-SARHAD* AND *KHIDMAT*.

642. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) whether applications for increase in News Print quotas have been made by the *Tarjuman-i-Sarhad*, Peshawar, and the *Khidmat*, Srinagar, Kashmir;

(b) the quota actually granted and the increased quota now demanded; and

(c) the action taken on the above applications and the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) An application for an increase in the quota of newsprint has been received in respect of the *Khidmat* of Srinagar. No such application for increased quota has been received from the *Tarjuman-i-Sarhad* of Peshawar, who has only recently been granted a ration.

(b) The *Khidmat* of Srinagar is at present in receipt of a ration of 24 lbs. of newsprint per month plus usual 50 per cent. increase. It has asked for the quota to be increased to 1½ tons per month.

(c) The request of the *Khidmat* of Srinagar was, according to the general procedure adopted in all such cases, referred to the Government of the Kashmir State on the 1st May 1944 for their views.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: With reference to the *Tarjuman-i-Sarhad* of Peshawar, may I know whether the matter has been referred to the Provincial Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I have said, no such application has been received.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know what is the general procedure in these matters? Is the increase given only on the recommendation of the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is not the only consideration. There are many other factors.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the other factors?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The newsprint position, the available supplies, the demands that have to be met, the extent of the demand that can be met in a particular area and so on.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the politics of the paper also taken into consideration?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Not in my Department.

ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT TARIFF BOARD

643. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a permanent Tariff Board to examine the question of protection to industries;

(b) whether they propose a revision of basic principles laid down by the Fiscal Commission for the grant of protection; if so, what the matters are over which revision is proposed; and

(c) whether there are cases of any industries ready to be placed before the permanent Tariff Board; if so, what those industries are?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). These matters are receiving Government's consideration.

(c) No, Sir. The latter part does not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know when Government expect to come to a conclusion in regard to this?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I can assure my friend that we have been trying our level best to come to a decision as soon as possible.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether Government have made up their mind with regard to the basic principles for the grant of protection?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is one of the questions under consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that this Assembly passed a Resolution as long as eight years ago recommending to Government the establishment of a permanent Tariff Board?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I was not born in this House then.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the answer to part (b)? What are the matters in regard to which revision is proposed?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: All these matters are receiving consideration.

REDUCTION IN PRICE OF MOTOR SPIRIT AND KEROSENE

644. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) whether the price of Motor Spirit was recently reduced and by how much;

(b) whether any reduction has been effected in the price of kerosene; and

(c) if not, why no such reduction could be made?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes. One and a half anna per gallon ex-main Port Local Pump.

(b) and (c). No current costs of importation and distribution of Kerosene did not permit of any price reduction on this occasion.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know why the Government has not been able to effect a reduction in the price of kerosene which is being used by the majority of poor people in this country?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: They do not care for the poor people.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As my Honourable friend knows, the price of kerosene is fixed having regard to the two factors of costs of importation and distribution.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know whether there has been any improvement in the kerosene position in the country.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: There has not been any improvement but we have tried to give a little more supply, by adding 10 per cent. for the winter months.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that His Majesty's Government are the owners of the Anglo-Persian and other oil companies which are sending oil and kerosene to this country, will Government consider making a representation with regard to the need for reducing kerosene prices for the poor of this country?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I will consider the matter.

ESTABLISHMENT OF IMPROVEMENT TRUST FOR AJMER

645. ***Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni:** (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware that in 1938 a special officer was appointed to hold a departmental enquiry and bring together all facts bearing on the public health condition in the Ajmer City?

(b) Is it a fact that the special officer had strongly recommended the establishment of an Improvement Trust for the Ajmer Town in order to remove congestion and improve housing condition?

(c) What steps have Government taken or propose to take in accordance with this recommendation?

(d) Are Government aware that any delay in the formation of an Improvement Trust will make the problem of acquiring lands more and more difficult as new colonies are growing around the city and new houses are being built in the city itself?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Consideration of the question of establishing an Improvement Trust for Ajmer City has been postponed in view of the conditions arising out of the war.

(d) Yes.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: In view of the fact that Ajmer is a very congested and dirty city, is it the intention of Government to set up this Improvement Trust as quickly as possible?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We put off the idea of establishing an Improvement Trust for the duration of the war. The matter will certainly have to be considered.

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: Am I to understand that even preliminary inquiries will not be made by the Government with regard to this Trust?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not know what preliminary inquiry the Honourable Member has in mind.

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: In order to work out a scheme at a later stage, when Government decide to take up the Improvement Trust formation, will they not appoint a special officer to go into the details of the thing and prepare a comprehensive scheme?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: When the formation of the Trust is decided upon, there will have to be some preliminary inquiry.

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: It means that the Government are not prepared to have an Improvement Trust.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It does not mean that. We will consider that.

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: When is Government likely to decide on the formation of the Improvement Trust?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I cannot say when.

FACILITIES FOR HIGHER TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS OF AJMER MERWARA

646. ***Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni:** (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware that there are no adequate facilities for students of Ajmer-Merwara to receive higher technical education, e.g., Engineering Medical, etc., on account of which local youngmen have to suffer great disabilities?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take to meet this need of Ajmer-Merwara? If none, why?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No. Government have been awarding scholarships to Students of Ajmer-Merwara for higher studies in Agriculture, Engineering and Medicine.

(b) The question of providing increased facilities is under consideration in connection with post-war educational development in the Centrally administered areas.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: May I know how many Government scholarships have been given to Engineering and other students?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Ten during the last three years.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: There is a large workshop connected with the B., B. and C. I. Railway in Ajmer. Will Government consider the possibility of making technical training available to students of Ajmer-Merwara in these railway workshops?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That will be one of the possible lines of approach.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Some of the facilities given by the Railway have been completely withdrawn and if that is so, will Government look into the matter and try to restore these facilities?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I will look into that.

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: How many scholarships have been given by the Government?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Ten in the last three years.

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: How much has been spent by Government?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I must ask for notice.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Have any scholarships been given to women to study medicine?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Two of the ten were for women. I think they were both medical students.

NEED FOR MORE STATE HOSPITALS IN AJMER-MERWARA

647. *Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware that the Victoria Hospital is the only civil hospital in Ajmer-Merwara and that it is quite inadequate to meet the demands of this Province both as regards staff and equipment with the result that the people of this Province have to suffer much inconvenience and hardship?

(b) Is it a fact that as far back as 1930, Government intended to take over this hospital (*vide* Foreign and Political Department Memorandum No. F-458-A/38, dated the 18th April, 1930), but this intention has not been carried into effect so far?

(c) Are Government aware that, while the sister Provinces of Baluchistan, Coorg and Delhi possess, respectively, 31, 11 and 4 first class State hospitals, there is none in Ajmer-Merwara?

(d) If the replies to (a), (b) and (c) are in the affirmative, do Government propose to take immediate steps to remedy this defect so that the people of Ajmer-Merwara may be able to get adequate Medical relief?

(e) Has any additional grant to the Victoria Hospital been made in order to meet the increased cost of medicine and maintenance, etc.? If not, why not?

(f) Do Government propose to debit the repairing, cleaning and whitewashing charges of the Victoria Hospital to the Central Public Works Department so that the money thus released may be utilized for providing other urgent needs of the hospital?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes, As an immediate measure of relief the question of appointing two more Assistant Surgeons at the Victoria Hospital is under consideration.

(b) The proposal was considered but was not pursued owing to financial stringency.

(c) The number of first class state hospitals in the Provinces of Baluchistan, Coorg and Delhi are seven, two and one respectively.

(d) The question of providing further medical relief for Ajmer-Merwara will be considered.

(e) The cost of all medicines excluding special drugs is met by Government and as compared with 1941-42 about Rs. 3,000 more was spent on medicines during subsequent years to meet increased cost.

(f) The suggestion made by the Honourable Member will be considered by Government.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I know, Sir, if there is a separate hospital for women in Ajmer? If there is none, will Government consider the proposal to start one?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: There is not a separate hospital for women. As regards the future, I should like first to see what the Bhoze Committee recommends.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I know, Sir, if there is a woman doctor attached to the General Hospital to help women patients?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am afraid I must ask for notice.

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: There is a lady doctor on the staff of the Victoria Hospital.

INADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY OF AJMER

648. *Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware that the water supply of Ajmer is not only wholly inadequate to meet the demands of the growing population but is also totally impure and the pressure in the mains is so low that water cannot reach the newly developed areas in the suburbs?

(b) Are Government aware that the sanitary condition in Ajmer is very bad on account of lack of drainage?

(c) Is it a fact that on account of impure water and defective drainage, Ajmer, has, within recent years, on account of a large increase in the population had recurring outbreaks of cholera, malaria and that the incidence of tuberculosis is also on an alarming increase?

(d) Why have the schemes for improvements of sanitation and water supply in Ajmer by the provision of a scientific system of drainage and an adequate supply of filtered water which had been sanctioned by the Government and on which a good amount had already been spent been suspended for the duration of war?

(e) Do Government propose to take immediate steps to release the necessary funds and materials for the purpose so that the scheme for drainage and water supply may be taken in hand without delay?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) to (e). Yes. The water supply and drainage disposal arrangements of Ajmer are not satisfactory. To put them on a satisfactory basis a scheme was sanctioned, but its execution has been held up owing to the difficulty in war-time of obtaining essential material such as pipes and cement required for the purpose. The scheme can be taken up only when conditions improve and essential material becomes available.

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: How long will the Government take to move in the matter? Do they not consider this scheme as inescapable and so it must be put into execution soon?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It was not considered inescapable.

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: Why not? Has not the public health of the Province suffered during all these years? For how long has this scheme been pending?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am quite prepared to admit that the health has suffered, but the detailed estimates for this scheme were received only in 1942.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that the Government attempted to bore a tube well in the vicinity of Ajmer and that the scheme failed because no water was found?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I believe a tube well was sunk. It was not sunk by my Department. I believe it was an experimental measure. It was not a success.

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: I understand that the material is now available. Will the Government kindly make enquiries and take up the scheme in hand immediately?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We made enquiries, but we were informed that material was not available.

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: When was the enquiry made last?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: About half way through 1944, I think.

Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: Will the Honourable Member please pay a visit to Ajmer in the near future and see things for himself.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I cannot promise that.

NOMINATION OF INDIAN CHRISTIAN TO DELHI MUNICIPALITY, ETC.

649. *Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware that no non-official Indian Christian has been nominated a Member of the Delhi Municipal Committee after April, 1931?

(b) In view of the fact that the Indian Christian Community is the third largest in numbers and as, under the rules, no Indian Christian can stand for election from any of the Municipal Wards of Delhi, do Government propose to nominate an Indian Christian to the Delhi Municipal Committee?

(c) Are Government aware that no Indian Christian (non-official) has ever been nominated a Member of the New Delhi Municipal Committee and the Notified Area Committee, Civil Lines, Delhi?

(d) In view of the large number of Indian Christians living within the limits of the New Delhi Municipal Committee and the Notified Area Committee, Civil Lines, Delhi, do Government propose to nominate an Indian Christian on each of these two Committees to represent the interests of the community?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes, but I may perhaps mention that the Honourable Member was himself a member of the Delhi Municipal Committee from April 1931 to October 1944 in his capacity of Superintendent of Education, Delhi.

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to rule 1.3 of the Delhi Municipality Election Rules 1944 under which an Indian Christian can now stand for election to any of the non-muslim constituencies.

(c) Yes.

(d) The claims of Indian Christians will be kept in mind whenever appointments have to be made, but it must be remembered that both the local bodies mentioned have generally a substantial Christian element among the members appointed by virtue of office.

Lt.-Col Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: In view of the reply given by the Honourable Member, does he claim to represent the European Group in this House?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No, Sir.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Then, how can I be taken to represent the Indian Christians in the municipality?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is arguing.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Is it a fact that the Indian Christian community presented a memorandum before the Simon Commission saying that they did not want a separate electorate?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I want notice of that question.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: When were these disqualifications removed?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Under the rules of 1944.

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DIFFICULTIES OF OVERSEAS INDIAN STUDENTS SEEKING ADMISSION TO COLLEGES IN INDIA

653. ***Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Indian students from Overseas, particularly from South and East Africa, experience great difficulties when seeking admission to colleges in India and those desirous of joining Engineering and Medical Colleges are required to pay heavy capitation fees? If so, what action has the Honourable Member taken to remove those difficulties, and what is the amount, in different cases, of the capitation fees and what measures has the Honourable Member taken to relieve the Indian students from overseas of this burden?

(b) Is it a fact that in the case of students from various Provinces in India studying at universities other than those of their own, such capitation fees are paid by the Governments of those students' respective Provinces? If so, has the Honourable Member approached the Union and East African Governments and asked them that they also should bear their due burden in this connection? If not, why not?

(c) Is it a fact that the authority for the nomination of Indian students from South and East Africa to the seats reserved for them in colleges in India

is vested in the High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa and the Indian Trade Commissioner at Mombassa, and not in an educational authority in this country who alone can be expected to make nominations on the basis of merit? If so, does the Honourable Member propose to see that the deserving candidates get their due?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Information regarding colleges other than Engineering and Medical colleges is being collected and will be supplied when received. As regards Engineering and Medical colleges, the Government of India have persuaded the Governments of Bombay, Madras, the United Provinces and Bihar to reserve eleven seats in some Medical colleges and six seats in some Engineering colleges in these provinces for Indian students from South Africa and East Africa. The capitation and extra fees for these seats are as follows:

Bombay colleges.—Capitation fee Rs. 700 per annum per medical student and tuition fee Rs. 200 per annum per engineering student.

Madras colleges.—Twice the normal tuition fees.

U. P. colleges.—Capitation fee Rs. 1,000 per annum per medical or engineering student.

Bihar colleges.—Nil.

Students not belonging to the respective provinces are not allowed admission to their colleges without the payment of these fees and I am therefore unable to have this condition removed. I understand that Indian students from South Africa and East Africa who are able to avail themselves of these vacancies have either their own means or can obtain scholarship or assistance from charitable funds to meet the extra charges. I shall be prepared to consider sympathetically any reasonable suggestions regarding relief which the Honourable Member may make.

(b) The information required in the first part of the question is being collected and will be supplied when received. I shall consider the suggestion made in the second part of the question.

(c) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. It is presumed that the High Commissioner and the Trade Commissioner consult local educational authorities in making their nominations. I shall however have the matter examined.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Will these seats which have been reserved in India be subject to communal allotment?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I believe not.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Then, how will the Honourable Member divide these seats in the case of Muslim candidates and Hindu candidates who might come from South Africa?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I am glad that kind of sentiment does not exist in South Africa.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Is not a fact that there are no colleges for Indians in South Africa?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Perhaps not.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member tell me if discrimination is not exercised with regard to white boys and brown boys for admission to South African colleges in the matter of education?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I believe that is so.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that the Aligarh University has got special quota for South African students who are charged no capitation fee?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I am grateful for that information.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member tell me to whom does the capitation fee go?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I want notice.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: How does the capitation or decapitation fee prescribed?

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

†This question has been postponed to be answered on the 26th March, 1945.

MANUFACTURE OF RADIO SETS.

654. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) What steps has the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies taken in order to bring about or encourage the manufacture of a number of radio sets in India?

(b) Have Government been approached by any firms or companies intending to carry on this industry?

(c) If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, who were these firms and what were their proposals?

(d) How many radio sets have been imported into India since the beginning of the war and what were the lowest and the highest selling prices of these radio sets?

(e) What special facilities have Government provided for the importation of radio spare parts for repairs to existing radio sets?

(f) What was the total number of licence-holders of radio sets in 1944-45, and how does this figure compare with the pre-war number?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (e). Radio sets and accessories are not at present being manufactured in India and the question is receiving consideration. In this connection all possible assistance is being given to firms' representatives, who have approached Government, to proceed overseas in order to explore the possibilities of starting the industry in India, provided Government are satisfied with the *bona fides* of the firms. In the meantime import of sets and spare parts are being arranged. The supply position in the exporting countries is very tight but Government are endeavouring to get as large an apportionment for India as is possible in the circumstances.

(b) Yes.

(c) *First Part:*

Messrs. Radio & Electricals Ltd., Madras.

Messrs. Motwane Radio Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Bombay.

Messrs. Radios Ltd., Bombay.

Consent for issue of capital under long range conditions has been given to the first two of these companies. An application on the same terms from the third is under consideration.

Second Part: Establishment of factories for the assembly and the manufacture of radio sets, spare parts and accessories.

(d) *First Part:* About 1.45,000 up to the end of October 1944 (Later figures are not available).

Second Part: Information in regard to all types of sets is not available. So far as Government are aware, prices ranged from about Rs. 100 to Rs. 1,300.

(f) Upto the 31st December 1944, 193,676. Upto the 31st August 1939, 79,590.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that transmitting sets and radio sets are of extreme importance for security purposes, will Government give an assurance to this House that before very long, in the next two or three years and before the next war starts, they will have this manufacture established in this country?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If I knew when the next war would start I could have given that answer. But Government have been proceeding with a view to developing radio in this country, and a considerable amount of radio research and the machinery required has been going on in this country.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If adequate private enterprise does not come forward, will my Honourable friend assure this House that Government themselves will set up this manufacture for security purposes?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is a question of post-war policy which is under consideration along with others.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will there be any security considerations even in post-war?

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

MEAT DEHYDRATION FACTORIES

655. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the number of meat dehydrating factories in India together with the names of places where they are situated;

(b) how many of them are for *jhatka* meat together with the names of places where they are situated;

(c) whether the process of dehydration has proved to be a success in this country, and how much dehydrated meat has been found so far to be unfit for human consumption from the various factories; and

(d) whether it is a fact that some factories have been closed after some time; if so, how many and which of them?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) There are nine meat dehydration factories in operation or under construction in India, situated at Madras, Ranipet, Anantapur, Poona, Patna, Delhi, Agra, Amritsar and Nowshera (N.-W.F.P.)

(b) Of these, four are *Jhatka* meat factories situated at Madras, Ranipet, Poona and Amritsar.

(c) (i) The process of dehydration of meat has proved successful in this country.

(ii) Only a quantity of 31 tons, produced at the Amritsar meat factory in 1943, was found later to be unfit for the Defence Forces.

(d) Only one factory has been temporarily closed for remodelling.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is all this dehydrated meat used by the army or is a part of it consumed by the civilian population also?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: It is entirely for the Defence forces.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Are these factories Government-owned and operated or are they given to contractors?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: New ones are all Government-owned and operated.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member aware that the factory at Nowshera has brought about a great increase in the price of meat in the N.-W. F. P. where it is an ordinary article of food?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I am not aware of that.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member aware that after this factory was set up the price of meat has gone up to something like Rs. 2-4-0 to Rs. 2-8-0 a seer?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I am not aware, Sir.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the hardship involved to the Frontier people, will the Honourable Member consider the question of removing this factory to some other province where the people are mostly vegetarians?

(No reply was given.)

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Is the Honourable Member aware that great hardship is caused to the civilian population, on account of these dehydration factories, by raising the price of meat? Even in Delhi where the price was only six annas a seer it is now Rs. 1-8-0.

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I submit that whether that is due to the dehydration factories is a matter of opinion; my own opinion is that it is not entirely due to that.

STANDARD CLOTH, ETC., FOR BENGAL

656. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state the total quantity of Standard Cloth in yards supplied to Bengal during 1943-44, and up to February 15, 1945?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the total production of (i) *Dhoties* 5 yds. and *Saries* 5 yds. by Bengal Mills during 1943-44 and supply to Bengal of *Dhoties* and *Saries* 5 yds. each from other Provinces during 1943-44?

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

(c) What is the total quantity of cloth—*Dhoties* and *Sarees* required for Bengal for use of adults i.e., 5 yds. each?

(d) Was the supply sufficient for the requirements of Bengal?

(e) What was the control price of *dhoties* and *sarees* supplied to Bengal during 1943 and 1944?

(f) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that *dhoties* and *sarees* are not available in Calcutta market except in black market?

(g) How many hoarder and profiteers in textile trade in Bengal have been prosecuted and what punishment has been meted out to them? Will the Honourable Member lay on the table of the House a statement on the present textile position in Bengal giving a list of the textile traders punished for blackmarketing and hoarding?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The total yardage of Standard Cloth supplies to Bengal from the 1st January, 1943 to the 31st December, 1944, is 169,880,377 yards and from 1st January 1945 to the 15th February, 1945 is 9,596,871 yards.

(b) No information is available regarding the total production of *Dhoties* 5 yards of *Sarees* 5 yards by Bengal Mills during 1943-44 nor of the supplies to Bengal of *Dhoties* and *Sarees* 5 yards each from other provinces during 1943-44.

(c) No separate statistics regarding the requirements of *Dhoties* and *Sarees* in Bengal are available either in the Textile Commissioner's office or in the office of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics.

(d) No. There was certainly some shortage.

(e) I lay on the table a list of control prices of typical varieties of *Dhoties* and *Sarees* supplied to Bengal during 1943 and 1944.

(f) No. Government is however aware that black-marketing has been rampant in Calcutta, particularly in the wholesale trade.

(g) 437 prosecutions were sanctioned up to the 20th February, 1945. 295 cases convicted and 22 cases were acquitted. I shall lay on the table of the House a list of the textile traders punished in Bengal for black-marketing and hoarding when received.

List of typical varieties of Dhoties and Sarees for Bengal during 1943-44

Quality	Dimension	Trade No.	Exmill.	Retail	Unit
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
Chool and Quarter P. Dhoby	44" x 10 yds.	2699	5 9 0	6 11 0	Pair
		3099			
1/2" Fancy dhoby	44" x 10 "	2399	5 12 0	6 14 0	"
1/2" Dhoby	44" x 10 "	13 1/2 x 13 1/2	6 12 0	8 2 0	"
Super K. Dooty	44" x 10 "	21 1/2 x 21 1/2	6 11 0	8 0 0	"
1 1/2" Plain Sadi	44" x 10 "	32 x 32	6 11 0	8 0 0	"
2 1/2" Plain Sadi	44" x 10 "	31 1/2 x 31 1/2	7 1 0	8 8 0	"
2 1/2" Fancy Sadi	44" x 10 "	617	7 15 0	9 8 0	"
3" Fancy Sadi	44" x 10 "	717	8 7 0	10 2 0	"
3" Jacquard Sadi	44" x 10 "	VASANTI	8 11 0	10 7 0	"
2 1/2" Plain Sadi	44" x 10 "	25 1/2 x 25 1/2	8 9 0	10 4 0	"
2" Fancy Sadi	44" x 10 "	32 1/2 x 32 1/2	8 10 0	10 6 0	"
2 1/2" Fancy Sadi	44" x 10 "	33 1/2 x 33 1/2	9 3 0	11 0 0	"
3" Fancy Sadi	44" x 10 "	34 1/2 x 34 1/2	11 5 0	13 9 0	"

These are basic prices and in 1944 three reductions, viz., 9 3/8 per cent 9 3/8 per cent and 6 1/2 per cent respectively were made.

INFORMAL RATIONING IN DISTRICTS OF MADRAS PRESIDENCY

657. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) whether informal rationing is going to be introduced in Coimbatore and other districts in the Madras Presidency; and

(b) whether it is true that in such rationing, while Government will take away all surplus grain from the producers do not guarantee its supply to them throughout the year?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) - Yes.

(b) Since the surplus only is taken, the question of its return later in the year does not arise.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are Government aware that under this scheme the agriculturists are provided only for three months and not for the whole year?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: No, Sir, I am not aware of that.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if it is a part of the informal rationing? Surely he must be aware of that.

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: The scheme is that the surplus is taken; that is to say, Government leave with the producer what they consider to be necessary for him for the remainder of the year. If the producer does not produce enough for himself, not only is the stuff not taken from him but arrangements are made to supply him with the grain he needs.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will he consider this matter that if the provision made for him is only for three months Government should amend it so that a whole year's provision may be left for him?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I will bring that to the notice of the Government of Madras.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the distinction between informal rationing and compulsory rationing?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: There is very little distinction in practice except that in formal rationing Government undertake a statutory obligation to provide the ration. In informal rationing they are under no statutory obligation to provide a specified amount of ration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How is the quantity to be allotted to the peasant? Is it the same as in the case of other people or is it something else?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: As to the method of calculation in Madras I would refer the Honourable Member to the report of the Honourable Mr. Somerset Butler on this subject, a copy of which is in the Library.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member supply me with a copy?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I shall be happy to do so.

UNIT OF FOODGRAINS RATIONING IN VILLAGES

658. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) whether a ration of one lb. per individual is calculated for rationing foodgrains in villages; whether it refers to rice only or all foodgrains;

(b) whether he has received any representations from any Government or otherwise that one lb. of grains is absolutely insufficient for peasants and others working on the fields; and

(c) whether he proposes to consider the advisability of increasing this by another half a pound at least to producers of foodgrains, when calculations are made with reference to taking off the surplus grain from them?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) A one lb. ration means one lb. of all the cereals included in the group ration. Where, however, rice only is rationed it means one lb. of rice.

(b) One such representation has been received but not from any Government.

(c) The Government of India have already advised Provincial Governments to be generous in estimating the quantity of foodgrains which a producer should be allowed to retain for his own consumption.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have they recommended any rate in the matter of generosity?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: We have not laid down a rate from the Centre, but I understand that in Madras the practice is to give one pound.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that Madras is a deficit province and rice is to be supplied by the Government of India to meet the deficit, is the Honourable Member aware that they cannot increase it unless the Government of India undertake to supply the extra amount required?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: Yes, Sir, we shall do our best to supply whatever the Madras Government ask us to supply.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have Government received any representations from the Madras Government as to the extra amount necessary beyond this one pound?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: No, Sir, not so far.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: What is the rice ration in Bengal per individual?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: In Calcutta it is eight pounds per week.

LIVE-STOCK CENSUS

659. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) when the last census of live-stock was taken, what the result of that census was;

(b) whether live-stock has increased or decreased in the country; and whether Government are in a position to give any figures for such increase or decrease; and

(c) what attempts are made by the Government of India to increase live-stock?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The last all-India quinquennial live-stock census was held in January-February, 1945 and the result is awaited.

(b) In the absence of the figures, it is not possible for Government to say definitely whether the number of cattle has increased or decreased.

(c) Provincial Governments have been advised to restrict the slaughter of useful cattle and to take steps for their proper feeding, breeding and maintenance.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Have the Government of Bengal carried out the instructions issued by Government?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No instructions were issued by Government.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the answer to part (a)?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The census was in January and February of this year and the figures are not yet available.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the results of the census be placed on the table of the House?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: Yes, Sir.

INADEQUATE CLOTH QUOTA FOR BENGAL

660. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) whether he is aware that the Textile Commissioner allocated cloth to Bengal on the basis of only 10 yds. per person as against 18 yds. for Bombay, Punjab and Delhi provinces;

(b) on what basis this quota has been allocated;

(c) the total yardage of cloth allotted to the whole population of Bengal;

(d) whether he is aware that the local production of textile through mills as well as hand-looms is inadequate to meet the requirements of the Bengal population;

(e) whether he is aware that out of the allotted quota appreciable quantities of cloth are being diverted to the manufacture of ready-made garments for the military and auxiliary personnel and to meet the requirements of the Red Cross and other hospitals;

(f) whether he is aware that export of cloth from the Bengal area to China is also taking place;

(g) whether he is aware that even from the low quota given to Bengal, the actual quantity available to the Bengal population will be less than 10 yds. per head;

(h) in this connection whether he is aware that originally the quota was fixed on the basis of 12 yds. of cloth per head for all the Provinces; if so, the reasons which were responsible for the subsequent allocation of 10 yds. per head to Bengal; and

(i) whether he proposes to investigate the matter and see that a larger quota is allotted to Bengal?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes.

(b) The basis was the estimated pre-war consumption which is believed to have been between ten and twelve yards per head per annum. I would also refer the Honourable Member to my answer to part (b) of starred question No. 175 of the 13th February.

(c) The allocation is not made to the Bengal Province separately, but to the Bengal Deficit Zone which includes also Assam, the Bengal States and the Assam States. The total allocation made from outside the zone is 21,750 bales, i.e., 32,625,000 yards per month. The remainder is made up from local production which is approximately half and half handloom and millmade. The total allotment is 725,130,000 yards per annum for a total population of 72,513,000.

(d) Yes. Inadequacy of the local production is the reason for the allocation of 21,750 bales per month from outside referred to in my answer to part (c).

(e) I have no information of the quantities involved. The possibility of making a special allotment outside the quota for these purposes is at present, however, under consideration.

(f) Exports to China even if bought in the Bengal area would not come out of the Provincial quota but out of the quota allotted for export.

(g) No. The Bengal population generally speaking should obtain the 10 yards per head allotted to it. In fact, for the latest period, viz., five months ending November 1944, the total cotton cloth made available to Bengal was at the rate of 13.9 yards per head per annum.

(h) This is not correct.

(i) The matter is at present under investigation.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India propose to introduce individual rationing in cloth?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not possible for the Government of India to introduce individual rationing for about four hundred millions of population.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to part (f) of the question, is the Honourable Member aware that during recent months, and also perhaps during the last year, considerable quantity of cloth was actually smuggled out of India for the benefit of China?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir I have no information about the things which were smuggled. This information ought to be at the disposal of the Provincial Government.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Member aware that a large quantity of cloth has gone into Burma?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, Sir, I am not aware of it.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it a fact that the customs authorities who are expected to prevent such smuggling are entirely under the control of the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, Sir. Customs is under the Government of India.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member make a reference to the custom authorities for the purpose of ascertaining whether the allegation which I have made is substantially correct?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I will do so.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that it was possible for the Govern-

ment of India to introduce individual rationing in foodgrains in large parts of the country, may I ask why they consider it impossible for them to undertake individual rationing in cloth?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, my Honourable friend's previous question was not for individual rationing in certain places, but for the whole of India. If it is a question of individual rationing in certain big areas, the matter will be looked into.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Has the Honourable Member's attention been drawn to the recent proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly in which allegations were made that in several instances women-folk were reported to have committed suicide for their failure to secure cloth? Is he also aware that even shrouds for the dead are not available in the Eastern Provinces, particularly Assam?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have seen some reports like that, but it is very difficult for me to understand. I take it that everybody in this country does not purchase cloth and if one man in even three or four purchases cloth then every purchaser should be entitled to at least forty yards, if not fifty yards, and in place of that if I am told that the people are committing suicide I do not understand how things are happening.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Government consider the advisability of starting nudist colonies for the purpose of enabling those who are not members of such colonies to get sufficient cloth to cover their bodies?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am quite prepared to consider that if my Honourable friend will undertake to become officer in charge of that colony.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: With reference to part (a) of the question, is it not a fact that this ten yards was supplemented by the cloth produced by handlooms and now the handlooms are not working on account of the absence of yarn?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not supplemented. The handlooms are functioning. As I explained last year, instead of 13,000 bales per month, which is the maximum demand put forth by the Provincial Government, the actual quantity supplied is over 8,000 bales per month. It is not a fact that handlooms have not been functioning. It is quite true that those handlooms which use fine yarns are not and have not been functioning as much, but so far as looms using other yarns are concerned, they ought to be functioning.

MICA COMMISSION.

661. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the object of appointing the Mica Commission?

(b) What were its terms of reference and composition?

(c) What assistance have Government rendered at any time to the mica producers of this country?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member presumably refers to the Mica Enquiry Committee. His attention is invited to Resolutions No. MD-55, dated 15th May, 1944 and 23rd October 1944, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the Indian Legislature.

(c) Under the Government of India Act 1935 Mineral Development is a Provincial subject except to such extent as is declared by a Federal law to be expedient in the public interest. No such federal law at present exists and Mineral Development has therefore been left entirely to Provincial Governments. But even so during the war the Central Government has given considerable assistance to mica producers in helping them to get supplies and by allowing the bonus on excess production to be free of excess profits tax.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that Government have controlled the price of mica and that bulk of the mica has been purchased both for this Government and for the Allied Governments at controlled prices, and that the control has been introduced by the Central Government?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Prices have been fixed.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know how these prices compare with the pre-war prices?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: They compare very favourably.

Mr. Manu Subedar: How much is the difference?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, I must have notice of that question.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Mica Commission is going to consider the conditions of work of the mica miners, and, if so, whether the miners are represented on the Mica Commission?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: No, that is not one of the subjects which the Commission will make enquiries about.

Mr. G. W. Tyson: With reference to part (c) of the question, will the Honourable Member say whether he is satisfied that during the war, in which period the Central Government has had a good deal to do with the mica industry, Government has accorded protection to the mechanized mining companies which have suffered very heavy losses as a result of the illicit trade in mica?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That is one of the reason why the Committee was appointed.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I know if the Maternity Benefit Act is applied to mica factories?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It applies to all mines.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Is it a fact that the Factories Act is not applied to mica splitting factories. If so, why?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have no reason to believe that it is not applied.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I draw the attention of the Government to the report in the Trade Unions Record of September, 1944?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Probably that might need further corroboration.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Honourable Member will make enquiries to find out whether the Factories Act applies to mica factories, or not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I will make enquiries.

ABOLITION OF DISTINCTION BETWEEN ORTHODOX AND UN-ORTHODOX QUARTERS

662. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) With reference to the Honourable the Labour Member's reply to the adjournment motion on the 10th February, 1945, regarding the abolition of the distinction between orthodox and unorthodox quarters, will he be pleased to state whether other Departments of Government were consulted and which and how many of the Departments of the Government of India were for and against the proposal to abolish the distinction?

(b) Has the Estate Officer been vested till now with the discretion to allot unorthodox quarters? If not, why has he now been vested with such discretion?

(c) What is the method or machinery by which the Estate Officer will be able to satisfy himself whether an applicant, who is an Indian, professes European habits and thus becomes eligible for a unit in the unorthodox quarters?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes, Government do not consider it necessary to specify the Departments who were against or in favour of the proposal.

(b) No. The Estate Officer will have no discretion in the allotment of unorthodox quarters as Government have decided that a declaration by an applicant in respect of his style of living should be accepted without question.

(c) Does not arise.

ABOLITION OF DISTINCTION BETWEEN ORTHODOX AND UN-ORTHODOX QUARTERS

663. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether, according to his reply of the 10th instant in connection with the adjournment motion on the same subject, mentioned in the preceding question, it is proposed to disturb the provisional lien holders

of unorthodox quarters? If so, will they be allotted similar accommodation of the type to which they are eligible, if available?

(b) In the event of such higher category accommodation not being available, is it the intention to allow them as heretofore to continue in the type of house they are already in occupation until such time as the higher type accommodation is available? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(b) Yes.

SAVINGS IN FOODGRAINS OF SURPLUS AREAS DUE TO RATIONING SYSTEM.

664. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) whether there has been any saving in the foodgrains by the introduction of rationing system in the surplus areas like the Punjab and the United Provinces; and

(b) whether Government are aware that in rationed towns wheat or *atta* is sold at a higher price and is of comparatively worse quality than that sold in non-rationed towns?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) Yes, but the United Provinces was not a surplus province last year.

(b) No Sir, not as a general rule.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Can the Honourable Member give me any idea as to how much grain has been saved?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: It is impossible to calculate that.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether the Punjab Government has represented to the Government of India that rationing is not necessary in that province?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: They did represent, but they have undertaken to carry out rationing in the Punjab.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it not a fact that there is a shortage of wheat in the United Provinces which used to be a surplus province? What is the reason for that?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: There is a shortage of wheat in the United Provinces this year, and that was due to the loss of nearly 500,000 tons of wheat in the last week of March and the first week of April last year. The reason of the loss was climatic conditions.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is this food rationing applied to all the towns in the United Provinces or only to some principal towns?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: It is not applied to all the towns, but it applies to a very great many of them.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know briefly by what process the Honourable Member has arrived at this exact figure of 500,000 tons?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: On the estimate of the Provincial Governments concerned.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Did this loss take place in Government godowns or in the fields?

(No answer was given by Mr. Hutchings.)

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Of course, in the fields, due to climatic conditions.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: The loss can be in the godowns also due to climatic conditions because the Government are most careless about their godowns.

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

PRICE OF IMPORTED WHEAT AT CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, ETC.

665. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the cost price and the market price of the imported wheat at Calcutta, Bombay, Karachi and Delhi; and

(b) whether the Government of India make any profit out of it; if so, to what extent?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) The present price of imported wheat at Calcutta, Bombay and Karachi is Rs. 9-3-0 per maund ex-Port Trust Transit Shed which is a 'pool price' based on the actuals for cost and freight to India, the estimated cost of clearing and bagging and a charge to cover Marine and War risk insurance. There is no 'market price' for imported wheat at these places, as the towns are rationed and wheat is a controlled commodity. No imported wheat has so far been received in Delhi.

(b) The Government of India are not making any profit out of the import of foodgrains.

Sardar Mangal Singh: What is the actual cost price of imported wheat in these towns?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: In the case of Australian wheat up till last October it was Rs. 7/5 per maund. Since then the cost of Australian wheat has risen slightly and it is now Rs. 8/6 per maund.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any of the Provincial Governments making any profit?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: Not to my knowledge.

Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt: Has the Honourable Member any information as to what is the F. O. B. price of Australian wheat?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I have some information but I would not like to give a categorical answer without notice, I think it is between Rs. 3 and Rs. 4.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it the policy of the Government to push down the price of rice and wheat in India by importing Australian wheat at such a low price?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: No, Sir.

DAMAGED FOODGRAINS

666. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) how much foodgrains had been damaged all over India during 1944; and

(b) whether these foodgrains were put in Government Stores, or were lying with licensed dealers?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) and (b). Complete information is not available with the Government of India.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I know with reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (a), whether this damage is in Government godowns also or only in open fields?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I have said that complete information is unfortunately not readily available.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member please make a statement on the basis of whatever information, complete or incomplete that there may be at the disposal of the Government?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: No, Sir. I must ask for notice.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that enormous masses of foodgrains are ruined in Government godowns, will the Honourable Member please instruct the Provincial Governments to be more careful about their storage?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I have already done so.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What reply has he received from the Provincial Governments to this?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: All the Provincial Governments are actively engaged on improving their storage.

SAFEGUARDING OF INDIAN INTEREST IN LIBERATED BURMA

667. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state what arrangements have been made for the purpose of safeguarding the interests, and promoting the welfare, of the Indian population in those parts of Burma which have already been liberated

or are in the process of liberation, from the hands of the enemy? What is the approximate total number of Indian residents in the areas that have already been liberated?

(b) How many Indians, either official or non-official, have been permitted to proceed to these areas to contact and help the Indian population there in any manner? Has the Agent of the Government of India, attached to the Government of Burma, paid any visit to these areas as yet? What is his programme in this behalf?

(c) How many non-Indians, either official or non-official, have been permitted to contact and help the non-Indian population in these liberated areas?

(d) Are Indian businessmen, either with or without previous trade connection with Burma, being allowed to follow the conquering army into tracts of liberated Burma for the purpose of establishing trade contacts there? To what extent are non-Indian business interests getting such facilities?

(e) Does the Honourable Member propose to explain fully the plans and the programme of Government in the matter of rehabilitation of Indians residing in liberated portions of Burma?

(f) What financial provisions have been, or are being, made by the Government of India for these purposes?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Such liberated parts are at present under military administration and the South East Asia Command administers them through the Civil Affairs Service (Burma). They are responsible for safeguarding the interests of entire civil population of all classes in these areas. The number of Indian residents in these liberated parts is not known.

(b) and (c). No civilians of any nationality have so far been allowed to enter these areas. The Representative of the Government of India has not yet paid any visit to these areas.

(d) Up to the present no facilities have been given to private trading interests of any nationality to return to Burma.

(e) and (f). Government have this matter under examination but are not able to give any details before further information is available regarding the needs of the Indians in these areas.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I know whether the Government of India maintains any liaison with the South East Asia Command for the purpose of keeping themselves informed about the position of Indians in liberated portions of Burma, and for the purpose of enabling them to draw up schemes of rehabilitation?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: We are considering that question.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I beg your pardon. I wanted to know whether any liaison is being maintained by the Government of India with the South East Asia Command.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: We are finding out ways to maintain that liaison.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I take it that there is no liaison at the present moment between the Government of India and the South East Asia Command for the purpose of looking after the interests of India in Burma.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Not at present.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Not even in British occupied Burma?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know from the Honourable Member if the conditions under which the British or the Indian can return to occupied Burma are identical?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: No conditions have been devised and I believe they will be identical.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: The Honourable Member is giving me his opinion. Can the Honourable Member definitely tell me that as far as the conditions of return are concerned, there is no discrimination against Indians in favour of the British?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have answered that question.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Well, I have read press reports that there is discrimination against Indians. Can the Honourable Member assure this House that the conditions of return for Indians and the British are identical in occupied Burma?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: No one has yet been allowed to go there.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: It is not the correct answer. Undoubtedly there are some conditions laid down. Has the Honourable Member satisfied himself that the British and the Indian will be treated on par in the matter of return?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I will satisfy myself.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: What is Mr. Jamnadas Mehta doing if he is not a Liaison Officer?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: He is attached to the Civil Government of Burma.

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

BREAK-DOWN OF TRADE DISPUTES ARBITRATION MACHINERY IN AHMEDABAD

668. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Honourable the Labour Member aware of the serious situation arising out of the break-down of the permanent machinery of arbitration for settlement of disputes between capital and industry in Ahmedabad?

(b) Is it not a fact that the break-down is viewed with grave concern by the Joint Representative Board of the Textile Labour Association of Ahmedabad?

(c) Do the Government of India propose to restore arbitration system? If not, why not?

(d) Is it not a fact that there is a written agreement of 1937 signed by both the Textile Labour Association and the Millowners' Association of Ahmedabad?

(e) Is it not a fact that the above said agreement is still unregistered and not acted upon by the Millowners' Association? If so, do Government propose to use their influence and power necessary to end the dispute?

(f) Does the Government of India propose to encourage and help the formation of a Labour Research Institute contemplated by the Textile Labour Association of Ahmedabad for the benefit of the working classes?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am aware of the existence of a trade dispute over bonus between the Textile Labour Association and the Millowners' Association, Ahmedabad, which has been taken up by the Chief Conciliator under the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938. I have no information regarding any break-down of the arbitration machinery and other matters referred to in the question all of which are the concern of the Provincial Government.

RECOVERY OF SAUDI DUES FROM HAJ PILGRIMS

669. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state if the Government recovered from the Indian pilgrims of the last Haj, all the Saudi Government dues, including the conveyance and *muallam* charges in India? If so, on whose request was this done? Is it a fact that some years back, the Saudi Government had made a similar request for the recovery of their dues in India, but that was not agreed to by the Indian Government? If so, what are the reasons for agreeing to this request now?

(b) How many pilgrims from India paid the Saudi dues in India and what was the total amount so recovered? How much has been paid to the Saudi Government out of the amount recovered? Has the payment been made in terms of *Riyals*? If so, at what rate of exchange with rupees? At what rate of exchange were the dues recovered from the pilgrims?

(c) What were the items of dues charged from the pilgrims, and what was the amount charged per item from the pilgrims, in terms of rupees and in *Riyals*, separately? What was the rate of exchange of *Riyals* in the Hedjaz when the dues were recovered?

(d) Is it a fact that the pilgrims had to pay the dues at an increased rate of exchange of *Riyals* and that the increase was about annas six for a *Riyal*? If so, what is the total amount of the sum recovered from the pilgrims on account of the increased rate, and do Government propose to return the excess amounts recovered from the pilgrims in this way? If so, when, and if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Yes. It was done at the instance of the Government of Saudi Arabia. In 1939 the Government of India were merely asked by His Majesty's Government to express their views on the proposal. They did not agree to it and the matter was dropped. Last year they received definite instructions from His Majesty's Government to collect these dues. They, however, urged that pilgrims should have the option of paying in India or in the Hedjaz. His Majesty's Government replied that the system had already been adopted by other Muslim countries and that failure to comply with it would only result in complete confusion on the arrival of Indian pilgrims at Jedda in addition to the risk of losing their money. The Government of India had thus no option in the matter last year.

(b) Saudi dues were charged from 4,642 pilgrims. The total amount recovered was Rs. 28,52,059-10-0 out of which Rs. 27,90,777-4-0 have been paid so far to the Government of Saudi Arabia. Payment has been made in rupees. Dues were collected at the rate of one rupee eleven annas per *Riyal*.

(c) The items charged for were Jedda sanitation dues, boat hire, Saudi dues and transport charges at the following rates:

	<i>Riyal</i>	Rs. a. p.
(1) Jedda sanitation dues and boat hire	53	90 10 0
(2) Saudi dues and transport charges including a visit to Medina by lorry.	615	1,040 12 0
(3) Saudi dues and transport charges including a visit to Medina by camel.	418	714 12 0
(4) Saudi dues and transport charges excluding a visit to Medina by lorry	260	444 4 0
(5) Saudi dues and transport charges excluding a visit to Medina by camel	189	323 6 0

Government have no information as regards the market rate of exchange of *Riyal* in the Hedjaz. The Saudi Government fixed the exchange rate at Re. 1 annas 11 per *Riyal*.

(d) Complaints have been received that 7 annas per *Riyal* were charged in excess. If this is correct pilgrims made an excess payment of about rupees 7 lakhs. The Saudi Arabia Government were asked to agree to the refund of the excess amount. The British Minister, Jedda, replied that as other Muslim countries had accepted the rate, preferential treatment could not be accorded to Indians. The Government of India have however again pressed for the refund of the amount. The reply is awaited.

COMMUNIQUE RE SAUDI GOVERNMENTS LACK OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR PILGRIMAGE TO HEDJAZ.

670. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state if it is a fact that a communique was issued by the Government during the last Haj season that no arrangements could be made by the Saudi Government for pilgrimage to the Hedjaz for journey to Medina? If so, will that communique or statement be laid on the table of the House?

(b) Is it a fact that all kinds of arrangements of conveyance, motors, buses and camels were provided to the Hajjes in the Hedjaz, by the Saudi Government during the last Haj and that the Saudi Government did not write either to the British or to the Indian Government that no conveyance arrangements would be possible in the Hedjaz? If so, who is responsible for issuing that said communique and to give such a wrong information?

(c) Do Government know that on account of this wrong information many intending pilgrims did not proceed to Haj and had to postpone their journey?

(d) Do Government propose to avoid the recurrence of such matters in the future?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Such a communique was issued for the second Hajj sailing. A copy is laid on the table.

(b) Saudi transport charges for Medina were recovered from pilgrims for the first sailing on the usual understanding that transport facilities would be provided. After the first sailing but before the second sailing instructions were, however, received from the Saudi Arabian Government through the British Minister, Jedda and British Ambassador, Cairo that transport facilities to Medina would not be available. The only proper course for the Government of India, therefore, was to issue the *press communique* and not to recover Medina transport charges from pilgrims of the second batch. At the same time, however, the Government of India made strong representations to the Saudi Government for providing transport facilities to Medina particularly for pilgrims of the first batch. It was in response to these representations that the Saudi Government arranged for transport facilities for the first batch and held out an assurance to do the same for pilgrims of the second batch. We, therefore, issued another press note accordingly a copy of which is also placed on the table.

(c) Government have no such information but consider this to be highly improbable inasmuch as 2,850 applications were received for the 2,240 seats available for the second sailing. The *press communique* did not affect the first sailing at all.

(d) Does not arise.

NOT TO BE BROADCAST

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

Booking of passage for the second Hajj Sailing has now commenced at Karachi. Intending pilgrims should send applications with passage money of Rs. 339-10-0 to Hajj Booking Officer, Karachi upto 15th October 1944. Passage will not be guaranteed if applications are despatched after the 15th. Pilgrims who happen to despatch applications after the 15th must inquire before starting whether their passages have been booked. Those who send applications upto the 15th October 1944, should not wait for the receipt of the Reservation Cards, but must reach Karachi between the 20th and 25th October 1944, with postal acknowledgments and money order receipts and approach the Hajj Booking Officer, Karachi, for Reservation Cards. *Transport for a visit to Medina is not available in the Hedjaz.* It will not therefore be possible for pilgrims to visit Medina except on foot. Saudi dues and transport charges from Jedda to Arafat and back amounting to Rs. 323-6-0 by camel and Rs. 444-4-0 by bus will be recovered before issue of steamer tickets as already announced. Pilgrims must purchase sovereigns in their home Districts. Those who applied previously for Deck passage and have not received Reservation Cards need not wait but must reach Karachi before the 25th October, with Money Order receipts. First class passage is not available now and therefore no one should apply for it. Of the previous applicants for first class passage no one should start for Karachi unless and until he receives a Reservation Card or an intimation from the Hajj Booking Officer that a passage has been reserved for him. Intending pilgrims from Bengal, Assam and Delhi are, however, informed that quotas of their provinces have already become full and that those who have applied after the 5th October, for passages stand no chance of getting it. They should not therefore start for Karachi.

Commonwealth Relations Department.

New Delhi, October 7, 1944.

NOT TO BE BROADCAST

PRESS NOTE

TRANSPORT TO MEDINA ARRANGED

As a result of representation made by the Commonwealth Relations Department of the Government of India, transport to Medina was arranged for the first batch of the Hajj pilgrims. Similar arrangements are expected to be made for the second batch of pilgrims. Commonwealth Relations Department.

New Delhi, November 11, 1944.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is great difficulty in getting return of the money for the tickets which were issued to pilgrims going to Haj who could not perform the journey?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: If the Honourable Member gives me a concrete case, I shall certainly have the matter remedied.

NON-PAYMENT OF COMPENSATORY DUES FOR OVERSTAY BY HAJ SHIPPING COMPANIES

671. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state if it is a fact that although the pilgrims had mostly to wait at Jeddah for pilgrim ships for their return journeys for more than fifteen days, they were not paid their compensatory dues for overstay by the Shipping Company? If so, why were the pilgrims deprived of their dues from the company and what action do Government propose to take in this matter?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: The information is being collected and will be supplied when received.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: What is the information to be collected in this matter? The question is with regard to the amount to be paid for retaining the Hedjaz pilgrims at Jeddah for more than the stipulated period.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: That is the information that is being collected.

PAUCITY OF SIKH OFFICERS IN FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION

672. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state if there has ever been a Sikh Officer on the staff of the Federal Public Service Commission or a Sikh Member on it?

(b) Do the Government of India propose to consider the claim of the Sikhs to be associated in such important activities of Government?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) No.

(b) The matter is one for the Governor-General in his discretion and will be considered by him.

SCARCITY OF FOOD IN BIHAR

673. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is not a fact that Mr. Biswanath Das, the former Premier of Orissa, has stated in a press statement, dated the 29th January, that "severe distress was prevailing in Orissa which was in no way lesser than that of Bengal";

(b) the Districts in which real scarcity of food supplies prevails, and to what extent;

(c) whether there have been deaths during 1944 due to destitution or special incidence of epidemics due to malnutrition;

(d) whether the Government of Orissa has asked for any supplies of rice and wheat from other Provinces;

(e) what assistance has been rendered by the Central Government to alleviate the distress of Orissa; and

(f) the plans of both the Central and Provincial Governments to assure Orissa adequacy and regularity of food supply during 1945?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) I have seen a news paper report to that effect.

(b) The Orissa Government report that there is at present no scarcity of food in any district.

(c) There were no deaths due to destitution in 1944. There was a slight increase in deaths due to cholera, small-pox, fever, dysentery and diarrhoea in the first half of 1944, as compared with the corresponding part of 1943 and the quinquennial average for the years 1938-42. It is, however, difficult to say definitely how far this increase can be ascribed to malnutrition. There was a decrease in the number of deaths from the same causes in the latter half of 1944 compared with the latter half of 1943.

(d) and (e). The Government of Orissa have not asked for any supplies of rice, in which grain they have declared themselves to be surplus. As regards wheat, the Government of Orissa asked for 9,500 tons, which has been allotted to them in full.

(f) The Provincial Government's scheme of procurement of rice and paddy, and its distribution at controlled rates in deficit areas is sufficient to ensure adequacy and regularity of food supplies.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that a responsible officer of the Food Department of the Government of India visited this area early in December last and if so, what was his report?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I have given the answer as to the facts of the question as already stated.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of sending an officer to go to the area and ascertain for himself whether really scarcity conditions do not prevail in the Ganjam District of Orissa.

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I will try to pay a visit myself as early as possible.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the report of the Special Officer as well as the report of the Government of Orissa are identical in this matter?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: Yes, Sir, they are.

FOOD ADVISORY COUNCILS

674. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) on what basis the present Food Advisory Councils are being appointed in different Provinces;

(b) whether it is proposed to drop the principle of nomination, to invite the organisations of peasants and agricultural workers and land-holders who are actually interested in cultivation, and to provide the majority of seats on such Food Councils to agriculturists and other villages;

(c) for what terms these Councils are constituted;

(d) whether Government propose to reconstitute these Councils on more popular basis with greater representation for agriculturists and rural public;

(e) in how many Provinces such Councils now exist and function; and

(f) what their functions are?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a), (e) and (f). Food Advisory Councils, or similar bodies, have been set up by ten Provincial Governments, in order to associate non-official public opinion with the work of their Food administration. The composition of these bodies varies; their function is mainly advisory.

(b) and (d). The composition of these councils is for the respective Provincial Governments to decide.

(c) The Government of India have no information.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that Government have given an assurance on the floor of this House during the last debate on Food to the effect that they will recommend to the Provincial Governments to see that these Food Councils are so constituted that agricultural producers are given sufficient and satisfactory representation?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I do not think that we give special preference to agricultural producers but we certainly have given an assurance that it is our policy to encourage the constitution of such councils.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member suggest to the Provincial Governments that they should see that their Food Councils are made as representative as possible, particularly of peasants?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: Yes, Sir, I will make that suggestion to Provincial Governments.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know whether Government will also consider the question of making the Central Food Advisory Council more representative than it is today and whether they will put upon it a representative of the All-India Trade Union Congress?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: I will give consideration to that suggestion.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

BUTLER REPORT

675. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is proposed to publish Mr. Butler's report on Government Food Procurement;

(b) if he is prepared to supply a copy of that report to members of this House; and

(c) what the conclusions drawn by Government and the recent All-India Food Conference on that report are?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Sriyastava: (a) and (b). The Honourable Somerset Butler's report has been published, and copies have been placed in the Library.

(c) The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the resolutions passed by the 5th All-India Food Conference, copies of which were placed on the table of the House along with the Memorandum on the Food Situation in India, at the beginning of the Session.

COMPULSORY CONSUMPTION OF WHEAT IN RATIONED TOWNS

676. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state the reasons for imposing compulsory consumption of wheat in all rationed towns up to a prescribed extent even though such towns happen to be in surplus or self-sufficient districts?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring only to the Madras Province. The object is to secure an equitable distribution of rice and millets, in which the province as a whole is deficit, while providing a total cereal ration which meets the minimum requirements.

FOOD PROCUREMENT STAFF

677. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is not a fact—(i) that the Food Procurement Staff are indulging in much *sulm*, (ii) that there is much corruption in their work, (iii) that they are harassing ignorant peasants, (iv) that they are favouring factory owners, merchants as against peasants, and (v) that Mr. Butler has also complained of the misbehaviour of these officers;

(b) what steps Government propose to take in order to inspect the activities of their Food Procurement Officers, and to see that they carry on their duties in the interests of both producers and consumers and in close consultation with the Local Food Advisory Councils; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of constituting a "Food Procurement Inspection Directorate" in addition to their proposed Directorates for storage and inspection?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). I am not responsible for the conduct of the servants of Provincial Administrations whose duty it is to procure foodgrains. I am aware that corruption exists, but I am not prepared to lend my authority to wholesale allegations of the kind set forth in the Honourable Member's question.

As to the steps which I have taken to combat bribery and corruption, the Honourable Member is invited to study the answer given to parts (a) (ii) and (iii) of Mr. Abdul Qaiyum's starred question No. 296 on the 16th of February 1945.

(c) No, Sir.

REPRESENTATION FROM GITA PRESS FOR INCREASE IN PAPER QUOTA

678. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) if he has received a representation from the Gita Press, Gorakhpur for the increase in the quota of paper consumed by them; and

(b) in view of the fact that a large number of copies of *Gita and Ramayana* have to be supplied to the military, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of granting permission to the Gita Press to consume more paper; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Government have received a representation from the Gita Press, Gorakhpur, for increase in the quantity of paper they are allowed to use.

(b) The representation is being examined.

EXPENDITURE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT DURING CURRENT YEAR

679. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state:

(a) How much money is likely to be spent during the current financial year in the Archaeological Department on (i) excavations, (ii) travelling allowance of Gazetted Officers, (iii) travelling allowance of establishments, and (iv) furniture including cutlery and crockery, etc.;

(b) what novel antiquities have been unearthed at Taxila during this year; and

(c) the antiquities unearthed by Sir John Marshall?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) (i) 35,000; (ii) 38,500; (iii) 20,000 and (iv) 4,000;

(b) A full report on the recent excavations at Taxila is not yet available. It may, however, be stated that an important public building including a pillared assembly-hall situated in the centre of the oldest of the three cities, has been un-earthed and is of a kind not previously known at the period. Amongst many objects found in this was a hoard of gold and silver jewellery and coins. I would add that the primary purpose of the Taxila excavation has been to train Indian students, of whom 61 took part in the work and received instruction.

(c) Particulars of antiquities un-earthed by Sir John Marshall will be found in the published reports of the excavations.

ALLOTMENTS WITHDRAWN OR EXTRA GRANTS MADE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

680. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state if allotments of funds have been withdrawn from different circles of Archaeological Department or extra funds have been obtained from Government for expenditure on excavations introduced by the present Director General of Archaeology?

(b) How many conservation works pertaining to Muslim monuments have been postponed during the current financial year, and what is the reason for doing so?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No funds have been withdrawn from the circles for excavations. On the contrary an additional grant of Rs. 6,000 has been asked for to meet the cost of excavations.

(b) Many conservation works pertaining to monuments of all communities have been postponed during the current financial year as during previous years, for three reasons: (i) shortage of funds, (ii) shortage of trained staff, and (iii) shortage of materials and labour.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN SOUTH INDIA

681. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state how many famous sites have been discovered by the present Director General of Archaeology in the southern part of India?

(b) When is he proceeding to South India with his staff for conducting excavations?

(c) On which sites and of which period and with what point of view is he going to make excavations in South India?

(d) Has the Director General made any trial excavations at the sites in question?

(e) What amount of money is likely to be spent on these excavations?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (c): The Director General of Archaeology has decided to carry out survey and excavation in South India during the next two months. In particular, a site has been chosen on the coast south of Madras with the special purpose of obtaining information likely to form a basis for the scientific classification of early South Indian cultures. I understand that, on the site which it is proposed to excavate, there are datable remains of overseas origin which will enable the associated Indian cultures to be placed in their chronological and historical context.

(b) The Director General of Archaeology is proceeding to South India this month.

(d) A small trial excavation was made a few years ago by local people, which was sufficient to indicate the general importance of the site.

(e) The amount of money to be spent will depend upon the preliminary results of the work.

UNDER SECRETARIES AND HIGHER OFFICERS IN EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

682. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state the number of officers not below the rank of Under Secretary in the Main Secretariat of the Department of Education, Health and Lands?

(b) How many of them are Muslims?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Ten.

(b) There is no Muslim Officer in the Main Secretariat.

KNOWLEDGE OF INDIAN ANCIENT LANGUAGES, ETC., OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

683. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state if the present Director General of Archaeology knows any of the ancient languages, such as Arabic, Persian, Sanskrit and Tamil, etc., and whether he is a scholar of Indian history ancient or medieval?

(b) Has the Director General of Archaeology written any books on Indian Archaeology, art or architectures? If so, what are these books?

(c) Is it a fact that he is going to visit Persia officially? If so, what is the object of this visit?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to part (f) of starred question No. 159 on the 21st February, 1944.

(b) No.

(c) Yes. The Persian Government which is anxious to establish close cultural relationships with India, has invited the Director General to visit Persia at an early date to examine the possibilities of further contact between the two countries in archaeological matters.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST MANNER OF TAKING EVIDENCE BY HINDU LAW COMMITTEE

684. *Pandit Nilakantha Das: Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state:

(a) if Government are aware—

(i) that there have been complaints published in the press that Hindu Law Committee do not attach much importance about the way they take evidence (vide *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, Allahabad town Edition, dated the 13th February, page 6),

(ii) that the Committee visited Delhi for some time during the first half of February to take evidence,

(iii) that the Committee visited Delhi for some time during the first half when evidence was taken in Delhi,

(iv) that witnesses had practically no notice and were actually examined quite unprepared, and

(v) that the evidence was not taken down by any stenographer and no proper record of the evidence was kept;

(b) what steps, if any, have been taken by Government to remedy the defects referred to above; and

(c) if Government propose to ask the Committee to visit again the places they have already covered to meet witnesses after giving them and the public sufficient notice and to provide for keeping proper record of evidence?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) (i) I have seen the letter in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*.

(ii) Yes.

(iii) to (v), (b) and (c). Government have complete confidence in the capacity of the Committee to regulate its own procedure to the best advantage, and I do not propose to intervene in any way.

GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN

685. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money spent annually in different Provinces on "Grow More Food" campaign since its inception and to give a detailed statement of the work done in different Provinces;

(b) if any loan has been granted to the cultivators for the purchase of plough and cattle in any of the Provinces; if so, in which Provinces; and

(c) the amount spent in different Provinces on maintaining officers for "Grow More Food" campaign?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A statement showing the money made available by the Central Government in each year to the different provinces for the Grow More Food Campaign is placed on the table of the House along with a further statement showing the work done in each province during 1943-44. Information as regards 1944-45 will not be available till after the close of the year.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given on the 19th February, 1945 to parts (b) and (c) of his starred question No. 317.

(c) A statement showing the amount sanctioned exclusively for the staff is placed on the table of the House. In addition, funds have been provided in some cases for the staff together with the scheme for which it is required. The amount cannot, however, be separated from the grant for the scheme.

Statement showing the progress of work done in different provinces up to 30th June, 1944 in connection with the 'Grow More Food' Schemes sanctioned by the Central Government during 1943-44.

Name of the Province or Local Administration	Approximate quantity in maunds distributed		Approximate addl. acreage brought under		Approximate Addl. pro-duction in tons	Remarks
	Seed	Manure	Addl. irrigation	addl. cultivation		
Ajmer-Merwara	6,669	..	..	14,369	1,392	..
Assam	2,070	514	1,57,200	14,900	5,49,400	..
Baluchistan	Not received					..
Bengal	3,07,395	20,330	1,27,023	7,760	3,11,187	..
Bihar	70,000	53,000	..	44,600	33,000	..
Bombay	99,996	6,22,099	14,302	4,70,253	1,48,255	..
C. P. & Berar	74,859	19,208	5,200	49,956	5,862	..
Coorg	..	..	..	1,250	625	..
Madras	12,127	4,21,763	57,780	2,38,624	43,190	..
N.W. F. P.	Not received					..
Orissa	54,391	1,106	7,560	10,408	56,830	..
Punjab	..	..	..	29,025	7,295	..
Sind	21,422	..	..	25,727	8,875	..
U. P.	Not received					..

Statement showing the grants sanctioned for the staff required in connection with 'Grow More Food' Campaign during 1943-44 and 1944-45

Name of the Provinces etc.	1943-44	1944-45
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Assam		1,01,400
2. Bengal	76,000	2,00,000
3. Bihar	58,152	1,79,800
4. C. P. & Berar	50,000	
5. Coorg	7,200	
6. Madras		1,51,694
7. N. W. F. P.		10,918
8. Orissa	27,500	1,43,336
9. U. P.		16,800
10. Baroda	46,000	16,000
TOTAL	2,64,852	8,19,948

Statement showing the loans and grants sanctioned to Provinces during 1943-44 and 1944-45

Name of the Province, etc.	1943-1943			1944-1945		
	Loans. Rs.	Grants from Cen- tral Reven- ues Rs.	Grants from Cot- ton Fund Rs.	Loan Rs.	Grant from Cen- tral re- venues Rs.	Grant from Cot- ton Fund Rs.
1. Ajmer-Merwara		70,000	29,185	2,34,250	70,016	21,996
2. Assam	9,01,867	4,02,585		10,86,100	4,88,150	
3. Baluchistan		10,376		1,66,400	1,81,879	
4. Bangal	62,15,000	12,84,184		23,15,000	12,38,617	
5. Bihar		9,67,152		9,64,000	13,62,870	
6. Bombay	3,00,000	5,93,093	2,68,678	8,22,500	25,80,155	13,63,250
7. C. P. & Berar	39,50,000	11,82,500	5,38,000	31,18,970	6,09,651	50,000
8. Coorg		48,450			63,000	
9. Madras	45,00,000	2,67,000	1,46,666	16,25,000	27,71,946	1,71,800
10. N. W. F. P.		1,07,500		12,74,000	10,83,668	
11. Orissa	5,77,300	1,73,650		14,67,600	9,49,241	
12. Punjab		3,00,000			15,08,860	
13. Sind		4,85,335			88,000	
14. U. P.		9,37,200			27,57,290	
15. I. C. A. R.		1,31,600			3,02,826	
16. Baroda State			4,93,500			7,19,250
17. Kishmir State		16,800				
18. Kutch State			8,677			
19. Rampur State						8,698
TOTAL	1,64,44,167	69,77,425	14,34,607	1,30,73,820	1,59,99,469	23,34,994

COMPANIES REGISTERED FOR MANUFACTURE OF MOTOR CARS

686. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state how many companies have been registered in India for the manufacture of motor-cars and what the paid-up capital of each of them is?

(b) What means have Government got, either in the licence to raise capital given to these companies, or under any other powers, of supervising, checking, revising or otherwise controlling the nature of the contracts, which such firm would make with foreign companies or corporations?

(c) Do Government know or have Government seen the terms under negotiation between the companies registered for the manufacture of motor-cars and non-Indian companies abroad, for the sale of such non-Indian companies' goods in India by the companies registered in India?

(d) Has the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies or the Supply Department or any other Department of the Government of India the responsibility to see that Indian interests are adequately safeguarded?

(e) If so, which is this Department, what is the means by which it is functioning, and has it examined this question? What are its findings on this subject?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Two companies. Consent was given by the Examiner of Capital Issues to the following issues of shares: Premier Automobiles Ltd., Bombay Rs. 2,25,00,000; Hindustan Motors Ltd., Okha Rs. 4,87,50,000.

(b) No such means are expressly provided for. It will, however, be possible to consider the subject at the stage of releasing the invested capital from investment if any such measure of control is in operation at the time when such release is applied for. Control can also be exercised at the stage of allowing import licences, priorities, release of controlled materials, etc.

(c) Government have seen the Agreement entered into in 1940 by the Premier Automobiles Ltd. with the Chrysler Corporation of U.S.A.

(d) and (e). These as well as other matters of policy are under consideration in the Planning and Development Department.

IMPORTED MOTOR CARS AND TRUCKS

687. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state what the total import of (i) motor-cars, and (ii) motor trucks was in 1937-38 and 1938-39, and what was the total number registered in India of motor cars and motor trucks before the war?

(b) How many factories are there manufacturing motor tyres, what is their output and how much of their capital is held by Indians?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Total Imports:

	1937-38	1938-39
Motor cars (including taxi cabs)	15,697	10,983
Motor omnibuses vans and lorries—		
(a) with bodies	243	283
(b) chassis	14,834	7,583

Total number of cars running in British India in March, 1939.

Motor cars (including taxi cabs)	1,07,956
Heavy motor vehicles (lorries, buses, etc.)	39,922

(b) Two factories. A substantial portion of the capital of one of the factories has been subscribed for by Indians. Figures regarding the output of the two factories cannot be divulged for security reasons.

POSTPONED STARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

WRITTEN ANSWER

(Postponed from February 21, 1945)

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS RICE WITH BENGAL GOVERNMENT

441. *Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether agreement has been arrived at between the Central Government and the Bengal Government about the disposal of the so-called "surplus" rice acquired by the Bengal Government;

(b) whether the present rice and paddy purchase policy of the Bengal Government has the full approval of the Government of India; and

(c) whether steps will be taken by the Government of India to ensure that in future the Bengal Government's purchases are confined to paddy for which expensive storage facilities are less essential than in the case of rice?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: (a) The Bengal Government have no surplus rice. The best methods of keeping and bringing into consumption in Bengal large

quantities of rice and paddy purchased in 1944 have been fully discussed with the Bengal Government. Certain agreed conclusions have been reached, and action taken to implement them.

(b) The Bengal Government's arrangements for purchasing rice and paddy were decided in consultation with the Government of India, who will continue to be in the closest touch with the Provincial Government in their execution of the plan.

(c) The Government of India have suggested and the Bengal Government have agreed that a substantial proportion of future purchases should be stored as paddy.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

49. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above, in all the Departments and Offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: The information is being collected and will be furnished in due course.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS DEPARTMENT

50. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above, in all the Departments and Offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The expenditure of public time and labour involved in collecting these statistics would not be justifiable in war time.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER FOOD DEPARTMENT

51. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above, in all the Departments and Offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

Mr. R. H. Hutchings: The necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House, when received.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

52. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above in all the Departments and Offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) Total number in all grades:

(i) Permanent	14
(ii) Temporary	42

(b) (i) Nil. (ii) 1 (in the grade of Rs. 100—200); Jaswant Singh, Assistant.

(c) (i) Nil. (ii) 1 (in the grade of Rs. 125—300).

(d) Nil.

(e) (i) 1 (in the grade of Rs. 1,675—2,000). (ii) 2 (1 in the grade of Rs. 2,500 and 1 in the grade of Rs. 750—900).

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

53. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Commerce be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above, in all the Departments and Offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: 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.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

54. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent and (ii) temporary basis carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above, in all the Departments and Offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: This Department was created in April 1943. 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.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER LABOUR DEPARTMENT

55. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above, in all the Departments and Offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The time and labour involved in collecting this information will not be commensurate with the results to be achieved. The Government therefore regret their inability to furnish this information.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF IN DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE

56. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above, in all the Departments and Offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The collection of the information asked for would entail expenditure of time and labour which would hardly be justifiable in war-time.

PROFITEERING IN HOUSE PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS IN DELHI

57. Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is a fact that a good deal of profiteering is going on in house property transactions in Delhi City? If so, what action has been taken by Government to check it?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Government have no information. (b) The question does not arise but for the information of the Honourable Member I would state that Government have not passed any measure regulating the sale of private house property in Delhi City.

POST-WAR SCHEMES FOR IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURE

58. Khan Bahadur Shakh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the post-war schemes to improve the Indian Agriculture?

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[5TH MAR. 1945]

(b) Is it a fact that officers of the Agriculture Departments, and students possessing Diploma in agriculture will very shortly be sent over to Europe by the Government of India for further studies and research work? If so, what number would be sent every year, for what period and for how many years?

(c) Who would pay the cost of the persons who will thus be sent to Europe?

(d) How would the selection be made from out of the applicants? Would the Provincial Governments make the selection from their Provinces or would the Central Governments have some hand in making the selection?

(e) Will the principle of communal proportion be kept in view in making the selection?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Attention is invited to the recommendations made by the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries at its meeting held in June 1944 and those contained in the Memorandum on the development of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in India of the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research both of which will be found in the Library of the House. The recommendations are still under consideration by the Governments concerned.

(b) (i) Yes. (ii) The matter is under consideration.

(c) In respect of students not already in Government service the Central Government will bear the entire cost of training students sponsored by itself and will share in equal proportions with the Provincial Government concerned the cost of training students sponsored by the Provincial Government. The cost of training students who are already in Government service will be met by the Government under which they are serving.

(d) Applications of those who wish to proceed overseas under the aegis of the Central Government will be considered by an *ad hoc* Selection Board to be set up by the Central Government. A similar procedure has been suggested to Provincial Governments. The applications forwarded by Provincial Governments will also be considered by the Central Selection Board so far as necessary to reduce the number to a figure approximately equivalent to the number of places likely to be available in institutions overseas and to eliminate candidates whose educational qualifications are such as to make it unlikely that they would secure admission to an institution overseas.

(e) Strict adherence to prescribed communal proportions cannot be guaranteed in respect of each subject but every effort will be made to ensure that all minority communities are adequately represented under the scheme so far as the centrally sponsored students are concerned. The desirability of ensuring that the facilities now being offered are made available to members of minority communities has also been brought to the notice of all Provincial Governments.

SENDING OUT PERSONS ABROAD FOR AGRICULTURAL STUDIES OR RESEARCH WORK

59. Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether any recommendations from the Government of the Punjab for persons in service in the Agricultural Department or otherwise have been received for sending them abroad for studies or research work? If so, will Government be pleased to state the number of the persons recommended by the Punjab Government and their qualifications?

(b) Have Government reached a final decision about the persons to be sent abroad for studies or research? If so, how many would be sent from the Punjab and for what subjects?

(c) Do Government contemplate to send abroad some of their own people in service in the Agricultural Department of the Government of India for further studies and research work? If so, how many, for what subjects, when, and under what conditions?

(d) Who will make the selection? Would communal proportion of various communities be kept in view?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No recommendations have been received from the Punjab Government.

(b) (i) No.

(ii) Does not arise.

(c) (i) Yes.

(c) (ii) and (d). The matter is under consideration.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER IN CANADA

Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether it is a fact that arrangements have been arrived at with the Government of Canada to appoint an Indian Trade Commissioner in 12 Noon. Canada? If so, when was this agreement reached, and what steps have been taken to implement this agreement?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The post of Indian Trade Commissioner in Canada, which was created with the approval of the Canadian Government has been in existence since the 7th November 1941.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION

FIRST STAGE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now proceed with the general discussion of the Budget. Under rule 46(3) of the Indian Legislative Rules, I fix fifteen minutes as the time limit for the Honourable Members generally, twenty minutes for Leaders of Parties, and one hour or more, if necessary, for the Government Member to reply.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): You have been giving 20 minutes either for the Leader or for any Member speaking on behalf of his Party.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): All right.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): I shall respond to the invitation made by the Honourable the Finance Member in his closing remarks to economists and historians to evaluate his financial stewardship. My contribution, Sir, to the history of his stewardship is that Sir Jeremy Raisman will go down in our annals under the name of Printing Press Raisman who cared for the war, the whole war, and nothing but the war! I regard him, in spite of his protestations as the true representative of John Bull and Company in this country. It may be that Churchill is not liquidating the Empire, but I find that Sir Jeremy Raisman is very effectively liquidating the economic life of this country. How can we accept his protestations, how does he expect this country and its people to be so imbecile as to gulp down the various nice things he has said? Sir, this Government have got good many tame Indians on the Reserve Bank Board who will tolerate things which they should not tolerate. They have got good many tame Indians on the Treasury Benches who are putting up with matters which they should not put up with in the interests of India. May I ask why it was found impossible to elevate at least one of these tame Indians to the Finance Membership in this country? The reason is obvious: even such tame men will not accept and carry out settlements which come down from England, and therefore they cannot be appointed.

It is not possible, Sir, to stick to the normal standard of criticism which is possible with regard to five lakhs here or fifty lakhs there, when it is sought to impose Defence charges to the extent of Rs. 400 crores on the head of this country. I shall, therefore, Sir, content myself in the very short limitation of time at my disposal, with dealing with this main issue which entirely overshadows all the other details of the Budget.

Sir, I will present to the House a parallel for close consideration, and that parallel is this. Hitler conquered France, and after conquering France he set up the Vichy Government there as his collaborators, and imposed on that Government the daily expenditure of the army of occupation running into

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

many millions of francs per month. Not content with that he used the printing press in order to print French currency with which they purchased compulsorily whatever they wanted. I ask this House to take this parallel, and to see whether the Honourable the Finance Member has not done exactly the same thing in this country.

Sir, he has imposed Rs. 400 crores as against Rs. 36 crores our normal military charges. He has exceeded by ten times the figure of normal Army expenditure, he has exceeded even his own budget figure by Rs. 118 crores, and he justifies it on the ground that there has been a settlement. I am coming to that settlement. I will not draw further parallels between the Vichy Government and this Government. I will not say that there are collaborators and Quislings. I only hope that my Indian friends on the Treasury Benches will not get up on their two legs. I hope they are defending the Indian position in the Executive Council. I hope they will not get up on their two legs here to defend Sir Jeremy Raisman's position with regard to this imposition which is absolutely parallel with what Hitler's Government did in the occupied territory.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): They have no legs to stand on.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: They are not quadrupeds.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Now, Sir, it has been suggested that this is India's liability, this is what you have agreed to, there has been a financial settlement. May I ask, Sir, who made this settlement in 1940? May I ask who made the settlement before that, and before that? Who is making these settlements? Sir, it is the Government of England which is making these settlements with itself. I do not see two Governments. I will appeal to my Honourable friend, the Law Member, who is not here, and other eminent lawyers to tell me whether a settlement is not between two persons. How can there be an agreement between one person and himself? I see in this Government Jekyll and Hyde, it may be that we have got the milder face of the same personality in this country, it may be that face is disguised by the presence of Indians on the Treasury Benches. How is this agreement made? We have got an illustration here with regard to these 15 millions capital being paid away on non-effective charges. There were negotiations I am told, these negotiations advanced, after that an arrangement is concluded, a decision is taken, and then we are presented with a financial settlement which we are expected not to break, which we should confirm, which we should not question, the sanctity of which is not open to doubt, and of course we must never doubt the motives of the Honourable Finance Member because he is only carrying out the settlement. This camouflage, this sham, we must tear up. It is not a question, Sir, of the fifteen minutes which I may get or fifteen years. This is a question of mortgaging the economic life of the country for the next generation. Sir, my friends there are laughing, it was not in their conscience to put an Indian, even a tame Indian, in charge of Finance. . .

An Honourable Member: Even Indians are laughing.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why are they laughing?

An Honourable Member: At their own bodies.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Let me deal with it. There is a new law in Egypt which prohibits multiple marriages for Egyptian Pashas. But for the English Pashas on the Treasury Benches multiple marriage is not prohibited, since they have eleven Indians now instead of one as at the time of Lord Sinha, and they go on multiplying, and along with it they are multiplying the miseries and the future deterioration of life of this country. Let the Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches realise this.

When I say there is only one Government, you may tell that there are the Governments of India and England, and it is between these two Governments that negotiations take place. Sir, we had the spectacle of Sir James Grigg, a

civil servant from England coming here and taking charge of Finance, and then going back and becoming Secretary for War. When he came here he negotiated with his successor in U. K. and when he goes back, from here he negotiates with his successor and his erstwhile Secretary, Sir Jeremy Raisman, and these are solemnised in the form of negotiations: these are solemnised in the form of agreements. What happened after these agreements? We have been asking for a ceiling in order that charges borne by this country should be in keeping with the capacity, with the economic considerations, with the availability, and, with the visible misery even, of millions of people who are dying, who are in dire want, who are in distress of every description—even that has not led to any moderation on the part of the British authorities who masquerade here in the person of the Finance Member, who professes all the while that he is doing everything in the interests of India! The ceiling demand was a reasonable one; it is based on the principles which the United Kingdom itself is enjoying in connection with lease-lend administrations; what are those principles of lease-lend? That every ally must bear in accordance with his immediate position. At least some regard is given to the capacity. But may I ask if any regard of any kind is given to the capacity of India to bear these expenses which are thrown upon us? Who has made those settlements which were replaced in 1940? Have not the Government of India themselves departed, in fact, if not in form from their own settlement, and is not the initiative always with England? They can do what they like—we must not question the settlement. Have they not departed, I ask, with regard to the new nomenclature called joint measures? In other words, measures of which there is the slightest doubt as to whether they fall on England, they say under the joint measures, let India bear half. It may be said that the Indian personnel of the Executive Council are there and they are parties to the contract and they have assented. I say they are no more than the tails of the comet. They are like empty wagons, which are being drawn by the powerful white locomotive which is moving on. They are merely the ballast—the valuable cargo are the white Members. Do you not see the most important departments in their charge? The key position departments are all held by them. Why? Because it is their Government: it is His Majesty's Government—Jekyll and Hyde—it is another personality working here: it is a single Government both in England and in India; the complete direction of economic and financial policy of this country is from the United Kingdom. I maintain that this sham, this humbug of settlements, these agreements, these negotiations, these contracts, are intended merely to throw dust into our eyes and to subject our population which is momentarily helpless to a degradation which they do not deserve.

I see only one Government. I am like the Sufi Auliya, who sees only his *Mashuq*. He sees one element—he does not see two, I see only one Government and I therefore maintain that there is nothing but the mighty atom. You may try to split the mighty atom—the United Kingdom Government—you may try occasionally to split it into two personalities and present us with a face which may appear mild; you may shake hands with the gloved hand, with the mailed fist inside but there is no distinction. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has only one minute more.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I thought I was entitled to twenty minutes.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is that the arrangement of the Party?

Mr. Manu Subedar: Yes. Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then it is all right.

Mr. Manu Subedar: There is a duty on Members of this House, particularly on the Indian Members of the Treasury Benches, on every Indian in the country, to resist and fight this severe imposition. I am reminded of the story of the man who sold a tyre to Mutt and Jeff. These two men were

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

waiting in a motor car, and a man comes along to sell them a tyre at a very cheap price. The tyre is purchased by these two, who are pleased with the small price. They then try to put it away together in the place where their old spare tyre was, and then they find that the spare tyre has gone. The man had taken their own tyre and sold it to them! This is the position of the Finance Member which I can demonstrate, if I had more time.

Sir, I have spent the best years of my life in England. I understand Englishmen—and Englishwomen perhaps better than they do of the two expressions which I learnt to use in England to describe something which is heinous and which is very low are "to steal candy from a child" and "to cheat at cards in a club". The kind of imposition of military charges which Government have sought to make and put on this country under the pretext of settlements which are made between their own right hand and their own left, which are made behind our back, of which no opportunities are given to this House to know, of which no details are given—the military expenditure appears once a year in a few limited paragraphs of remarkable obscurity and the bulk of which is non-voted—we do not know the details on which it is spent—this imposition, I say, merits the two expressions which I have learnt in England to describe something which is never done, something which is not decent, something of which people ought to be ashamed to impose on a helpless people who are momentarily in their charge. This annual mummery, this pretence of the Finance Member getting up and showing us something which he is doing for India's benefit, in India's interests, ought to stop. This partnership is nothing more than the partnership between the admiral and the stoker who is sweating in the engine room below. This partnership is really something extraordinary and must now be completely dropped. He spoke of India's indirect interest being greater than India's direct interests. It is these indirect interests of the sterling block—sterling which has been taken away from us without our leave and on the question of the return of which the position is tomorrow, perhaps never! These measures which have been taken, the manner in which they have been executed indicates they are savouring of Nazi methods employed in the occupied countries: even Nazi dealings with the Vichy Government were better than the dealings of His Majesty's Government with the so-called Government of this country.

He tells us that India is paying a small price, a very small price for the victory which has kept back Japan from her shores. We know the price, we know the immediate price, we know the future mortgage, we know what is happening to starving and dying millions. The spokesman who talked about the small price is a representative—a Jewish representative—of the shopkeeper nation. Every man who makes a purchase in the Chandni Chowk knows that the shopkeeper says to the customer "I am ruined, but you are an old customer; I cannot help it but I will give it to you cheap". We know the shopkeeper never says that you paid too much price; we know he always says that you always pay a very small price. Even France, after paying the price I referred to, has got back her liberty. She has got back her country and she has got back her own Government: she has got back her self-respect as was shown when De Gaulle refused to be at the back and call of the great President Roosevelt. After the war, that is the fate which France received and it paid the price. But we shall pay this price, we are going to pay this price and not receive what is our due. We are going to have the same story.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already spoken for twenty minutes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I will conclude. We are told that we have still further to be prepared: the Allies are appreciating us; we must be prepared to be

bled further in the interests of these appreciative Allies. I say, Sir, that this system of financial jugglery ought to be abolished.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): We are now considering the sixth War Budget and the position of India is not so bad as that of the Allied countries. I just ask my friend Mr. Manu Subedar whether it is not a fact that six years ago India was a debtor country and today it is a creditor country. This could not be changed accidentally but it has been achieved by careful manipulation and control of the finances. Now, the other thing is, is it not a fact that the Finance Member very often fought for India in all these conferences in which India was represented? He did not get all that India wanted but at the same time can anybody deny that he did put up a fight for India in all conferences. I do not agree with the Finance Member on a number of points but we must admit the real work which he has done for this country. I do not lay much stress on the personal equation of the Finance Member but I look into the work that he has done for this country. He did what he could.

Now the other thing to which I would like to draw attention is that he managed to stabilise the value of the securities. The $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. security is really the thermometer of the finance of the country and the value of this security always remained within 108 and 118 during the war. It has yielded more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. during the period of the war. I do not like some of the provincial proposals. I appreciate the distinction which he has made between the earned income and the unearned income—Vide the Explanatory Memorandum, p. 49. The advantages which he has given to earned income are not so much as we would have liked it to be. Though the income-tax on Rs. 2,000 has been diminished by one-third or reduced to two-thirds and reduction is graduated and it is equalised at the income of Rs. 60,000 per annum; at highest incomes, the income-tax has increased.

Then the other thing is about the Death duty. I don't want to discuss it here. Individually I am opposed to this death duty for several considerations which I will discuss when the question is actually before us.

Now the other thing to which I would like to draw attention is the graph which has been presented to us. I am one who lays more stress on reading the graphs than on reading words. When I was a student in Cambridge I used to read the graphs of Sir John Marshall. The graph reading is an important branch of statistics. By reading the graph you can find out what kind of fever it is. The Doctors find the nature of fever by blood examination, the Hakims by feeling pulses and statisticians by reading the graphs. Here is a graph which has been presented to us. From this we find that in 1944 general index of the prices has been stabilised at 240 which is a very high figure. Gold was stabilised at 185. This level ought to have been lowered. I have been pressing very hard all the time that the purchasing power of the rupee should be increased and the prices ought to be stabilised; and the price at which they ought to be stabilised shall be about 180.

The second thing which I like to draw attention to is the gambling in silver. We find that the value of silver has been changing from 250 to 290.

It is now high time that the Finance Member should set his foot down and stabilise the price of silver. The stock exchange, like betting in horses, is a legalised form of gambling and I think this should be stopped altogether. The Finance Member if he wishes to stabilise the finances of the country ought to set his foot down and people ought not to be allowed to gamble at least on silver which really determines the purchasing power of the rupee. I request the Finance Member that the value of silver ought to have been stabilised in the same manner as the general price index of the whole article at 180.

[Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad]

The next thing to which I would like to draw attention is that though the general index has been stabilised, the prices of important commodities on which living actually depends are very abnormal and very high. Take the case of rice, wheat and piecegoods. These are the three things on which the price index of living depends. If you look into the prices of these things we find that the price of wheat is still ranging from 350 to 400, price of rice from 310 to 515 and the price of piecegoods from 285 to 380. Therefore although the general index has been stabilised, the index of things like wheat, rice and piecegoods on which living depends, soars very high. This has upset the economic fabric of the country. When we have got a stabilised price index for the general articles and very high fluctuating prices of the essential foodstuffs and clothing on which living depends, then great economic unrest would naturally occur and this is the thing which the Finance Member ought to have looked into. There ought not to be an abnormal variation between the necessities of life, that is, piecegoods, wheat and rice and the general price index. Later on we will probably have a debate, possibly on a cut motion that Food Department should be abolished and I do not want to advance any arguments on that just at present. This graph that has been presented to us and similar graphs for provinces would in themselves be sufficient proof of the inefficiency of that particular Department and the conclusion would follow without the need of argument.

The next thing to which I should like to draw the attention of the Honourable Member is there ought to be some relation between the price of cotton and the price of cotton piece-goods. Look at the graph. The price of cotton is very low, much lower than the price of cotton piece-goods. It means that the textile factories are making enormous profits at the expense of poor consumers, because cloth is essentially for the poor and the industrialists are exploiting poor people. What has the Government been doing in regulating the price level between cotton and cotton piece-goods? There should not be great variation between the price indices of the two. One is much higher than the normal price index and the other is low. The price index of wheat, rice and piece-goods should be brought to the level of general prices and unless this is done it is impossible to restore economic equilibrium in the country. The whole thing will be upset. That ought to be the primary care of the Finance Member.

The next point to which I should like to draw attention is that there ought to be some limit to the declaration of dividend. I think dividends should be regulated by law and no company should be authorised to declare dividends beyond a certain figure, say, 3 per cent. higher than the bank rate of interest. If the bank rate of interest is, say, 3 per cent., the maximum rate for dividends should be 6 or in some cases 8 and the rate should never be 40 per cent., or 50 per cent. or higher percentage as it is in some undertakings. The abnormal profits should go to the State. Profits should go to consumers and the State and not to the capitalists who should be satisfied with 6 per cent. interest.

The next point which I should like to touch upon is the question of education. I know that education is an orphan department and the Honourable the Finance Member is the godfather of that particular department. It is tagged to agriculture which is unfair. What is the total expenditure in the Budget for 1945-46? Under the Defence Department, it is 394.23 crores to which they add 17.42 crores as capital expenditure. What is the Budget for the civil side? It is 123.40 crores, abnormal increase, so that the total expenditure comes to 535.05 crores. For Education, out of this sum of 123.40 crores, we find only 19 lakhs 81 thousand. Out of the amount of 535.05 crores, education gets only 19 lakhs and 81 thousand which works out .07 pie in the rupee. In this connection, I may remind that the wealth of the country does not depend upon the amount of currency notes in circulation. They can easily be printed and

circulated, they can as easily be withdrawn. The wealth of the country does not depend upon our credit abroad, it does not depend upon our credit in England which may be fizzled away by financial jugglery or by transfer from one undertaking into another. In my opinion the wealth of a country depends entirely upon the working capacity of the people, which depends upon education. Spending as we do .07 pie in the rupee on education, how can you expect the people of this country to be wealthy? I do not care for your notes in circulation, I do not care for your low bank rate interest, I do not care for your stabilised securities; I do not care for your credit abroad, I do not care whether you are a creditor country or a debtor country, I do not care what sterling balances you have accumulated in England, I should like to know what you are doing to educate the people of this country. As I already said the Honourable the Finance Member is the godfather of this orphan department, education and so he should look into the matter. Just examine the budget of the Education Department and see how badly it is distributed. The whole budget of about 20 lakhs under the Education Department is divided into three items.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I shall conclude in one minute.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does it mean that the Honourable Member will speak for twenty minutes?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: No, Sir, he will speak only for 15 minutes.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I shall conclude now only by saying that this education budget is divided into three items, firstly scholarship to Harijans, depressed classes, 5 lakhs 30 thousand, another item of five lakhs is for polytechnic, which is of doubtful utility. It is too big for a province and it is too small as an All-India institution. It can be located in a corner of Engineering College of Benares. Only 6 lakhs odd is for grants to Universities. This is what the Government of India are spending on higher education. With this meagre amount it is very difficult for India to hold her position in the educational field. The budget is lopsided in the distribution of small amounts which are reserved for education. Provinces are spending money on education but their budgets are limited and they have no scope for expansion. With these words, I resume my seat.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly; Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I would like to say at the outset that in an atmosphere where criticism of the Honourable the Finance Member's Budget is likely to be severe I would not like to miss the opportunity of saying that such of us as have seen him at work are not unappreciative of the services that he has rendered to this country in his personal capacity, and this being his last Budget, I think it is only fair that we should mention it as a preface to the criticisms that we intend to level against his Budget. Sir, I find that the Honourable Member has exposed several flanks for attack. I should like to say on the credit side, though I do not know whether industry will be grateful to him for the concession he has extended to it, the decision to allow a special depreciation allowance in the case of machinery and buildings erected or installed after 1st April 1945; anyway, that is something to be said for the credit side of his Budget. I welcome certainly the differentiation between earned and unearned incomes which he has introduced in the scheme of taxation of income in the Budget. I only wish he had done that some years back when relief to the tax payer would have been certainly real. Sir, on the other side, I feel that defence expenditure, lend-lease arrangements and the position in which they are left today, the position of dollar credit available to this country, the question of sales of gold and silver, the adjustment of the payment of claims of people who suffered in Bombay explosion and the raid into war risk insurance fund and last but not the least, the manner in which sterling balance position is left over, and the rather cursory remarks that came from the Government side in regard to post-war planning—these are, what one will find at a glance, the various defects in the Honourable the Finance Member's Budget.

[AIR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI]

Sir, referring to defence expenditure, I should like to ask the Honourable Member if he would place himself in the position of a layman like myself who perusing the records that he has furnished us and perusing the figures that he has furnished us, could, in his opinion, be able to make head or tail out of the whole thing. It is said, Sir, that much of this question of allotment of expenditure is being examined by the Public Accounts Committee at some future date. But what satisfaction is it to us that the people who probably would come after us in this House will examine the position and find out whether the Government have acted properly or not. What we would like to do today is that we should be satisfied that the budget figures presented to us are legitimate and necessary and are not wholly subject to the over-riding consideration that this Government is subordinate to H. M. G. and therefore must do its bidding and that the monies will be spent in such and such a manner as to afford reasonable satisfaction that they are not mis-spent. My Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar referred to the lack of details in regard to defence expenditure and the Financial agreement. I should like to draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to remarks that fell from the mouth of my Honourable friend to my left last year. Sir, this booklet which is given to us regarding Defence expenditure in a dehydrated form as compared to the form in which it used to appear in the past leaves me no wiser. If the Honourable Member thinks that we are merely playing the game of the blind man's buff in considering defence expenditure and we ought merely to follow where he leads, perhaps it is right. But I do not think that that is a position with which we will be satisfied. As I have said, a *post-mortem* examination is of little account. What we would like is that some committee of this House should be associated in the matter of this defence expenditure,—the manner in which it is spent, the various items on which it is spent,—and not merely leave it to the Public Accounts Committee of the future to examine it. Besides, the figures are very imperfect. Last year in reply to a question asked on the floor of the House the Honourable the Finance Member said that the obligations incurred by this Government on behalf of the U. K. to be reimbursed subsequently was in the region of 442 crores for the year 1944-45. I should like to know how far that amount has either been exceeded or diminished. I should also like to know what is the estimate in regard to our obligations for meeting the expenditure of U. K. in this country in the year 1945-46.

Sir, there is one other factor in this connection which I would like to mention and that is in regard to the capital expenditure on defence. This has been a regular feature of the budget for some time. I should like to ask the Finance Member if he has exercised a momentary thought on this matter and examined the position as against what he has recommended or approved of in an analogous question in the matter of the railway budget. With regard to items 1 to 5 in paragraph 18 of his speech referring to the capital portion of the defence expenditure, may I ask how far those assets will continue to possess this value at the end of this war and whether some amount of writing off in the revenue account is not necessary even in the case of capital expenditure in the defence budget? There are two items, airfields No. 1 and airfields No. 3. One is reciprocal and the other is debited to Air Force. What value will these have after the war? I think that is a matter worth investigation. I should like to know if the Honourable Member has thought about it.

In regard to increases in the defence expenditure section because of the invasion by Japan of India, criticism on which has been levelled by the public and in the press and I should like the Honourable Member to tell us if there was to be an increase because of this invasion, in the year 1943-44 as well as in 1944-45, there has been the decrease because of the disappearance of this element to be only a matter of a few crores?

Sir, I have very little time at my disposal but I should like to say this in regard to the agreement on non-effective account, we would like to be satisfied further as to how it is a net account. We would like to know what exactly

is the amount to be paid by U. K. for non-effective charges on Indian troops and what we are liable to pay on account of non-effective charges on British troops.

The next point I should like to touch upon is the lend-lease position. The information vouchsafed here—if I am able to understand the English language aright—tells us that a total of 515 crores of lend-lease goods have been received from America, which I presume includes those goods supplied on behalf of China and U.K. besides India, because, of the rider that follows that particular clause, namely, that India would have had to spend 150 crores if she had purchased those goods on her own account. If that is so I should like to know what exactly has been sent from this country in the matter of mutual aid by way of raw materials; besides the other type of mutual aid rendered. I have before me a statement which found publication in the *Hindustan Times* of the 21st February, 1945, a Washington message which says that reverse lend-lease figures do not include food-stuffs and raw materials sent to U.S.A. from India. I should like to know this figure. I am saying this advisedly because I find in a report submitted by the British Government to Parliament on page 13—the Second Report on Mutual Aid—that tea has been sent by Britain to the U.S.A. on reverse lease-lend, and the total amount was 10,206 tons, of the value of £2,075,000. Is this particular item one that went from India to the U.K. and from there was sent on to the U.S.A.? While on this question I should like to urge, particularly in view of the fact that this Government have been able to effect a direct mutual aid agreement with Canada, that the position in regard to these lease-lend arrangements are extremely unsatisfactory in the absence of a direct agreement with U.S.A.

I should like to enter a protest on this occasion in regard to the manner in which we are kept blindfolded in the matter of sales made in this country of gold and silver. The Honourable Member says that the sales of gold and silver have appreciably lightened the position so far as the inflationary effects are concerned. We have asked several questions in the past on this matter; we have protested time and again about the profits made by foreign countries by sale of gold in this country, and we have been vouchsafed no answer in regard to the extent that the foreign countries have benefited. And I would like to ask the Honourable Member if he knows—it is hearsay, it may be right or wrong—that Egypt has been able to secure a substantial portion of the profits made out of the sale of gold in that country, gold sold for the purpose of producing an anti-inflationary effect on its economy.

Sir, the next item that I should like to deal with, in the short time at my disposal, is in regard to the dollar position. The Honourable Member said last year that the Government of India have been able to persuade His Majesty's Government to give some kind of aid to India, so that its post-war position might be safeguarded. And this year he has announced the amount as being 20 million dollars which is a little over six crores of rupees. I understand that one crore credit has already been given in regard to import of machinery for an Indian State; and I do not know if this will go out of these six crores dollar credit to our account or from out of the Empire Dollar Pool. I should like to ask the Honourable Member if he knows that Egypt, a country which is very small and whose sterling balances are in the region of two hundred millions sterling, has concluded an agreement recently, an agreement which I think has found support in the City papers of London, by which she has got about 40 million dollars worth of hard currencies for the year 1945, apart from the trade that will be handled through the M.E.S.C. There has been some amount of correspondence in the papers going on between that notorious Paul Einzig and the Egyptian representative; but at the same time public opinion in England seems to favour Egypt's claims rather than that of English financiers. If Egypt can get 40 million dollars for 1945 and India gets 20 million dollars, either this Government is deplorably weak and deplorably blind to the interests of this country or they are hopelessly powerless and the reason really is political rather than one of equity.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I must point out to the Honourable Member that the two figures are not really comparable. They are totally different. The Egyptian figure is the figure of a target for current expenditure which in the case of India is not included in the 20 million at all. The Egyptian figure includes their current expenditure whereas in the case of India the 20 million dollars is over and above any current expenditure of dollars.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the figure of current expenditure?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I cannot say at this moment.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am grateful to the Honourable Member for pointing this out but I am coming to this question. I was going to ask the question as to what the Honourable Member meant by saying that the 15 million dollars set apart for India was in addition to the current requirements to be met out of the Empire Dollar Pool.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I would also like to ask him, what about India's position in regard to the Empire Dollar Pool? A question was asked the other day if the dollar position in the Empire Dollar Pool now was extremely satisfactory, which he denied the other day. But I have figures with me to show that U. K.'s exchange resource of dollars about the end of last year was somewhere in the region of three thousand million dollars; and what portion of it will India get for what is called current requirements considering the fact that U. K. has been able to make very definite and positive arrangements in regard to credit to be available for her, both by way of lease-lend and by way of private arrangements for her post-war developments.

Sir, I should like to conclude with a reference to post-war planning. The Honourable Member has said something about post-war planning in his speech, and has merely told us that that was a matter for the future, and so far as the immediate position was concerned, the Hydari Mission appears to cover practically all that we want. I should like to know if the Honourable Member knows that so far as the U. K. and U. S. A. are concerned, they have already switched over to peace production, and there have been mutual arrangements between them by which some definite but the same percentage of war production in the case of both the countries has been switched over to peace production; and I want to know what we are doing in a similar direction in this country. Sir, I have done.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. President, during the few minutes which are at my disposal I shall deal with only two or three problems regarding the policy of the Government of India underlying this Budget. Sir, if I have to characterise this Budget in one or two words, I would say that the Government of India's policy, as indicated by this Budget, is a timid policy: They do not show that they have any realization of the great problems which they will have to deal with immediately after the war. It seems to me, judged by this Budget, that the Government of India is a tired out body. I do not suggest that the Honourable the Finance Member, who very soon after putting in hard work for over thirty years is going to retire, does not deserve his well-earned rest. He certainly deserves that rest, but the Government of India is a continuous body and it has no right to show signs of exhaustion and fatigue.

When I look into the Budget, I find that the Government of India has been showing deficit for the last three years of more than 150 crores, more but not less. I also find that the Government of India is leaving a good part of this deficit uncovered by taxation. If you look into their proposals for taxation this year, you will find that the Government of India seems to be reconciled to the fact that such a large deficit must be left uncovered. I know that the Honourable the Finance Member has stated in his Budget speech that he considers that the financial position of India which is at war, as compared to other countries at war, is very sound. But, Sir, I do not agree with that statement.

It may be that Great Britain and some other countries may be leaving their deficit uncovered, but Great Britain especially has not allowed the war to disturb very much the financial and the economic condition of the people. The Honourable the Finance Member knows that he has practically completely upset the economic condition of the people of this country and therefore year after year by these large deficits in the budget he is adding to the difficulties of the people and not helping them. I therefore feel that the Government of India should have made great effort to meet the deficit by additional proper taxation.

The Government of India have imposed a small additional income-tax. At the same time they have taken care to give relief almost to the equivalent extent. I do not approve of this policy. The Government of India could have, if they had desired, added to the income-tax of this country. It has not yet reached the extent to which income-tax in other countries has reached. It would have provided Government with financial resources which would have reduced their deficit.

Then, Sir, when the Honourable the Finance Member levies taxation, he levies indirect taxation on tobacco. I have no doubt that some part of the duty will be paid by the well-to-do sections of the community, but I have also no doubt that a good deal of additional taxation will fall upon the poorest classes of people in this country. I therefore feel that the Honourable the Finance Member and the Government of India are not doing justice to the people of this country in the matter of taxation. Where taxation should have been imposed in order to strengthen the financial resources of the Government of India to deal with the great problems which they have to face, they show lack of courage, and timidity, and where they should not add to the taxation, they do it showing want of sympathy for the poorer classes of the people. Not only that, the Honourable the Finance Member gratuitously almost promises the people—the capitalists in this country—that the Excess Profits Tax will be repealed as soon as the war is over. He does not realize that a promise made by one of his predecessors had to be implemented when Government could not really reduce taxation and he should not have made this promise in a hasty manner.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): What promise has he made?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: He has indicated that the Excess Profits Tax will be repealed as soon as the war is over.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: It will be repealed only when it is out-of-pocket for the Government.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I feel, Sir, that this is a policy of timidity. This policy does not show that the Government of India is actively alive to the great problems which they will have to face soon after the war. They talk of reconstruction and planning. How is the money to come for all these plans of reconstruction if the Government of India do not begin from now to build up their financial resources?

The Honourable the Finance Member has pointed out in his speech, in what ways the Government in future can meet their financial needs, what should be the taxes levied on the people in this country and how Government should collect money for the purpose of reconstruction and planning. If the Honourable the Finance Member had been a professor of Economics I could understand his merely stating the kinds of taxes which are available to a Government,—we could have even known the names of these taxes from text books on Economics. But if the Honourable the Finance Member had known that some of these additional resources were available to the Government of India, he should have made a beginning in strengthening the financial resources of this country. He states in his speech that a Government, like the Government of India, may even own and control industries for the sake of additional revenue. I feel that the Honourable the Finance Member should make a beginning now instead

[Mr. N. M. Joshi]

of telling us that such a method of collecting taxation is available to the Government of India.

Sir, I have no time to deal with all the industries which the Government of India could have acquired and conducted, but I shall mention only one and that is the coal mines. The whole country today is suffering on account of the great muddle which the Government of India and the capitalists concerned with coal mining have created. The President of the Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry called it a 'muddle' and if the capitalists engaged in this industry have made the business of coal a muddle, why does not the Government of India take up the whole industry in its hands? Sir, it is not the capitalists in this country who have suffered on account of the shortage of coal. Many industries, like the textile industry and other industries producing consumers goods—for which we have sent a Mission to England to get consumers' goods from England, and we do not allow the production of consumers' goods in India for want of coal—have suffered a great deal. Sir, I feel that if the Government were really anxious to get more coal, they should have taken the whole of the coal mining industry under their control. I am quite sure that the difficulty alleged to be felt about the shortage of

labour is not a real difficulty. If labour is paid well as they are paid well in Great Britain, there will be enough labour in this country for producing the necessary coal. If this country could give to the Government of India 2,500,000 recruits for the war, I have no doubt that if the coal miners were paid as well as those recruits are paid for the army, the 100,000 or 200,000 coal miners you need would have been there immediately without the least difficulty. I would have thought that the Government had cared for consumers' goods and for the interests of the workers engaged in the industry in this country. I am not referring to the coal miners because I know that it is not only the coal miners who are badly treated, but there are thousands of workers in other industries who are suffering unemployment on account of shortage of coal and who become unemployed for long periods during a year. I therefore feel that the Government of India have failed in their duty in not taking over this industry into their own hands. I have no doubt, considering the present prices of coal which are three times as much as they were before, the Government of India would not only have served the industrial development of this country and stopped the unemployment of the workers, but they would have secured additional revenue which they cannot treat with contempt. Therefore, the Government of India have shown lack of courage in dealing with this problem.

Then the Honourable the Finance Member fails to develop the financial resources of his Government, but in order to have some more money he follows the policy—and a very shortsighted policy, of saving money by starving the subordinate employees of the Government of India and the inferior employees. Sir, in the year 1930 when there was some depression, the Government of India reduced the scales of pay of the subordinate employees in this country, leaving the pay of the Indian Civil Service and the higher services at their old levels, and when the war came and the prices began to rise, and the cost of living had gone up the Government of India did not revise the scales of pay, which they should have done in my judgment. The result is that the Government of India's whole subordinate service has become inefficient. I know and every Member in this Legislature who has to deal with the Departments knows, how inefficient the departments have become. The salaries paid to their subordinates are not fair.

Then, Sir, when the prices began to rise not only did the Government of India not revise the scales of pay of other departments but they did not do that even in the case of the Postal and Telegraphs Department. They consider that department as a commercial department. That department is making a profit of Rs. 10 crores and still the Honourable the Finance Member and the Government of India did not revise the scales of pay.

Then, Sir, the Government of India followed also a wrong policy as regards dearness allowance. If they did not revise the scales of pay, at least they should have given complete compensation for the dearness on account of the . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Member has one minute more to conclude his speech.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: My chief point is that the Government of India's policy underlying the budget is wrong. They did not develop their financial resources and they tried to get money by these cheese-paring methods. I hope the Government of India will give up this policy. If they want to develop this country in the immediate post-war period, they will require not only financial resources but also men to carry on the great post-war reconstruction work.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: If they want to prepare the country for post-war reconstruction they should develop their financial resources so that they can have enough money and men to carry out the great project of reconstruction.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): I am glad that after all the Honourable the Finance Member has been able to tell us that he is not going to put any more taxes on the poor people. The staggering debt under which they have been burdened in the last five years of the war is well known. We are still left in doubt as to how long we are to continue paying for defence services. The second thing is how long are we to send out supplies and become a creditor nation. Those are the two very important points on which hangs the welfare of the whole country and my friend the Honourable the Finance Member has not given us any idea in that respect. The surplus sterling balances that we have are increasing every day to the tune of Rs. 1 crore: so if it went on for a year more, Rs. 300 crores must be taken for granted.

Then comes the question of war on our borders. We do not know whether we are going to get anything whatsoever out of this war on our borders and for that war we have to maintain a huge army and we do not know for how long.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Which border?

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee: Burma border. No doubt Great Britain has been incurring a heavy cost. The Americans are doing the same. On the other hand we find that in the midst of the war they take good care to start a corporation like the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation. They start negotiating with different nations for exports, and furthermore they have guaranteed to the industries a compensation and help in every respect to make good the losses.

Now, Sir, what has the Honourable the Finance Member done so far as this country is concerned? Debts we are incurring: war supplies we are giving. But what about getting back something? Nothing of the sort. The supplies that we made for war requirements all over the world, including the Eastern Group, were purchased in a very competitive market and the Honourable the Finance Member will be the last to deny that he did not keep a financial check on them nor on the costing of them and therefore all the charges that were levelled against Indian industries that they were making enormous profits in the supplies sent abroad, are certainly not correct. On the other hand, the things that we are getting on lease-lend from America and from England have been indented for the administration of the Assam Bengal Railway. I ask the Honourable the Finance Member what check he has got over them? The Honourable the War Transport Member told us that he was purchasing locomotives and other things at 60 per cent. and more than the usual cost. Who indented them he never told us. A large number of locomotives and wagons were indented by the American Administration of the Assam Bengal Railway from their own country at their own price and on their own terms. This is how this country has been buying. On the other hand, what is our condition at present? Things have gone on without any check that there is not only food shortage, but clothing shortage and shortage of other things as well.

[Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee]

I have only to ask one more question and I am very glad the Honourable the Supply Member has come. During this war, for making the supplies required all over the world to carry on the war we have created certain industries. I beseech the Government in the interests of the country to give us an assurance, an honest assurance with their hands on their hearts, that these industries will be maintained and developed and that without no good reason whatsoever, will they allow the industries that we have created at so much sacrifice to help the war,—will they allow them to die but maintain them? I am sure that our condition hereafter is going to be still worse, because of the fact (it has always been the fact all over the world) that the European nations, though they go to war as they say in the name of humanity and for supporting the smaller nations, at the same time, as I have pointed out, during the war itself organisations like the U.K.C.C. and others to facilitate export business are being created. The British Empire is not to be liquidated. More mandatory parts of the world are to be added. These are all resources that they make up. The Honourable the Finance Member says, "After all I have taxed you all throughout your life and I will tax you also after you are dead" and that will be the income from which he will ask us to pay all our debts. Why does not the Honourable the Finance Member stand on his legs and say, as Britain will have more mandated territories and the America will have more trade treaties, so will India have at least some markets for her, as she has also made sacrifices. East Africa which we developed wants us Indians to go out. The South Africans who were for long at our mercy (it was Indian troops which saved the whole of Africa) does not want us. What has my Honourable friend the Member for Commonwealth Relations got to say?

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. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: I was pointing out that during this great war all the nations who are fighting in the name of humanity, for helping the small nations, and for the liberties of peoples, while making great sacrifices, are also not forgetting to make such arrangements and such engagements as will enable them not only to get back all their exports, imports and otherwise, but also to get something more, and rightly too, in order to make up for all the sacrifices they have made. When an endeavour is made for an honest purpose, and a reward for that is honestly sought, there is probably justification for it. Now, Sir, what is our position? During the last war we made sacrifices, and Indian troops and Indian civilians helped to wrest Tanganyika from German East Africa. But what was the result? The result was that province was handed over as a mandatory province to the British Empire. What do we find? Britishers and all Europeans including until this great war Germans are all treated equally. During this war, we have made very much greater sacrifices throughout Africa and in Europe and other places, and yet what do we find? We find that attempts are being made during this war for arrangements that will give Europeans better income and to oust Indians therefrom. May I ask the Honourable the Finance Member whether the condition of any country is so miserable? Further more, what do we find? We find that Indians have been barred from entry into East Africa which they built up for centuries, they were there even before the Britishers went there. Ordinances have been passed under various pretexts which have been proved to be entirely false. These are the conditions which we are facing, and therefore I do insist that the Honourable the Finance Member will tell us . . .

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Your time is up.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: The last thing I will say is that we are fighting for reconquering Burma. A large number of our soldiers are fighting there. I hope and trust that our rights there will be maintained, and that the Treasury

Bench will give us an assurance that for all our sacrifices we shall get back our rights, legitimate rights, and that all the sacrifices we have made, the country has made, for the liberties of all peoples and for regaining that part of the Empire, will not be in vain; and that all the taxes he has collected, and all the debts we are incurring will be taken into consideration, and that further liabilities will be so adjusted as not to overburden this country. It is very very essential . . .

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Your time is up.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: The Honourable the Finance Member who has served this country for thirty years very well, will bear in mind that we only want bare and equal justice.

Mr. K. S. Gupta (Ganjam cum Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadan Rural):

Sir, I went through the speech of the Finance Member from the beginning to the end. I found three things—complacency at the beginning, confusion in the middle, and hope in the last. Am I to congratulate him on the eve of his departure? I believe he does not deserve any congratulation. For his complacency is misplaced. He says that 42 millions of my countrymen are being fed. 42 millions means one-tenth of the population. I do not know whether he knows that the food one gets has no nutritional value. According to reports from district authorities, provincial authorities and central authorities the Food Administration has been a failure. I will quote a passage from Mr. Butler's report (page 15):

"Bribery and corruption: Then Food Control and Administration is one which unfortunately has to be mentioned."

He cannot get out of it. Wherever he goes he sees bribery and corruption, no food is given to the people, but there is extortion from the people who are already hungry. There is something more which he says, which is more serious perhaps than bribery and corruption. What is it? It is petty harassment by minor officials, even for a permit there is a demand. Perhaps Mr. Butler has seen these with his own eyes or has recorded evidence of them; evidence of mismanagement and maladministration. I will tell you how the food problem is tackled in England. I have got a pamphlet in my hands, a very beautiful pamphlet, very excellently printed on fine paper. Here is what it says in the Foreward:

"The health of the nation has not only been maintained during the war, but in many instances actually improved in spite of the severe rationing. This itself is a major achievement."

There in England it is a major achievement, but here in India the problem has been a vexed question. If rationing is child's play in England, it is a devil's play in India. They started rationing two years ago, and what is the result? Only one-tenth of the population has been rationed. If you are going to ration the whole country, it will take you twenty years. Is that a matter for congratulation for you or for the party to which you belong? No. You do not deserve it.

Coming nearer to my constituency, I shall here quote a passage from the newspaper *Hindu* of the 27th February. Here it is stated:

"The famine conditions which followed caused further loss of vitality; the area affected most was the coastal stretch between Chicacole and the Chilka Lake and the sufferers today number at least 2,00,000 spread over 400 villages."

This is not denied. I had several interviews with the District Magistrate of Vizagapatam and also correspondence. I sent a female doctor to go about and collect facts and figures about the health conditions in North Vizagapatam from this particular area from Chicacole to Chilka Lake. Here is the letter from the District Magistrate wherein he admits what we said. I will read two or three sentences.

"Our main difficulty at the moment is shortage of medical staff."

What have they been doing all these days? If people who are suffering from diseases are not treated by doctors, where can they get the medicine?

[Mr. K. S. Gupta]

Medicine is not available; doctors are not available. What is this Government for? The sooner it liquidates itself the better. They have come to a final conclusion and have now agreed to use L.M.P.'s, one of whom at least will be attached to each of three hospitals. About malaria he says it is not in epidemic form. I say it is chronic malaria and that is not a matter for congratulation either. I am not well and I will sit down.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Mr. Azhar Ali.

(At this stage, Mr. K. S. Gupta was seen collapsing in his seat.)

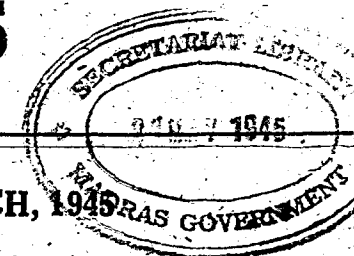
Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Assembly will adjourn for fifteen minutes.

(After a short while, Dr. G. V. Deshmukh informed the Chair that Mr. Gupta had expired.)

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): In view of what has happened, the Assembly will adjourn till tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 6th March, 1945.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES



TUESDAY, 6th MARCH, 1945

Vol. II—No. 5

OFFICIAL REPORT



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Tuesday, 6th March, 1945

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.

DEATH OF MR. K. S. GUPTA

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): Mr. President, we meet here this morning under the shadow of a great tragedy that took place in this House yesterday in the afternoon. Mr. President, as far as I know, there is no parallel to this event so far as this Legislature is concerned. Our friend Mr. K. S. Gupta had been connected with this House for the last seven years. He was a valued member of the Congress Party and while he was speaking on the Budget yesterday in his own characteristic vigorous style within five minutes of the start of his speech he collapsed and died forthwith. Mr. President, though it was known for a few days before his death that he was suffering from high blood pressure and perhaps also some heart trouble, no one, not even his best friends and neighbours in this House who were sitting next to him, realised that the hand of death was near him when he started his speech. Mr. President, Mr. Gupta represented the Non-Muslim constituency of Ganjam *cum* Vizagapatam for a number of years and throughout his association with this House and its activities, either in the committees or in the Legislature, his work was characterised by deep study of the subjects with which he had to deal and he was very anxious at every stage to be useful and helpful. Mr. President, our deep sympathies go to the Party of which he was such an active, enthusiastic and vigorous member but I am sure you will agree with me that the whole House must feel poorer by the absence of such a useful and helpful Member and so far as we individually are concerned we feel that we have lost a very dear, genial, amiable and charming friend. Mr. President, our hearts must go out to his widow, his children and the bereaved family in this hour of great distress. But it may be some consolation to them to know that their grief is shared by all those with whom he worked all these years in this Legislature.

Mr. President, his dead body has been flown to Vizagapatam and will be reaching its destination within two or three hours. It is amazing that this evening arrangements had been made for a party at the aerodrome and, believe me, it was mainly at his instance, because he was anxious to have a joy ride, that this party was arranged but little did we know that he will have a long flight from here to Vizagapatam today, a few hours before this party was arranged to give him a joy ride. Mr. President, as long as the cremation does not take place, our hearts must be full with grief and I do hope and trust that you will convey our feelings of condolence and sympathy to the bereaved family.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Mr. President, it is said, Sir, in the Holy Writ of the Christians that in the midst of life we are in death and the sudden passage of my dear comrade from life here to life beyond is a sharp reminder which we sadly need of the fleeting character of our existence. Mr. Gupta was an earnest man, so much so indeed that it was very difficult for us to ever ask him to feel any different on any issue which he made his own. We have been the poorer during the last three or four years by the death of several of our comrades. Mr. Satyamurti was the first to pass away, leaving this House poorer and us also. So did Professor Jhunj, who was followed by Mr. Khedan Lal. Every time we meet in this House at the beginning of a Session, this melancholy duty always falls upon us to mourn the death of our comrades. Let us only hope, Sir, that the death which has taken place yesterday is one of a character which will always remind us that if a man lays down his life while espousing a cause which he believes to be just—whatever happens to those bereaved—he could not have

(1057)

[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai]

died a more glorious death. He was an earnest and a sincere man, hard working, loyal. More than anything else, he had a sense of proportion and a sense of duty which defied every kind of malice, for indeed in a debating place of this kind, the greatest quality that one can possess and wish for is to be able to fight without rancour and lose without malice. That was the example that Mr. Gupta set in his life.

Sir, it is a truism that this House is poorer for his death. Inverting the Holy Writ to which I referred in the beginning, it is also true that in the midst of death we are in life and the immortality which Mr. Gupta has obtained by dying, while actually pleading for the cause in which he believed, is an immortality which everybody would wish the dearest of us. You will convey to his widow and children that we share the loss, share not merely the grief and the sorrow but the great shock which it naturally must give her at a time when she least expected it—to meet, instead of a smiling face, his last remains.

But nonetheless, the tribute that we pay, would be to some extent a mitigation of the great loss that she has suffered. We will always remember his earnest and smiling face and it is difficult indeed to believe that his place is vacant even now. Sir, I join the Leader of the House in the tribute that he has paid with all the earnestness and sincerity that I can command; but more than everything else our love for him remains fully undiminished. I ask you, Sir, therefore, in the name of this House to convey these expressions of our sorrow and grief so that alleviation of suffering to some extent may reach those who are left behind and will serve, according to the belief which we have, as a solace to his soul.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadian Rural): Sir, on behalf of my Party, as well as myself, I express very deep sorrow at the tragic death of one of our colleagues. It has already been pointed out that Mr. K. S. Gupta was sincere and earnest throughout the time that he was a Member of this Honourable House. Sir, Mr. K. S. Gupta died at his post and it can be said that he literally breathed his last fighting for the cause of the people of India. I am sure that every Honourable Member of this House is full of grief and sympathy for the family of Mr. Gupta. We have lost a valuable colleague, the country has lost a sincere worker and the family has lost a dear friend and head of the family. I request you, Sir, to convey our deepest sorrow and sincerest sympathy to the widow and the children of Mr. Gupta.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadian Urban): Sir, I associate myself and my Party with the motion of grief and condolence which has been moved and I endorse all that has been said by the Honourable the Leader of the House and other speakers. I came in close contact with our departed friend and I was always struck by his sincerity of purpose and his keen and earnest devotion to the cause of the country. Our grief is all the greater because his death was so sudden and so tragic. But we find comfort in the fact that his death was a glorious one, for he died while rendering service to his beloved Motherland. Sir, our hearts go out to the bereaved members of his family in this hour of their severe trial.

Sir Henry Richardson (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, on behalf of my Group, I wish to join most sincerely in the tribute paid by the Honourable the Leader of the House and other Leaders to the memory of Mr. Gupta. Sir, as the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition has said, we have these occasions every Session when we are reminded of the fact that our lives are not in our hands, but when this Honourable House becomes the death chamber of one of our colleague and we see the tragic scene that happened yesterday afternoon, we cannot but help being more acutely reminded of that truth and feeling much more acutely the blow which has suddenly fallen on this House. We, in this Group, have had our own sorrow in such sudden losses and, therefore, we can

sympathise perhaps more than many in the loss which has been sustained by the Congress Party and relatives of Mr. Gupta. We ask you to join our sincere condolences with those that have been already offered to Mr. Gupta's relatives.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I fully share the grief that has been expressed by different Members at the tragic and sudden death of Mr. Gupta which took place in this Chamber yesterday. He died at his post, while discharging his duties as a Member of this Assembly. He was, as has been stated by the Honourable the Leader of the House, a very active Member of this Assembly and a very amiable gentleman. An incident like this very seldom happens and it has naturally cast a shadow over the Assembly Chamber. It will be my duty to communicate to the widow of Mr. Gupta and other members of his family, the motion of condolence that has been passed by the House.

I understand that under the circumstances, it is the desire of Honourable Members of the Assembly that no business shall be transacted today and I therefore adjourn the House till tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 7th March, 1945.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 7th March, 1945

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.

688.—736.*

ENCOURAGEMENT TO COUNTRY CRAFTS IN COASTAL AREAS.

737. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state:

(a) the specific measures taken by the Government of India to encourage country crafts in coastal areas; and

(b) whether any subsidy or materials necessary for building up country crafts are given at concessional rates to the industry?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Government of India in War Transport Department Resolution No. 81-T(1)/42, dated the 11th August 1942, appointed a Committee consisting of Mr. H. T. Sorley and Rao Bahadur Maneklal Lallubhai to examine and report on the nature and volume of the traffic carried by country craft on the West Coast, the agencies through which the traffic was organised, the capacity of the existing fleet and the possibilities of increasing it and the methods and agencies through which an increase in the total volume of coastal traffic could best be effected. The Committee submitted its report in November, 1942, and in pursuance of its recommendations, the Country Craft Organisation for the West Coast was set up. The work of this organisation during the 1943-44 season and the introduction of the Route Scheme during 1944-45 season are described in two articles entitled "Country craft traffic on the West Coast" published in the issues of the *Indian Information*, dated 15th August 1944, and 1st October 1944, respectively, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. Details of the Route Scheme are given in two Press notes dated the 15th August 1944, and the 3rd September, 1944, which were placed on the table of the House on the 12th February 1945 in answer to question No. 130.

(b) The answer is in the negative. Assistance was rendered to intending builders of country craft by approving release of timber and other controlled materials which are in short supply.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to part (a), what is the reply as regards the specific measures taken?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: They are set out in the papers to which I referred, copies of which are either in the Library of the House or have been placed on the table.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Those relate to the report of the Committee; but what are the steps taken?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Those set out the steps taken. It will take a very long time to read out even a summary of the *communiqués*.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know why the Government of India do not themselves undertake the building of country-craft?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think that I replied to that in answer to question No. 130. Country-craft owners are very numerous, largely small people owning perhaps one, two or three boats, and the organisation of this trade is peculiarly difficult. But we thought the best way of encouraging the increase of boat building was to make it profitable for country-craft to

†For these questions and answers, see pages 1102-22 of these debates.

operate. That is why we introduced this scheme which is having its effect, first of all in that more goods are moved by country-craft, and secondly in that more country-craft have been built in the period between 1942 and 1945. In that period 26,000 tons of country-craft have been built.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether any organisation has been set up for the east coast?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I understand that the Madras Government have set up an organisation. I think the Honourable Member will find a summary of that organisation on page 156 of *Indian Information* dated the 15th August, 1944.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Does the west coast organisation mean minus Malabar?

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

CERTAIN MALPRACTICE REFERRED TO IN PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE REPORT

738. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

- (a) the definite malpractice referred to on page 9, paragraph 20 of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee for the year 1942-43;
- (b) who the delinquent servants referred to were; and
- (c) the punishment meted out to them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) If the Honourable Member will read again paragraph 20 of the report of the Public Accounts Committee he will find that the Committee are not referring to any specific malpractices. They point out the difficulties, which generally arise in bringing home the responsibility for malpractices if and when they occur and argue from this against lenient punishments in cases in which charges have been proved.

(b) and (c). Do not arise. But if the Honourable Member is interested in knowing the punishments inflicted for irregularities brought to notice in connection with the accounts for 1942-43, he will find them dealt with in the Audit report and the Public Accounts Committee's comments thereon.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I submit that the paragraph does refer to specific malpractices. It says even when on examination malpractices have been found out the railway authorities have not taken sufficient action.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member refers to "the definite malpractice referred to on page 9". Perhaps he will be good enough to quote "the definite malpractice".

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I have quoted the paragraph and said that the malpractice has been referred to.

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

PROPOSAL FOR CHANGING NAME OF DEHRI-ON-SONE RAILWAY STATION

739. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

- (a) whether proposals have been received for changing the name of Dehri-on-Sone Railway station on the East Indian Railway;
- (b) the new name proposed and who has suggested a change;
- (c) whether he has received public protests against the proposal; and
- (d) the final attitude of Government in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies given to Mr. Ram Narayan Singh's Starred Question No. 626 on 2nd March 1945.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know whether Government have come to any final decision?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The position is that the matter is left to the railway administration to settle in consultation with the Government of Bihar, and I understand the East Indian Railway does not propose to change the name.

SHIFT ARRANGEMENT AT TWENTY FOUR-HOURS OPEN BOOKING OFFICES ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

740. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that there are stations on the North Western Railway where booking is open for twenty-four hours? Is it also a fact that Booking Clerks on these stations have to work for eight hours continuously? If so, does he propose to explain what procedure is adopted in giving and taking over charge after each shift?

(b) Is it a fact that while charge by one Booking Clerk is being handed over to another, the booking remains open? If so, does he propose to take suitable steps to relieve the clerks during the time of making over charge and accounting by ordering that booking be suspended for some time?

(c) Is it a fact that after making over the charge, the Booking Clerks have to close and reconcile the accounts which takes over an hour or so after eight hours' work? If so, are they paid any compensation for this over-work?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Reply to the first and second parts is in the affirmative. With regard to the last part, the procedure adopted is that the relieving Booking Clerk checks all tickets, imprest cash, concession orders and the non-issued tickets register, etc., before the relieved Booking Clerk is permitted to leave, after each eight hours shift.

(b) While charge by one Booking Clerk is being made over to his successor, the booking window is not closed, but booking of passengers is suspended for a short while in the course of the change-over. Government do not propose to issue any such general directive.

(c) Yes, but the actual time taken for this purpose varies with the volume of work offering from day to day at each station. In regard to the last portion of the question, overtime is payable under the Hours of Employment Regulations if the maximum weekly hours of work are exceeded.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is it a fact that in ordinary stations the time taken in making over charge and leaving the office is sometimes over an hour?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It should certainly not be, in ordinary circumstances.

SCALES OF PAY OF GOODS SUPERVISORS, ETC. ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

741. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state the scales and grades of pay of the following cadres on the North Western Railway:—(i) Goods Supervisors; and (ii) Chief Booking Clerks?

(b) Is it a fact that personnel of both these cadres are qualified to work in either? If so, does he propose to explain the grounds for the difference in the higher scales and grades of pay of these cadres? Why is the number of higher grades in the cadre of Goods Supervisors greater than in that of Chief Booking Clerks?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The required information is as follows:

Designation	Old scale of pay	Corresponding revised scale of pay.
	Rs.	Rs.
Goods Supervisor	250—10—300.	230
Chief Booking Clerk	200—10—250 150—10—190 105—5—140 66—4—90	200 160 100—10/2 Years—120. 65—5/2 Years—85.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise. As regards the last part, it will be observed from the reply to part (a) that Goods Supervisors on the N. W. Railway have only one grade, which is higher than all the grades for Chief Booking Clerks. This is due to the fact that the duties and responsibilities of Goods Supervisors are higher than those of Chief Booking Clerks.

REVENUE OF TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT COMING FROM DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

742. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state how much of the total gross revenue of the Telegraph Department comes from the Defence Department?

(b) What rates have been charged to the Defence Department? Are they on the same basis as those charged to the civil population?

(c) Has the Department seen complaints in the press or received representations that there are serious delays in the transmission of messages and that these delays are due to the lines being engaged on military traffic?

(d) Is it a fact that military people prefer to communicate on the telephone and by telegram only instead of sending in messages by post?

(e) What steps have Government taken to relieve the congestion both on the telephones and on the telegraphs so far as the civil population is concerned?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) I am unable to give the information required as separate figures are not maintained of revenue derived from the Fighting Services.

(b) Same as public rates.

(c) Yes.

(d) No. The Fighting Services are fully aware of the necessity for economy in the use of telegraphic and telephonic communication. Only when speed in communication is necessary for the successful prosecution of the war, are telephones used and telegrams issued.

(e) More lines have been and are being erected and more channels established. Reserved circuits have also been given to military authorities so as to reduce the load on public channels. There has been a large increase in non-military traffic also and appeals have been made to the public to use the telegraph and telephone only in very urgent cases. There has recently been some improvement generally, and it is hoped that the improvement will not only be maintained but bettered.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know that in view of the fact that ordinary telegrams are delivered after two or three days and business communities are compelled to go to the urgent rates, if this is done deliberately by Government to earn more revenue?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Then why is Government not asking Civil Departments as well as the Military Departments to economise in the use of telgrams similar to the appeal made to the public? It is the civil population which wants more facilities which are at present monopolised by the Defence and the Government Departments.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Such an appeal has been made to all Government Departments.

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

FACTORIES ERECTED AT GOVERNMENT COST, ETC.

743. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state how many factories have been erected in India—(i) wholly at Government cost, and (ii) partly at Government cost, and which are they?

(b) How many extensions of existing factories have Government financed and which are they?

(c) How much money have Government spent on items mentioned in (a) and (b)?

(d) What arrangements, if any, have Government reached with these firms with regard to the disposal of these plants after the war?

(e) On what basis have these firms offered to take over these plants?

(f) Do Government propose to explain to this House the policy with regard to these extensions and the manner in which Government seek to secure permanent addition to India's industry by the maintenance of these plants?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a), (b) and (c). Government are collecting the information, which will be laid on the

table of the House as far as security considerations permit.

(d) No arrangements have yet been made.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The matter is under the consideration of Government, and it is not possible to say anything definite at present.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that the Governments of the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom have already issued instructions and have already decided their policy, may I know if Government expect to come to some consideration on this subject and to give information to the public?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The assumptions about the Governments in the supplementary are not correct.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why is the Government trying to keep back from the public information in regard to war plants which have been set up at public cost whose fate we want to know about, both now and after the war?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Government are keeping back that information from the public because of security considerations.

ACQUISITION OF RAW WOOL BY GOVERNMENT

744. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) From which date did the Honourable the Supply Member commandeer the whole supply of raw wool in this country for Government use?

(b) What were the prevailing pre-war prices and at what prices have Government acquired raw wool?

(c) Since when have Government released small quantities for the use of the civil population?

(d) What are these quantities with reference to the whole production of woollen cloth in India, both factory and handloom production?

(e) Is it a fact that for civil population, all kinds of woollen things are extremely difficult to secure and, besides, they are extremely costly?

(f) What steps have Government taken to increase the supply of wool?

(g) Is it not a fact that the supply of wool has gone down on account of the slaughter of sheep in very large numbers?

(h) By what stages and in what manner do Government expect the position to be easier for the civil population?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) The supply of raw wool has not been commandeered by Government.

(b), (c) and (d). Do not arise.

(e) There has been shortage of woollen goods for the civil population. The prices were uncontrolled until the Indian Woollen Goods (Control) Order, 1944 came into force.

(f) No specific steps have been taken in respect of the indigenous supply.

(g) Statistics of the number of sheep annually slaughtered in the country are not available.

(h) Government have placed orders on the organized woollen industry to the extent of 7,310,000 lbs. of woollen material which will be released to the civil population during 1945 at controlled prices through recognized dealers. This roughly corresponds to India's pre-war production.

Instructions to the manufacturing mills during 1944, were that first priority should be given to the manufacture of goods against Defence requirements, with the result that civilian production was hampered. Revised instructions have recently been issued clearly stating that both the Civil and Defence Service, goods should be given the same priority and that in case of hold-ups of manufacture due to unforeseen circumstances the production of both types of goods should be affected proportionately. There should, therefore, be comparatively little difficulty for the civil population to get their essential requirements of woollen materials at reasonable rates. As the war situation

improves, Government are hopeful that increasing percentages of the output of the organized industry could be made available for the civil population.

Mr. Manu Subedar: When Government monopolised and commandeered almost the entire output of woollens in this country, did they realise that the civil population would suffer terribly?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I have just answered the question that the Government did not monopolise and did not commandeer.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The Honourable Member said so in his own answer. Will he repeat it?

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

Mr. Manu Subedar: He said that the whole output was...

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

PROVINCIAL FAVOURITISM IN THE PLACING OF WAR ORDERS

745. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Supply Member been drawn to the following in the presidential address of Rai Bahadur Syamnandan Sahaya, C.I.E., at the Bihar Chamber of Commerce on the 25th January 1945:

"War Orders:—In the matter of contracts given by the Central Government in the Department of Supply, it will be surprising to note that although many of the contracts have been or are being executed in Bihar, with raw materials of this Province, the contractors are in most cases outsiders. It is not that contractors in Bihar are shy in their offer or are deficient in any way in rendering prompt execution to the orders. The reason apparently is that the distributing centres have been giving preferential treatment to the contractors of the Province where the centre is located?"

(b) Is there any ground for complaint with regard to provincial favouritism in the placing of war orders?

(c) Have Government made any calculations by Provinces as to the total War orders in one of the war years?

(d) If so, what are those calculations?

(e) Are all orders placed by open tender, or is any other method adopted? If so, what is that method?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) and (d). A statement is placed on the table showing the value of contracts placed by the Supply Department in Provincial Circles from 18th January 1944 to 30th November 1944.

(e) Orders are placed in a variety of way i.e., by open tender, limited tender, single tender and by negotiation.

Statement showing the value of Contracts placed by the Supply Department in Provincial Circles during the period from 1st January, 1944, to 30th November 1944.

	Rs.
Bengal	60,66,19,556
Madras	8,52,27,220
Bombay	26,98,36,259
U. P.	17,10,54,512
Punjab	12,35,18,552
Sind	1,28,57,687
All India	1,26,97,13,786

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Is there any quota given to certain provinces or just an open tender which is placed at the disposal of the provinces to be at their own choice.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: There is no quota but it depends on the capacity of the provinces to supply goods of the required quota and at the proper price.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know if the Honourable Member has looked into the fact which is alleged in this question: that in Bihar the contracts are given to people who have not got any business there and who belong to other provinces?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I am glad that point has been raised. I have looked into it carefully. I am myself very conscious that as far as possible the people of the province should get these contracts. But I do not know whether the Honourable Member who asked this question has his constituency behind him in suggesting that contracts in provinces should as far as possible be limited to people of the province concerned. I should be glad to have the commercial and industrial opinion on the subject.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I cannot give an opinion in an answer. But the purpose of this enquiry was to investigate the statement made by a Chairman of a Provincial Chamber of Commerce that there is favouritism in placing contracts, particularly in favour of those who are located near the centre of Government, namely, Delhi, and the Honourable Member.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go on arguing!

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: There is no favouritism of any kind. But it is a fact that people who do not belong to the province are in some cases getting the contracts.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: What is the position of all-India firms?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: They will have an all-India interest in the contract.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Not provincial interests only?

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

GOVERNMENT ORDERS PLACED DIRECT WITH MANUFACTURERS AND WITH MIDDLEMEN, ETC.

746. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state what percentages of the orders in the years 1942-43 and 1943-44 were placed with manufacturers direct, and what percentages were placed with middlemen, merchants and contractors?

(b) What steps have Government taken for the elimination of middlemen, merchants and contractors in the placing of Government orders?

(c) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that parties who receive Government orders, sub-contract them and that in some cases between the original recipient of the order and the party, who executes the order, there are half a dozen intermediaries?

(d) What are the reasons for such sub-contracting?

(e) Is it the high prices given by Government, or is it that certain favoured parties alone can get the contract?

(f) Do Government propose to appoint a committee of officials and non-officials to investigate the matter and to suggest what steps should be taken in future to safeguard public interests?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) I regret that this information is not available as no separate records are maintained for the different categories of contractors mentioned by the Honourable Member.

(b) to (e). Every effort is made to place Orders on contractors who themselves manufacture the goods and do not act as mere middlemen. An exception to this rule is the case of recognised Selling Agents of reputable firms as in such cases the manufacturers do not as a rule sell their products except through these Agents.

The General Conditions of Contract applicable to Supply Department contracts expressly provide against sub-letting, transfer or assignment of the contract without the previous permission of the Purchase officer. Permission to

sub-contract is, however, given in the cases of big contracts involving a series of operations as in the case of Ship-building and Ship-repairs and steel structures.

(g) No. Under the existing arrangements public interests are fully safeguarded.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether any cases of sub-contracting have been found, apart from the three things which the Honourable Member has mentioned?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I should like to have notice of that question. If by that the Honourable Member means cases of sub-contracting with the permission of the Purchase Officer

Mr. Manu Subedar: I say, without permission where the original recipient of the order has been found to transfer it not merely to one but to several parties.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I should like to have notice of that.

STEEL COMMISSIONER

747. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state:

(i) the functions and powers of the Steel Commissioner, indicating any change that may have taken place in these functions and powers since his appointment;

(ii) the date of his appointment;

(iii) the arrangements that were in operation for discharging any or all of these functions and powers prior to the appointment of the Steel Commissioner;

(iv) the previous experience of the Steel Commissioner together with his business affiliations, if any, and

(v) the terms of the appointment, including emoluments?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (i) The Steel Commissioner was appointed with the functions of co-ordinating the work of the different authorities whose activities affected the steel situation in India, and of ensuring the maintenance of adequate statistics of the whole steel position. For this purpose he was given the usual administrative powers. There has been no major change but since his appointment, the Steel Commissioner has at various times been given specific powers necessary for the proper discharge of his functions.

(ii) The 8th December, 1943.

(iii) The co-ordinating functions of the Steel Commissioner could only be exercised by Government before his appointment and the statistical functions were carried out independently by the various authorities dealing with different aspects of the steel position.

(iv) A statement is laid on the table.

(v) A statement is laid on the table.

Statements

*Part (iv).—*The Steel Commissioner was formerly a Director of the Blaenavon Company and of the Barrow Hematite Steel Company. He was a member of the International Rail Makers Committee and Chairman of one of the British re-rollers sections of the Iron and Steel Cartel Committee. During the war he was employed in the British Iron and Steel Control as their liaison officer for the London and South Eastern area and then as Director of plant progress.

*Part (v). Pay.—*Rs. 6,000 per mensem.

*Duration of Service.—*One year subject to extension by mutual agreement. The agreement was extended for six months with effect from 8th December 1944.

Allowances.—(a) Outfit allowance—£75.

(b) Disturbance allowance (Cost of leaving England including storage of furniture, etc.)—£325.

(c) Travelling allowances as applicable to him under Fundamental Rules.

*Passages.—*Free passages, preferably by air, from and to the U. K. Free passages both ways for wife, if desired.

Termination of Service.—(a) By the Governor General-in-Council without previous notice if he is found medically unfit. Six-months' pay or pay for the unexpired portion of the term, whichever is less, has to be paid to him on termination of service without notice.

(b) By the Governor General-in-Council without previous notice, in case of breach of agreement, insubordination, intemperance or misconduct.

*Pensions, etc.—*No pension, gratuity or bonus or Provident Fund, except that in case he sustains a war injury during the journeys to or from India he will be eligible for pension under the existing U. K. rules. The War Injuries Ordinance, 1941, does not apply to him.

Other Concessions, etc.—(a) Medical attendance and treatment prescribed for officers of his status.

(b) He is eligible for an award under the appropriate Civil Service Rules in the event of disability or death occasioned by risk of his office or enemy action.

(c) Life Insurance (including injury) during the journeys to or from India up to a capital sum of £10,000 plus cost of insurance of baggage and War Risk Insurance.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it a fact that Steel Commissioner is going to be or has already been invested with certain powers hitherto reserved for the Government of India and usually exercised by the latter?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I said that the co-ordinating functions of the Steel Commissioner could only be exercised by the Government of India before his appointment and now the Steel Commissioner exercises those powers.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Ever since his appointment or has there been a change?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No change ever since his appointment.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What is the nature of the statistical work done by him?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Statistics about production, about import and various other things connected with steel manufacture.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Will this data be available to the public?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No, Sir. If Honourable Members should take the trouble of becoming members of the Supply Advisory Committee probably much of this data will be available to them.

POLICY RE STEEL IMPORTATIONS

748. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state if it is a fact that the Steel Commissioner is shortly going to the United Kingdom on deputation for the purpose of discussing with the authorities there questions connected with the speeding up of steel imports and the transfer of certain indents from Lease-Lend to the United Kingdom supply as also to obtain information for the Government of India about the latest developments affecting the steel policy in the United Kingdom during and after the war?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, does the Honourable Member propose to explain:

(i) the policy of the Government of India in the matter of importations of steel which is intended to be speeded up,

(ii) the scheme of the proposed transfer of certain indents from Lease-Lend to United Kingdom supply as affecting India, and

(iii) the bearing of the steel policy in the United Kingdom on any policy of the Government of India, either during or after the war?

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

(b) (i) The policy is only to import steel to cover essential war and civil requirements which cannot be met from Indian production or stocks. It is desired to speed up deliveries against indents placed overseas in accordance with this policy.

(ii) Under the allied scheme for controlling supplies of steel the U. K. was not allowed until recently to export steel except for certain small specialized types and almost all Indian imports were obtained from the U. S. A. on Lease-Lend. There has since the beginning of this year been some change in this position and the U. K. is again in a position to export certain categories of steel.

and the Government of India wish the Steel Commissioner to discuss in the U. K. the possibility of obtaining its steel requirements from the U. K. both against future indent and against indents already placed on the U. S. A. where delivery has been delayed.

(iii) It is considered that this information will be of considerable value in relation to the future of this industry. The war position has been covered in my answer to part b (ii) of the question.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to the reply to part (ii) (b) of my question, do I understand that certain steel articles for which India had not to pay and which used to come in under the Lease/Lend arrangements will hereafter have to be purchased from the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The position that the Honourable Member has stated in his supplementary question is not quite accurate. India does pay for the Lease-Lend that comes from the United States of America in the form of supply articles on reverse Lease-Lend, which is as good as payment.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know if the Honourable Member is aware that the question of reverse Lease/Lend is not contingent on what is obtained in the form of Lease/Lend from the United States of America and that we would be liable to release this reverse Lease/Lend in any event?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I think the Honourable the Finance Member would be a better authority to deal with the question. That is not the correct position.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Is it a fact that Government have got a large quantity of surplus steel which they cannot use and which they have now to stock?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I should like to have notice of that question.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: If that is so, are Government assuring themselves that they are not making arrangements to import steel which can be made in this country quite easily?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I have had allegations of that kind made and I am having a conference with the main producers and the Steel Commissioner day after tomorrow to examine this very question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: By what means do Government propose to supply the agriculturists in this country with the iron and steel needed for their agricultural implements, about which there is a great shortage now? Is it by imports or by local manufacture?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It may be by imports or by local manufacture. In any case it will be by imports by releasing the corresponding quantities from local manufacture. By local manufacture I mean manufacture by the main producers. A quota is allocated for agricultural purposes to each Provincial Government. I am aware that that quota is not sufficient and Provincial Governments have made representations. Imported steel is no longer available for such purposes and steel for such purposes should come from the producers in this country.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Is it a fact that about 20,000 tons of Lease/Lend steel is freezing in Bombay and cannot be sold and merchants are complaining that they are unable to dispose this of, because Government does not give the license for the purpose?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I should like to have notice of that question.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Now that the Honourable the Finance Member is present, may I ask him for the information which I sought in the supplementary question? I shall repeat it in substance. Are the Central Government in a position to assure this House that in so far as the Lease/Lend arrangements may be modified for the purpose of enabling Great Britain to export certain steel articles to India, whether, the liability of India in regard to the provision of reciprocal aid is going to be modified to any extent?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That was not the question that was put to me. There was no question of modifying Lease/Lend arrangements at all. The Lease/Lend arrangements continue as they are. What I said was that if we do not get certain articles on Lease/Lend from America but transfer that to the United Kingdom, it does not mean that we would have got those Lease/Lend articles for nothing. There is a reverse Lease/Lend obligation which equates the Lease/Lend advantage.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I want to know definitely as to whether as a result of this change in the Lease/Lend position India's liability in regard to reciprocal aid is going to be modified to any extent, as the Honourable Member himself seems to suggest, because certain articles which have so far come from the United States of America under the Lease/Lend arrangements are hereafter to be purchased for cash from the United Kingdom. I want to know whether a change in regard to the Lease/Lend position in that respect is going to be accompanied by any change in regard to our liability for providing reciprocal aid to the United States of America?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Perhaps the Honourable Member would kindly put down a question on the subject.

STEEL IMPORTS

749. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state what has been the quantity of steel imports since the appointment of the Steel Commissioner, month by month, and of what different types have these imports mainly been? To what extent, if any, has the manufacture of steel in India been affected by the said imports?

(b) To what extent has the manufacture of steel in India been curtailed since the control measures were introduced, on account of coal shortage or otherwise, what are the prospects of production of steel in India being made to the utmost capacity of the different concerns engaged in it, and how far, if at all, is the import policy of Government likely to prejudice maximum production in India?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) *First part.* A statement is laid on the table.

Second part.—Indigenous manufacture has not been affected by imports as the policy is only to import steel to meet demands which cannot be met in time from Indian production and stocks.

(b) *First part.*—The output of steel ingots fell by 4 per cent. in 1944, as against the output in 1943 owing to coal shortage and transportation difficulties. Otherwise there has been no curtailment in production since the control was introduced.

Second part.—The prospects of attaining maximum production depends on the rate of improvement in the coal and transport situations.

Third part.—Not at all.

Statement.

The quantity of steel imports received month by month since the appointment of the Steel Commissioner are as follows:—

	Tons.
January 1944	34,869
February 1944	34,248
March 1944	32,119
April 1944	28,167
May 1944	23,074
June 1944	16,847
July 1944	25,592
August 1944	30,077
September 1944	25,067
October 1944	37,787
November 1944	23,787
December 1944	22,961
January 1945	26,083

The different types mainly imported were (a) semi-finished (b) Heavy Rails and Fishplates (c) Tinsplates and substitutes (d) Drum Sheets (e) Wheels, Tyres and Axles (f) Wire and Wire Products and (g) Pipes and Tubes.

RAIL-ROAD CO-ORDINATION SCHEMES IN THE PUNJAB

750. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) With reference to paragraph 24, on page 17 of the Budget speech of the Chief Commissioner of Railways read in the Council of State on the 15th February, 1945, regarding the Road Rail co-ordination, will the Honourable the Railway Member please lay on the table of the House copies of the short term and the long term schemes that have been devised by Government in collaboration with the Provincial Government in the Punjab for participating in the development of Road Transport Services?

(b) Which of the road lines are at present worked in the Punjab by the Railway Department in passenger or in goods traffic departmentally and which of them are jointly worked with the Road operators and on what terms?

(c) Is there any programme of the Railway Department for operating passenger or goods traffic either departmentally or jointly with the Road operators of any road lines in the Punjab in the year 1945-46? Which of the Road lines will be operated departmentally and which of them jointly with the operators and on what terms?

(d) What is the system of "tied mileage Unit"? Will a detailed statement explaining this system be laid on the table of the House for information?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) So far, no scheme for the operation of road services has been formulated by the North Western Railway in collaboration with the Punjab Government.

(b) The road services at present worked in the Punjab for the carriage of goods traffic by North Western Railway, departmentally are (i) Lahore-Nagrote and (ii) Lahore-Multan.

As regards passenger services I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to Question No. 615 asked by Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar on March 2nd and to my replies to supplementaries.

(c) So far, no further scheme to operate passenger or goods services departmentally or by means of Joint Companies in the Punjab in the year 1945-46 has been examined.

(d) The 'tied mileage unit' scheme is a system by which a contractor is tied to the Railway by an agreement to carry traffic between certain points at a predetermined rate.

A detailed statement explaining this system is laid on the table of the House.

Statement showing the Tied Mileage Unit system.

The 'Tied Mileage Unit' scheme is a system whereby the railway runs the commercial side but contracts out for the operation, paying merely for lorry mileage and idle time; to an operator who is, by agreement, bound to keep at the disposal of the railway a certain number of lorries in running order.

2. The railway, therefore, guarantees to the operator a certain mileage rate which covers the running of the vehicles and a certain fixed amount for idle time, payable only if the vehicles are not used on any day. No amount is payable for any single vehicle for more than 26 days in a month, be they "mileage" days or "idle time" days. For every idle day charged, the lorry must have been serviceable. If a vehicle has worked for 23 days and is available for the rest of the month but not used, payment for idle days will be limited to 3 days.

If a vehicle actually runs for 26 days or more, there is no idle time that month. Generally, idle time is reckoned at Rs. 25 per day and running time at 9 annas a mile.

3. The "baving-in" clause provides for termination of contract at three month's notice and payment for the vehicles at cost less a preagreed rate of depreciation. Usually, the cost is to be written off at 100,000 miles, subject to fair wear and tear.

4. The 'tied mileage-unit' system offers definite advantages both to a railway and to the contractor; the railway is relieved of operational details and the contractor is freed from commercial risks.

POST-WAR NEW RAILWAY LINES IN THE PUNJAB

751. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: With reference to paragraph (6) on page 5 of his budget speech on the 15th February, 1945, will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to lay a statement on the table of the House showing the proposed new Railway lines to be constructed in the Post-war plans in the Province of the Punjab? Can any more suggestions be

made by the Members of this House of some very important and useful lines to be considered and included in the post-war plans and to whom?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The tentative programme of construction of new railways in the post-war period, referred to in para. 6 of my speech introducing the Railway Budget for 1945-46, its not yet complete as regards the Punjab, the Provincial Government not having yet finalised their proposals.

With regard to the second portion of the question the Railway Board will be only too glad to receive and consider in consultation with the Provincial Government any suggestions which Members may like to make in this connection.

752* [Cancelled.]

DISLOCATION OF TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS OF SIMLA

753. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Is the Secretary for Posts and Air aware of the fact that Simla's telegraphic communication was cut off for about a week towards the beginning of January, 1945?

(b) What measures were taken for the restoration of telegraphic communication with Simla, and how many days did it take to complete this work?

(c) How much labour was employed for the restoration of this dislocation? Could not the communication be restored earlier by recruiting labour at enhanced rates which would naturally be demanded on such occasions?

(d) Were any efforts made to ensure that adequate supplies of men and material reached the sites of damage before dislocation of road and rail communication?

(e) What were the movements of the Divisional Engineer concerned during this period? Is it not a fact that he was mostly in Simla town instead of directing works at the sites?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) No. Simla was not completely cut off for a week. Interruptions occurred from the 5th January to the 14th January due to repeated snowstorms but limited communication was maintained with Simla during the greater part of this period.

(b) I place on the table a report regarding the action taken to restore communications.

(c) On the average about 70 men were employed daily. Enhanced rates were offered and sufficient labour was available but fresh snowfalls hindered the work and caused further interruptions after communication had been restored.

(d) Yes.

(e) The Divisional Engineer left his headquarters at Ambala for Simla at 4-00 hrs. on the 7th and went to Solan on the 9th after organising the repair parties for the sections Simla-Solan. He left Solan for Kalka on the 10th and remained in Kalka up to 16th. He was not mostly in Simla, as stated by the Honourable Member.

Report

The breakdown commenced on the 5th January 1945, at 6-30 hours. The damage to the line was extensive and widespread. The local line staff moved out promptly to restore communication in all sections. The Sub-Divisional Officer, Telegraphs, Ambala, the Engineering Supervisor, Telegraphs, Ambala, and additional line staff proceeded to the site of the major breakdown by the first available train at 4-00 hrs. on the 6th, as the journey by road was not possible. In addition to usual stores they took with them field service cable which was specially loaned by Military authorities at Ambala. Parties of coolies with line staff were dropped at various stations between Kalka and Simla. The Telegraph Testing Master and the Deputy Assistant Engineer, Telephones, Simla, also sent out line staff from Simla and temporary communication was restored between Simla and Lahore at 21-00 hours on the 6th.

After arranging for more stores, tools and staff, the Divisional Engineer left Ambala for Simla at 4-00 hrs. on the 7th. There was some difficulty in getting coolies as most of them were not willing to work during the snow storms but sufficient were obtained by offering enhanced rates. Temporary communication was restored between Simla and Delhi on the 8th. Further storms occurred on the 9th January, which not only hindered restoration work but caused further interruptions and the train service was also suspended. On the

11th the weather cleared and it was only then possible to make good progress. Additional cable was obtained at a few hours' notice from military stores in Delhi on the 10th and despatched by passenger train to Kalka. Limited communication was available by the 13th and by 15-30 hrs. on the 14th January communication on most of the wires had been restored.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know, Sir, if the interruption was only for two days?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir, I said the interruption occurred from 5th to 14th January due to repeated snowfalls.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Is it a fact that no public telegrams were delivered in Simla within those days?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: It is quite possible that they were not delivered.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it a fact that Naini Tal, Ranikhet, Mussorie, Lansdowne, etc., were totally cut off for five days from 5th to 11th January?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I have not got the information, but it is quite possible that that was the case. It was a very severe winter this year.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Are Government satisfied from the explanation given by the Engineer that communications could not have been restored earlier?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Yes, Sir. Government are satisfied.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SECTIONS NOT PROVIDED WITH HIGHER CLASS ACCOMMODATION

754. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the names of sections of Railway line on the North Western Railway where first and second class accommodation is not provided in trains as a regular course?

(b) Are Inter Class passengers, in the absence of second class travelling accommodation, allowed the occupation of Second Class Waiting Rooms on such sections? If not, why not?

(c) To what use are 'Waiting Rooms' put on such Railway stations when no upper class passengers travel? Is it proposed to convert them either as Inter Class Waiting Rooms or combined Inter-Second-First Class Waiting Rooms? If not, why not?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware that on sections referred to in (a) above, no second or first class accommodation is provided even when prior notice is given owing to want of appropriate carriages, or it generally being uneconomical to run a full carriage for one or two passengers? If so, what relief is proposed to be given to such persons in the matter of waiting rooms accommodation who travel lower class under forced circumstances?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) (i) No upper class accommodation, 1st or 2nd, is provided as a regular measure on trains running over the following sections:

Hyderabad-Badin, Pad Idan-Tharushah-Tando Adam, Pad Idan-Mahrabpur, Jacobabad-Kashmore, Sakrand-Nawabshah.

(ii) Second class accommodation only is provided as a regular course on the following sections:

Rawalpindi-Mahdra-Bhaun, Shorkot Road-Malakwal—On certain trains.
Malakwal-Bhera—On all trains.

(b) No, as it is scarcely possible to discriminate between a passenger who travels inter class owing to the absence of 2nd class and others who normally travel inter class.

(c) They remain vacant. In reply to the second part of the question, I understand the North Western Railway have not got any such proposal under consideration at present.

(d) I understand that every endeavour is made to provide first and second class accommodation but this is not always possible under present circumstances. As regards the second portion of the question, I am arranging to have a copy of the question and of this reply forwarded to the General

Manager, North Western Railway, with the request that the issues raised by the Honourable Member be examined in conjunction with the Karachi Local Advisory Committee.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Does the Honourable Member know that there are no intermediate waiting rooms also on these sections? Will the Honourable Member provide such rooms and in the mean time allow the use by the inter class passengers of the upper class waiting rooms?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: This is essentially a matter for the Local Advisory Committee, of which I understand the Honourable Member is a member, and which, I understand, he has been attending in the last few days.

SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE

755. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) Will the Foreign Secretary please state whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the report in the *Hindustan Times* of Wednesday, the 14th February, where, in the statement issued by President Roosevelt, Premier Stalin and Mr. Churchill, it is stated that a Conference of United Nations is to be called to meet at San Francisco on April 25, 1945?

(b) Will the Government of India be represented in the Conference?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, and in view of the importance of the Conference, will the Government delegation include non-official representatives?

(d) Do Government propose to select those representatives in consultation with the Leaders and Parties of this Assembly?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes.

(c) No, for the Conference will be at Ministerial level.

(d) Does not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the status of the Government of India's representative in America is that of a Minister, and therefore will it not be competent for him to attend the Conference on behalf of the Government of India? Will the Government of India depute him to attend it?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I did not use the word "Ministerial" in a diplomatic sense, but in the sense of a member of a Government.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask if the Government of India is aware that Labour Representatives should be associated with the deliberations of the various nations in order that they may be able to make their suggestions regarding the future Security Organisation?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The Honourable Member's reminder may be extremely useful, but I suggest the substance of his question is rather one for my Honourable friend the Labour Member.

Sardar Sant Singh: Who will prepare the brief for the delegation?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The Government of India.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Government of India consider the question of sending Labour representatives to the San Francisco Conference along with their delegation?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The Honourable Member will give notice of that question.

Sardar Sant Singh: In view of the peculiar position of the Government of India, that is, in view of its subordinate position to Whitehall, will it be possible for officials to participate in the San Francisco Conference?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The suggestion is not that an official should be sent to the Conference as a delegate.

Sardar Sant Singh: No non-officials?

Sir Olaf Caroe: As the Conference will be at the Ministerial level it would be for members of Government to attend.

Sardar Mangal Singh: What position will such a delegation enjoy? What will be the position of the member of Government?

Sir Olaf Caroe: He will be a member of the Delegation of the Government of this country.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that the Legislature is greatly interested in the future Security Organisation will the Government of India be pleased to allow a day for the discussion of it?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I cannot deal with that question on an interpellation.

BLOCK ON PROMOTION OF CERTAIN COMMERCIAL CLERKS, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

756. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether grade No. I Commercial Clerks holding fifteen years' service are still left blocked on Rs. 60 only, on the North Western Railway even after the upper grade scheme of grade I line clerks *vide* General Manager, Lahore, letter No. 561-E/39V of the 9th November, 1944?

(b) Is it a fact that Divisional Office clerks step into grade II after two or three years' service? If so, why are not Commercial line clerks who work for more hours and whose duties are harder than these office clerks, similarly given grade II in such time?

(c) What considerations have been given to Commercial clerks blocked on Rs. 60, when the starting salary of newly appointed clerks have, at present, been increased from Rs. 30 to Rs. 40?

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

(b) Government understand that due to special conditions arising in connection with the war, Clerks of Divisional Offices have received in some cases rapid promotion. The basic principle followed in regard to the grading of line staff is to fix pay in relation to the work performed. It must be realised that the number of posts calling for higher pay in the different establishments must vary.

(c) The increased minimum pay for new entrants, was given to attract better qualified staff and applies to all subordinate categories and not merely to Clerks. It has no bearing on the prospects of staff in various categories.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhuri: On this question of commercial clerks who have put in this long service are Government aware that their salary is only Rs. 60 which is wholly insufficient during this war time and may I know from the Honourable Member whether for the last twenty years these clerks have been complaining that they are not getting any promotion at all and their minimum salary has not been increased at all and they have been making representations for the last twenty years and Government has not been paying any attention to it? Are Government prepared

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is making a speech.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: I was not making a speech. I am asking the Honourable Member whether it is a fact that there has been this complaint for the last twenty years or not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I can not quite hear what the Honourable Member's question is. Will he repeat it?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member had better pass on to the next question.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Their complaint is long standing. Is Government prepared to consider their case? I have not got an answer in reply to my question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is making a speech.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: I am not making a speech: I want reply.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I ask a question without arguing the matter?

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

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I suggest that the Honourable Member can put this long question to the Honourable Member in the Lobby?

NON-PROVISION OF FREE QUARTERS TO COMMERCIAL CLERKS

757. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if the Commercial clerks have been deprived of free-rent quarters or rent allowance in lieu thereof?

(b) What steps are supposed to be adopted to remove blockade on Rs. 60 of grade I line Commercial clerks even after their completing fifteen years' service or more?

(c) Have grade I and grade II of Accounts Clerks been amalgamated? If so, why have they not been amalgamated for Commercial Clerks?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No. The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the revised policy governing house rent introduced in 1928, in accordance with which all railway servants are now required to pay rent for railway quarters, subject to the exception that those who, under the old rules were entitled to the privilege of rent-free quarters or an allowance in lieu, are allowed this privilege when they occupy certain posts.

(b) While reasonable prospects of advancement are generally provided it is not possible to remove entirely the block in promotion in the case of those on the maximum of the grade who have long service. Government understand that the Railway Administration has already upgraded 148 posts of Commercial Clerks Grade I to Grade II permanently and have authorised Divisional Superintendents to sanction temporary upgradings where the nature of the work justified such action.

(c) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to an amalgamation which took place in January, 1935, as a result of the separation of Railway Accounts from Audit and which does not apply to Accounts Clerks on the revised scales of pay. The circumstances which necessitated the amalgamation referred to do not exist in the case of Commercial Clerks.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: In view of the assurances given on the floor of this House that these clerks in grade I will be upgraded so much that there will be so many places that this complaint will be removed, is the Honourable Member prepared to say that that complaint has been removed or he is going to create more places because this complaint has been there for twenty years?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I should require notice of that question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: It is in clause (b).

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have answered clause (b).

DISPENSING WITH PRODUCTION OF TICKET AT RESERVATION OF ACCOMMODATION BY MEMBERS OF CENTRAL LEGISLATURE

758. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether Government propose to take steps to see that written requests for reservation of accommodation in Railway Trains, from Honourable Members of the Central Legislature are registered in the reservation book without production of tickets; if not, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to his starred question No. 630 on the 2nd instant.

Government are however examining the possibility of setting aside a special carriage on certain trains from Delhi for two days following the official termination of the Session, in which Honourable Members will have first call on accommodation provided tickets are bought and reservations made one week in advance.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Cannot reservation be made on application and payment of the reservation fee? Honourable Members have to purchase tickets and then only reservation is made: cannot that situation be improved?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: My answer was that that could not be done as the reservation for accommodation without purchase of tickets would only be on a provisional basis, which will not be of advantage to Honourable Members.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if this cannot be done—notice may be given for reservation and the ticket may be purchased thereafter? This is not being done.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have just made a statement which I think will meet the views of Honourable Members who wish to secure accommodation on leaving Delhi at the end of the Session, and what I have said is the most we can do on the subject for the present.

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

INSTRUCTIONS RE RESERVATION OF BERTHS FOR MEMBERS OF CENTRAL LEGISLATURE

759. *Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the instructions issued by the Railway Board to the Railway administrations regarding reservation of berths for the Honourable Members of the Central Legislature and their staff for their journey from any station to any station, if and when undertaken on a short notice say twenty-four hours in advance of the departure of train for immediate transaction of a business in connection with their Legislative duty; if no instruction has been issued, the reasons therefor;

(b) if it is a fact that a ticket is purchased in advance between a month and 7 days before the departure of the train, for the specific purpose of reservation of berth; if not availed of due to the readjustment of the meetings of the Central Legislature, whether it is liable to be returned and the refund of the fare is made subject to 10 per cent. discount on North Western and other Railways; if so, why; if not, what the fact is; and

(c) the reasons for not exempting the Honourable Members of the Central Legislature and their staff from the existing rules for reservation of berths in the same manner as the said rules are not made applicable to Railway Gazetted Officers travelling on pass and to other Government Officials travelling on duty?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave on the 2nd instant to part (c) of Mr. Badri Dutt Pande's starred question No. 628.

(b) The rules provide that, if for any reason, a passenger who has purchased a ticket in advance is unable to travel on the date fixed by him and endorsed on the ticket, he should apply to the Station Master, who will refund the fare without making any deduction provided the ticket is given up before its expiry and also provided that a fresh ticket of the same class and of the same description (i.e., single or return) and to the same destination is purchased at the time. If for any reason, a fresh ticket is not purchased, a refund will be granted on the unused ticket provided it is surrendered on or before the date of the commencement of the journey. Application for a refund in such cases should be made to the General Manager of the Railway.

(c) The question does not arise, as the rules do not make any exception in favour of Railway Officers or Government Officials travelling on duty, who can secure firm reservations only on production of the pass or ticket, as the case may be.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member expedite these refunds because at present it takes more than a month to get such refunds?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Constant efforts are made to expedite that, but I know it takes time on occasions.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: With reference to part (c) of this question, is my Honourable friend aware that a circular was issued about a week ago, which provided that Honourable Members of this House could reserve their berths one month in advance of their travel without purchasing ticket? We got that circular.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. Perhaps I should read out again what I said in answer to question No. 758:

"Government are, however, examining the possibility of setting aside a special carriage on certain trains from Delhi for two days following the official termination of the Session, (i.e., if the Session is put off by a day or two the reservation will still be made, if possible), in which Honourable Members will have first call on accommodation provided tickets are bought and reservations made one week in advance."

Sardar Sant Singh: Is the Honourable Member aware that the difficulty is about these sudden calls that are made on Members to make intermediate journeys? Then reservation is difficult.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is a difficulty which every body suffers from, including officials.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The Honourable Member's reply covers only our departure from Delhi to our places. What arrangements can be made to facilitate our coming from our places to Delhi?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is explained in the circular. Honourable Members will know—they have plenty of notice—when the Assembly is to meet and they have only on receipt of that notice to make arrangements to buy tickets and make reservations in advance and all will be well.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Is it not possible to reduce the period of one month, as required at the present moment to seven days for the purposes of reservation?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have just explained that at the end of the Session we are trying to set aside special carriages on certain trains in which Honourable Members will have first call on accommodation in preference to the public provided tickets are bought and reservations made one week in advance.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the uncertainty of the date of termination of the Session, will Government make suitable arrangements.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: We will do our best to make arrangements.

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

INSISTING ON PRODUCTION OF TICKET AT RESERVATION OF ACCOMMODATION

760. *Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Station Superintendent, Lahore, in a postcard dated the 6th December, 1944, informed that accommodation for journey from Amritsar to Delhi could only be reserved on purchase of tickets and therefore no arrangements could be made unless tickets were purchased in advance at Delhi Shahdara Station, if so, were the tickets for journey from Amritsar to Delhi available for sale at Delhi Shahdara Station in December, 1944.

(b) if it is a fact that the Station Superintendent, Delhi, in a letter No. 16/44, dated the 4th December, 1944, informed that tickets should be produced and reservation fee paid for the journey from Meerut city to Jullundar city, if so, what arrangements are made for the purchase and production of tickets by persons not residing in Delhi and undertaking journey from a station on Khurja-Hapur Section on the East Indian Railway changing at Meerut city;

(c) if it is a fact that a person from the above section for securing reservation ought to travel to Delhi first when he must not according to the propaganda carried on by Railway for restricting overcrowding; and

(d) the reasons for forcing a man to undertake the journey for reservation of berth which could be done by post or telegrams and the steps taken by Government in this respect; if no steps have been taken, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I have called for the information and will lay it on the table in due course.

(c) Not necessarily. It is always open to one to get a friend or agent to purchase a ticket on his behalf and secure a firm reservation.

(d) In view of the reply to part (c), the question does not arise.

VACANCIES IN GRADES SPECIFIED FOR DIRECT RECRUITMENT ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

761. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that on the East Indian Railway vacancies in the grades specified for direct recruitment *vide* General Manager's Circular No. AE3015/1, dated the 24th August, 1944, have not been filled with retrospective effect since the 9th August, 1943, by direct recruitment?

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

(i) the number of vacancies in the said grades during the period from 9th August, 1944, to February, 1945;

(ii) the dates when these vacancies were advertised; and

(iii) the number of persons, community-wise, recruited in these vacancies?

(c) Is it a fact that Muslim interest suffered when these vacancies were filled by direct recruitment?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government have no information and I regret I cannot undertake to collect the details asked for under present conditions. I will however forward the question to the Administration for their consideration.

CASES OF IRREGULAR APPOINTMENTS ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

762. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that, according to the General Manager, East Indian Railway, Circular No. AE840/1942-3, dated the 3rd January, 1944, some cases of irregular appointments during the year 1942-43 were detected?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state the cases referred to in the said Circular, and the details of appointments reserved for Muslims given to non-Muslims?

(c) Is it a fact that the deficiency of Muslims in these appointments was not made good at any stage?

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

(b) Complete details are not available but Government understand that four cases were detected in which appointments were made by certain offices before the receipt of communal allotments from the Headquarters Office and three cases in which appointments were made against allotments which were out of date.

(c) There was no deficiency in the recruitment of Muslims on the East Indian Railway during the year 1942-43. Muslims having obtained more than the quota fixed for them.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: With reference to (b), is it not a fact that out of those four posts, no posts were given to Muslims?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I shall require notice of that.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN ESTABLISHMENT BRANCH STAFF SECTIONS, ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

763. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the staff sections of the Establishment Branches at the Head Office, Divisions and Workshops of the East Indian Railway Muslims are inadequately represented in the following posts:

(i) Office Superintendents, (ii) Chief Clerks, (iii) Head Clerks, (iv) Sub-Heads; and (v) Clerks (lowest and higher grades)?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state, comparatively, the Muslim and non-Muslim strength on the 1st January, 1940, and the 1st January, 1945?

(c) Is it a fact that the D'Souza Committee's recommendation about giving weightage to Muslims in filling vacancies in the Establishment Offices was accepted by the Railway Board and circularised to all Railways for action?

(d) Is it a fact that the East Indian Railway has not acted on the Railway Board's circular referred to in (c) above?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). The information is not readily available.

(c) Yes, as a temporary measure it was decided to reserve for minority communities 50 per cent. of the vacancies among clerical staff of Establishment Branches filled by direct recruitment till such time as their representation in these branches is brought up to the over-all percentages prescribed for those communities on each Railway. Instructions to this effect were issued to railways.

(d) No, the present strength of Muslims in the Establishment Sections on the E. I. Railway exceeds the percentage prescribed for that Railway.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Am I to understand that the percentage given to Muslims exceeds 50?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. The prescribed percentage is 20.5 and the Muslims have got 24.82 per cent.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the larger number of posts given to them be reduced now?

(No reply.)

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN ESTABLISHMENT BRANCH STAFF SECTIONS, ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

764. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that the vacancies in the staff sections in the Establishment office of the Howrah Division, East Indian Railway, during the period from January, 1943, to February, 1945, were not filled by Muslims in the same way as they were filled by non-Muslims?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the vacancies grade-wise and section-wise during the said period; and the number of Muslims and non-Muslims who were absorbed in them?

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

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN ESTABLISHMENT BRANCH STAFF SECTIONS, ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

765. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that Muslims are kept for indefinite period on the plea of training in the Pay Bill Section of the Establishment Office of the Divisional Superintendent, Howrah, East Indian Railway, and their non-Muslim colleagues are kept in staff sections?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Muslims, the length of their service, the period of their service in the Pay-Bill Section, and the number of their non-Muslim compatriots in the Staff Sections as it stood on the 31st December, 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government have no information. A copy of the question is, however, being sent to the General Manager for such action as he considers necessary.

APPOINTMENT OF NON-MUSLIMS AS COMMERCIAL INSPECTORS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

766. *Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that to the detriment of the interest of the Muslim staff in the Chief Commercial Manager's Office of the Bengal and Assam Railway, the posts of Commercial Inspectors were given to non-Muslims drawn from the District and other offices on personal recommendations and without having been approved by the Traffic Selection Committee during the period from January, 1944, to the 29th January, 1945?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he please state the number of Muslim and non-Muslim employees recommended by the District Selection Committees for the post of Commercial Inspectors and the number of non-Muslims who were promoted to the post of Commercial Inspectors before they were voted by the Traffic Selection Committee on the 30th and 31st January, 1945?

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

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply Starred Question Nos. 766 to 768 together.

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

MUSLIM EMPLOYEES AND PROMOTIONS TO HIGHER POSTS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†767. ***Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that the suitable Muslim employees were neither recommended for promotion nor their applications forwarded to the Heads of Departments for higher posts as was done in the case of non-Muslim employees by the District Traffic Superintendents and other District Officers of the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from January, 1944, to February, 1945?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he please state the number of the employees, community-wise, with their educational and departmental qualifications recommended for promotions to different higher categories during January, 1944, to February, 1945, and the number of Muslim employees of requisite qualifications whose cases did not receive consideration for higher posts during the said period? In how many cases did the Muslim Employees appeal?

ALLOWING UNQUALIFIED CANDIDATES TO APPEAR FOR SELECTION FOR POSTS OF TRACERS, ETC., ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†768. ***Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that the standing orders of the Traffic Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway are that no candidate who does not qualify himself in Goods and Coaching Examinations will be allowed to appear before the Selection Boards for selection for the posts of Tracers, Commercial Inspectors and Special Inspectors?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will he please lay a statement on the table of the House showing the number of the candidates, Community-wise, who were made to appear before the Selection Boards for the said posts relaxing the conditions stated in (a) above during the year from 1st January 1944, to the 1st January, 1945?

TRANSFERRING NON-MUSLIMS TO PERSONAL BRANCH OF GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†769. ***Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that to discourage the representation of Muslims in the Personal Branch of the General Manager's office of the Bengal and Assam Railway, the practice of transferring non-Muslims from other District Offices to fill vacancies was still resorted to during the period from January, 1944 to February, 1945?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he please state the number of temporary and permanent posts which occurred during the said period and the names of the staff who filled them, and also the method adopted by the Bengal and Assam Railway for such vacancies?

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

(b) I have called for the information and will lay the reply on the table of the House in due course.

DEFICIENCY OF MUSLIMS IN APPOINTMENTS OF APPRENTICE MECHANICS AT JAMALPORE

†770. ***Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the year 1944 communal quota was not strictly observed in the recruitment of Apprentice Mechanics at Jamalpur, East Indian Railway?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state: (i) the number of total vacancies, (ii) the number of vacancies reserved for Muslims; and (iii) the number of Muslims and non-Muslims recruited?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 766.

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

(c) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state if the recruitment rules do not permit that communal quota should be made up by nomination?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the affirmative, in that a sufficient number of qualified candidates of minority communities was not obtainable.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, but in this case no qualified candidates were available for nomination.

DEFICIENCY OF MUSLIMS IN APPOINTMENTS OF APPRENTICE MECHANICS AT JAMALPORE

†771. ***Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that the deficiency of Muslims in the appointments of Apprentice Mechanics at Jamalpur, East Indian Railway, in the year 1944 was made up by the recruitment of non-Muslims?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the procedure adopted to fill up the vacancies reserved for Muslims?

(c) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state the number of non-Muslims and their positions in order of merit, recruited to make up the deficiency of Muslims?

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

(b) Does not arise.

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

DEFICIENCY OF MUSLIMS IN APPOINTMENTS OF APPRENTICE MECHANICS AT JAMALPUR

†772. ***Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that in order to make up the deficiency of Muslims in the appointments of Apprentice Mechanics at Jamalpur, East Indian Railway, in the year 1944, the recognised Societies, other Railways, Provincial and Central Governments were not approached to get the right type of Muslims?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state the other methods adopted to get Muslims?

(c) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to place before the House the correspondence that ensued with the bodies mentioned in (a) above?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). As a sufficient number of Muslims applied in response to the advertisement, the Railway Administration did not consider it necessary to seek the help of the Bodies, etc., referred to in the question.

(c) Does not arise.

PREPONDERANCE OF NON-MUSLIMS IN SELECTION BOARD FOR RECRUITMENT OF APPRENTICE MECHANICS AT JAMALPUR

†773. ***Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Examiners and Personnel of the Selection Board appointed to examine the papers and select candidates for the posts of Apprentice Mechanics at Jamalpur, East Indian Railway, in the year 1944, were almost all non-Muslims?

(b) Is it a fact that this was against the procedure laid down by the Railway Board for the selection of Examiners and the constitution of the Selection Board?

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

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

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN WORKSHOPS STAFF, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

774. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state, community-wise, the number of staff employed in the following cadres in the Workshops on the East Indian Railway:

- (i) Officers—Senior Scale, Junior Scale; and Lower Gazetted service;
- (ii) Supervisors, Subordinate clerks and staff in grades of—Rs. 700 to 600, Rs. 600 to 500, Rs. 500 to 400, Rs. 400 to 300, Rs. 300 to 200, Rs. 200 to 100, Rs. 100 to 80, Rs. 80 to 60, Rs. 60 to 40, Rs. 40 to 20, and Rs. 20 to 10; and
- (iii) Apprentices—Special Class, Mechanic, and Trades?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I regret I cannot undertake to collect the information under present circumstances.

NON-RECOMMENDATION OF MUSLIM STAFF FOR POSTS OF JUNIOR PERSONNEL INSPECTORS, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

775. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that no Muslim candidates were examined by the Lillooah and Lucknow Workshops, East Indian Railway, at the time of recommending staff for the posts of Junior Personnel Inspectors, the selection of which was held at the Head Office, East Indian Railway, in December, 1944?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of the Muslim staff who were examined?

(c) Is it a fact that non-Muslims were recommended without having been examined by the preliminary Selection Boards?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I will reply to Questions Nos. 775 and 776 together.

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

NON-RECOMMENDATION OF MUSLIM STAFF FOR POSTS OF JUNIOR PERSONNEL INSPECTORS, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

776. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the academic, departmental and special qualifications of the non-Muslim staff recommended by the Lillooah and Lucknow Workshops, East Indian Railway, for the posts of Junior Personnel Inspectors, the Selection of which was held at the Head Office, East Indian Railway, in December, 1944?

(b) Were Muslims of the same qualifications not available?

(c) Is it a fact that these non-Muslims had neither passed any establishment examination nor had any experience about labour control?

NON-RECRUITMENT OF MUSLIMS IN ESTABLISHMENT OFFICERS OF CERTAIN WORKSHOPS, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

777. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that Muslims were not recruited and posted in the Establishment Offices of the Lillooah, Jamalpur and Lucknow Workshops, East Indian Railway, during the period from January, 1943, to February, 1945, according to their quota on the said Railway?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of vacancies, section-wise, in the Establishment Offices, and the number of the staff, community-wise absorbed therein through transfer from other Departments or direct recruitment during the said period?

(c) Is it a fact that assurance of the Railway Board that efforts should be made to increase Muslims in the Establishment Offices was ignored in filling vacancies mentioned in (a) above?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 775.

(b) I regret I cannot undertake to collect the details. From the information readily available with Government, however, I find that the percentage of Muslims in the various Establishment Branches including Lillooah, Jamalpur and Lucknow, Workshop Offices has risen from 14 to 24.8 during the period 1st January, 1943 to 30th September, 1944.

(c) The reply is in the negative.

DIFFICULTY IN SECURING RAILWAY ACCOMMODATION AT DELHI BY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

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

(a) if it is a fact that whenever Honourable Members of this House require accommodation for their travel from Delhi and give a week's notice in advance, they are told that no accommodation is available;

(b) if it is a fact that their request for a provisional reservation too is refused; if so, why; and

(c) if it is a fact that whenever any Railway officer including those serving in Railway Board require any accommodation at short notice, it is available?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Though this at times may be the case, I understand it is not invariably so.

(c) No.

Mr. Mann Subedar: For which class of officers does the booking office reserve the coupes, in favour of the officers and against the public who wish to travel in such coupes?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I should require notice of that.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: May I again call the attention of the Honourable Member to the circular that was issued last week for advance booking for Honourable Members. I do not want that that circular making provision for one month's advance booking should be cancelled. The Honourable Member's replies this morning makes it doubtful whether that circular is in force. Will he make inquiries and see that that circular is not cancelled.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That circular is in force. I will endeavour to send an additional circular making special arrangements for giving preference to Honourable Members.

IMPORTATION OF EXPERT PAINT TECHNOLOGIST

779. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if the Railway authorities had imported an Expert Paint Technologist from abroad? If so, when, and who was the Expert appointed? What were his qualifications?

(b) Was there no such Expert Paint Technologist available in India?

(c) Is it a fact that the expert had to suggest methods by which improvement in the class of paint and painting materials used by the Indian Railways could be effected?

(d) Was a Sub-Committee appointed to go through the report of the expert?

(e) To what extent has the report of the expert been acted upon?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, in 1937-38. Mr. F. Fancutt, F.I.C., Chief Paint Technologist of the London Midland and Scottish Railway.

(b) No.

(c) and (d). Yes.

(e) In a very large measure.

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

†780. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is not a fact that various Railways in India have different colour schemes, green, yellow, white, brown, red, etc.? If so has any survey been made to find out the reasons for such differences?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the colour schemes adopted by the various railways are of very long standing and the possible advantages of uniformity in the colouring of rolling stock throughout India have not been considered to outweigh the advantages of permitting various railway administrations, each with its high traditions of service, to retain such outward and visible signs of individuality.

PREFERENCES OF WORK MANAGERS FOR DIFFERENT BRANDS OF PAINTS

†781. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that different Works Managers prefer to patronise different proprietary brands of paints? If so, does the Honourable Member propose to examine the position of such preferences from the experts' point of view and also from the point of view of economy and quality?

(b) Is it a fact that the Jenson and Nicholson—Shalimar or Goodlen Works—are the preferred paint suppliers to the Railways? How many Indian manufacturers of paints and varnishes have been given orders by Railways, and when?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Orders are placed by the Supply Department against current railway requirements of paints, enamels and varnishes. The supplies are made to specifications drawn up by the Government Test House at Alipore, on the basis of test reports prepared by the Test House on manufacturers' samples and not on the individual preferences of Works Managers.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIAN PAINT EXPERT

†782. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if he proposes to appoint an Indian Paint Expert for co-ordinating the supply of paint to all the State Railways on economic lines?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No. The present arrangements appear to be working satisfactorily but the question will be considered if the need arises.

LIABILITIES OF BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY

†783. *Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the position in regard to the liabilities of the late Bengal and North Western Railway Company to the general public in respect of claims for the value of goods lost, overcharges and irregular recoveries by that Railway Company? Will he please state whether any amount, and, if so, what amount out of the sale-price of the Bengal and North Western Railway Company, has been retained by the Government of India to meet such liabilities?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that Govind Bhawan Karyalaya (Gita Press, Gorakhpur) has obtained a decree for Rs. 10,743-4-0, against the said Bengal and North Western Railway Company in suit No. 52 of 1943 in the court of the Civil Judge, Gorakhpur, but the General Manager of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway and the liquidator's local representative of the Bengal and North Western Railway Company have both refused to pay the decretal amount on the ground of want of funds available?

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

(c) What does he propose to do to safeguard the interests of similar decrees-holders against the Bengal and North Western Railway Company?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The claims of the public against the late B. & N. W. Railway Co. fall under two categories, viz., (1) claims for losses arising in the ordinary course of the working of the railway, and (2) claims for losses during the August 1942 disturbances. As regards the claims falling under (1), Government did not, on purchase of the B. & N. W. Railway take over the outstanding liabilities of the Company so far as the main line is concerned but the liabilities of the Company in respect of the State-owned portion, called the Tirhut Railway, previously worked by the Company, were taken over by the Government subject to the two conditions, namely, (i) that the liability must have been incurred by the Company with the sanction of the Secretary of State, and (ii) that it was subsisting at the date of determination of the contract. As regards the claims of the public for losses under category (2) above, Government have, by settlement with the Company taken over the liabilities both for the Co.'s main line and for the Tirhut Railway.

(b) The case referred to falls under category (2) mentioned in (a). There has been no refusal of payment by the O. & T. Railway but the General Manager sent an interim reply to the Civil Judge, Gorakhpur pending orders of Government. He is being authorised to make the payment after satisfying himself that no appeal need, be preferred against the judgment of the Civil judge.

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

MAINTENANCE OF MUSLIM QUOTA IN THE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL, MUNITIONS PRODUCTION, CALCUTTA

784. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have been pleased to establish a policy of maintaining a quota of 25 per cent. for Muslims in all ranks of services under them; and

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, whether this policy has been maintained in the Directorate-General, Munitions Production, Calcutta; and if so, to what extent?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) The question should be addressed to the Honourable the Home Member as it relates to the recruitment policy of all the Departments of the Government of India.

(b) Every effort has been made to give due representation to each community in all ranks of the Supply Department. The representation of Muslims in the non-gazetted staff of the D.G.M.P. is 25 per cent. while in the gazetted staff it is only 3.2 per cent. Since the majority of the posts in the latter category are of a specialised and technical character, it has not been possible to adhere strictly to any communal ratios. I would, however, re-iterate the statement I made on the 6th November 1944, in reply to part (c) of Starred Question No. 107, namely, that the importance of observing the orders on the subject of communal representation is well understood by the heads of offices under my Department.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: What is the method of selection in the Department of Supply?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: There is a Special officer, called the Officer on Special Duty, Recruitment, who receives the applications from the various candidates. There are special committees composed of officers of certain levels in Calcutta and Delhi who scrutinise the applications and make recommendations to Government. On these recommendations, the Government makes the appointment.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Saith: Are these committees and this special officer specially instructed with regard to the necessity of maintaining the communal proportions?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Most certainly.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Why are not the Public Services Commission consulted with regard to these appointments? Is it because these are temporary men?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: They are temporary and the appointments have to be made at such short notice that the procedure of the Federal Public Services Commission would be quite unsuitable for getting the candidates, so far as the Supply Department is concerned.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Even in the Supply Department there may be some categories of posts which can be recruited through the Public Service Commission. Why are not the Public Service Commission consulted in respect of those categories.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I don't know the categories which the Honourable Member has in mind.

MUSLIMS IN CERTAIN POSTS IN THE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL, MUNITIONS PRODUCTION, CALCUTTA

785. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state the total number of the following posts in the Directorate-General, Munitions Production, Calcutta, and the number of posts held by Muslims, if any, showing against each, their proportionate strength:

- (i) (a) Deputy Director General, (b) Directors, (c) Deputy Directors, (d) Industrial Planning Officers, (e) Assistant Industrial Planning Officers, (f) Progress Officers, (g) Senior Progress Assistants; and (h) Technical Assistants; and
(ii) (a) Assistant Secretaries posted in Calcutta, (b) Gazetted Superintendents in the Branch Section, (c) Non-Gazetted Superintendents in all the Directorates, (d) Assistants-in-Charge in all the Directorates, (e) Senior Clerks and Assistants, (f) Clerks of other grades, (g) Estimators; and (h) Progress Representatives?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I place on the table a statement giving the requisite information.

Statement

Name of post	Total number of posts	Number of posts held by Muslims	Proportionate strength of Muslims
(i) (a) Dy. Directors General	7	Nil	Nil
(b) Directors	21	Nil	Nil
(c) Dy. Directors	32	Nil	Nil
(d) Industrial Planning Officers	22	Nil	Nil
(e) Asstt. Industrial Planning Officers	47	4	8.5 per cent
(f) Progress Officers	5	Nil	Nil
(g) Senior and Junior Progress Assistants	23	1	4.3 per cent
(h) Technical Assistants	69	3	4.3 per cent
(ii) (a) Asstt. Secretaries posted in Calcutta	3	Nil	Nil
(b) Gazetted Supdts. in the Branch Secretariat	7	3	about 43 per cent
(c) Non-gazetted Supdts. in all the Directorates.	26	6	23 per cent
(d) Assistants-in-charge	110	31	28 per cent
(e) Senior Clerks and Assistants	372	197	53 per cent
(f) Clerks of other grades	1993	460	23 per cent
(g) Estimators	22	Nil	Nil
(h) Progress Representatives	22	6	27 per cent

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask, in this connection, to place the information relating to the Supply Department as a whole, not simply relating to a particular office and the proportion which the various communities enjoy in the Department as a whole?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I have given that information more than once at the instance of my Honourable friend himself who has put numerous questions on this subject.

Sardar Sant Singh: In that case, may I know whether the Honourable Member is in a position to say that Muslim representation in the Supply Department as a whole is more than adequate?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I know that in some sections of the Supply Department, Muslims are very well represented, while in other sections they are under represented for reasons which are obvious and which I have stated in answer to the previous question.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS LACKING TECHNICAL QUALIFICATION IN THE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL, MUNITIONS PRODUCTION, CALCUTTA

786. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the posts of the Technical Assistants in the Directorate-General, Munitions Production, Calcutta, are generally filled up from persons having no "Technical qualifications"?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Posts of Technical Assistants in the Directorate General, Munitions Production, are as a rule filled by recruitment of persons possessing technical qualifications. These qualifications need not necessarily be of an academic nature but should cover such requirements as practical experience and general aptitude for the type of work which, in a Directorate, a candidate is required to undertake.

(B) WRITTEN ANSWERS,

MUSLIMS IN CERTAIN POSTS IN METALS DIRECTORATE OF THE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL, MUNITIONS PRODUCTION, CALCUTTA

787. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the following posts in the Metals Directorate, of the Directorate-General, Munitions Production, Calcutta, showing against each the number of posts held by Muslims, if any:

(i) Directors, (ii) Deputy Directors, (iii) Industrial Planning Officers, (iv) Assistant Industrial Planning Officers, (v) Superintendents, (vi) Assistants-in-Charge, (vii) Technical Assistants, (viii) Estimators, (ix) Clerks of all grades, and (x) Stenographers, Steno-typists and typists;

(b) whether it is a fact that none of the present Technical Assistants in the Metals Directorate possesses any technical qualifications; if not, what are their technical qualifications; and, if so, why;

(c) whether it is a fact that none of the present Assistants-in-Charge in the Metals Directorate has got any previous experience of Secretariat; if not, what is their experience; and, if so, why; and

(d) the number of girls in the Metals Directorate, out of the total strength?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) I place on the table a statement giving the requisite information.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

(c) No. One of the Assistants-in-charge is a permanent Assistant of the Department of Bihar Legislature with nine years' experience. All the other

Assistants-in-charge have sufficient knowledge of the work of the Metals Directorate.

(d) Ten out of a total strength of 119.

Designations	Total Number of posts.	Number of posts held by Muslims.
(i) Directors	1	Nil
(ii) Dy. Directors.	3	Nil
(iii) Industrial Planning Officers.	4	Nil
(iv) Asstt. Industrial Planning Officers	6	Nil
(v) Superintendents	1	Nil
(vi) Assistants-in-Charge	5	1
(vii) Technical Assistants	7	1
(viii) Estimators	6	Nil
(ix) Clerks of all grades.	81	23
(x) Stenographers	7	Nil
Steno-typists.	2	Nil
Typists.	10	Nil

QUALIFICATIONS, ETC. OF CERTAIN PERSONNEL IN THE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL, MUNITIONS PRODUCTION, CALCUTTA

738. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani? Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to furnish in a tabular statement: qualifications; date of appointment in Directorate-General, Munitions Production; designation and pay drawn in parent office, if any; length of service in parent office, if any; designation and pay on which appointed in Directorate-General, Munitions Production; and pay and allowances drawn now; of the following employees of the Directorate-General, Munitions Production, Calcutta:

(1) Mr. G. R. Iyenger, Deputy Director, Metals; (2) Mr. S. A. Raghavachary, Superintendent, Munitions Production Secretariat; (3) Mr. K. P. Sarkar, Superintendent, Munitions Production Secretariat; (4) Mr. R. Ramaratnam, Assistant Director, Stores Accounts; (5) Mr. C. A. Rajagopal, Assistant Director, Stores Accounts; (6) Mr. Keshdeva, Assistant Industrial Planning Officer, Provision Directorate; (7) Miss Stela Biswas, Assistant Industrial Planning Officer, Provision Directorate; (8) Mr. P. C. Gupta, Technical Assistant, Metals Directorate; (9) Mr. S. Somesundaram, Assistant Director, Machine Tool Control; (10) Mr. V. Natesan, Superintendent, Machine Tool Control; (11) Mr. Sharfuddin Ahmad, Assistant-in-Charge, Metals Directorate; (12) Mr. Abdul Mannan Khan, Assistant-in-Charge, Machine Tool Control; (13) Mr. M. W. Gauhar, Senior Progress Assistant, Progress Directorate; (14) Mr. H. Iyer, Transport Officer, Transportation and Priorities Directorate, and (15) Mr. S. V. Iyer, Superintendent, Press and Welding Directorate?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I place on the table a statement giving the requisite information.

Serial No.	Name and Designation	Qualifications	Date of appointment in DGMP	Designation and pay drawn in parent office if any, at the time of transfer	Length of service in parent office, if any	Designation and pay on which appointed in D. G. M. P.	Pay and allowances drawn now
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Mr. G. R. Iyenger, Dy. Director (Metals).	B. Sc., (Mysore) B. Sc., Technical (Manchester), AMCT (Manchester), AIIA (London).	24-3-41	Laboratory Asstt., G.I.P. Railway, Rs. 200 p. m.	15 years 10 months.	Technical Officer (Metals), Rs. 350 p. m.	Rs. 850 p. m. (consolidated).
2	Mr. S. A. Raghavachary, Superintendent, M. P. Secretariat.	B.A.	9-2-42	Officiating Upper clerk, Finance Sectt., Madras, Rs. 69 p. m.	11 years 8 months.	Senior Clerk, Rs. 150 p. m.	Rs. 640 p. m. plus Calcutta compensatory allowance Rs. 75 plus House rent allowance Rs. 40/4/0 and war allowance Rs. 64.
3	Mr. K. P. Sarkar, Supdt. M. P. Sectt.	B.Sc.	6-8-41	Clerk in the Deptt. of Central Excises and Salt, North Western Indian, Delhi, Rs. 88 p. m.	7 years 2 months.	Asstt., M. P. Sectt., Rs. 140 p. m.	Rs. 540 p. m. plus Calcutta compensatory allowance Rs. 75 p. m. plus war allowance Rs. 30.
4	Mr. R. Ramaratnam, Asstt. Director, Stores Accounts.	B.A.	20-11-40	Officiating Accountant Grade II, E. I. Railway, Rs. 165 p. m.	11 years 4 months.	Head of sec. C. P. 4A, Rs. 165 p. m. plus charge al- lowance Rs. 30 p. m.	Rs. 535 p. m. plus special pay Rs. 100 plus Calcutta compensatory allowance Rs. 75 plus war allowance Rs. 63/8/0.
5	Mr. C. A. Rajagopal, Asstt. Director, Stores Accounts.	B.A.	29-11-41	Divisional Accountant, Jubbulpore, G. I. P. Railway, Rs. 240 p. m.	11 years 8 months.	Technical Asstt. (Metals Dte.), Rs. 300 p. m.	Rs. 535 p. m. plus Calcutta compensatory allowance Rs. 75 plus war allowance Rs. 53/8/0.
6	Mr. Kesho Dev, Asstt. Industrial Planning Officer, Provision Direc- torate.	M.A.	27-1-42	Nil.	Nil.	Junior clerk, Rs. 80 p. m.	Rs. 350 p. m. plus war allowance Rs. 50.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	Miss Stela Biswas, Asstt. Industrial Planning Officer, Provision Directorate.	M.A.	8-3-43	Nil.	Nil.	Senior Clerk. Rs. 150 p. m.	Rs. 350 p. m. plus war allowance Rs. 30.
8	Mr. P. C. Gupta, Technical Asstt. Metals Dto.	B.Sc.	28-1-41	Clerk, Central Store, Calcutta. Rs. 55 p. m.	6 yrs.	Routine clerk Rs. 60 p. m.	Rs. 202-8 p. m. plus war allowance Rs. 25.
9	Mr. S. Somasundaram, Asstt. Director, Machine Tool Control.	M.A.	11-11-42	Senior Inspector, Office of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Madras. Rs. 80 p. m.	12 yrs. 10 months.	Assistant. Rs. 200 p. m.	Rs. 475 p. m. plus Calcutta compensatory allowance Rs. 50 plus House rent allowance Rs. 32-8 plus war allowance Rs. 50.
10	Mr. V. Natesan, Supdt., Electrical Dto.	B.A.	6-7-42	Senior Inspector, Co-operative Deptt., Madras. Rs. 90 p. m. plus Rs. 20.	13 yrs.	P. A. to J. S. (MP) Rs. 175 p. m. plus spl. pay Rs. 30.	Rs. 350 p. m. plus Calcutta compensatory allowance and House rent allowance each @ 10% of pay.
11	Mr. Sharfuddin Ahmed, Asstt. in-Charge, Metals Directorate.	M.A.	21-3-41	Asstt. Bihar Legislative Assembly. Rs. 85 p. m.	9 yrs.	Senior clerk Rs. 150 p. m.	Rs. 165 p. m. plus charge allowance Rs. 30 plus Dearness allowance Rs. 18 plus Calcutta compensatory and House rent allowances each @ 10% of pay.
12	Mr. Abdul Mannan Khan, B.A., LL-B. Asstt. in-Charge, Machine Tool Control.		1-8-40	L. D., I. A. C. C. Rs. 60 p. m.	4 mths.	L. D., I. A. C. C. Rs. 60 p. m.	Rs. 122-8 p. m. plus spl. pay Rs. 50 plus Hq. allowance Rs. 20 plus Calcutta compensatory and House rent allowances each @ 10% of pay. (Conditions of service governed by MGO Branch)
13	Mr. M. V. Gauthar, Asstt. Industrial Planning Officer, (Indents).	Matriculate	4-4-41	Clerk, Fincl. Adv. and Chief Accounts Office, E. I. Rly. Rs. 120 p. m.	16 yrs. 4 mths.	Senior clerk Rs. 150 p. m.	Rs. 350 p. m. plus Calcutta compensatory allowance Rs. 50 plus war allowance Rs. 50.
14	Mr. K. R. H. Iyer, Trans. Officer, Transportation and Priorities Dto.	Matric	20-11-40	Steno. E. I. Rly. Rs. 100 p. m.	5 yrs. 9 mths.	Senior clerk Rs. 150 p. m.	Rs. 350 p. m. plus Calcutta compensatory allowance Rs. 50 House rent allowance Rs. 10-4 war allowance Rs. 50.
15	Mr. S. V. Iyer, Supdt. Press and Welding Dto.	Matriculate Passed PWD Accounts Test.	23-3-41	Nil.	Nil.	Senior clerk Rs. 150 p. m.	Rs. 250 p. m. plus war allowance Rs. 25.

RAILWAY ENGINES IMPORTED

789. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state how many Railway engines have been imported since July, 1944?

(b) Can these engines haul passenger trains with safety?

(c) Has the experiment been tried or certificates of the Chief Mechanical Engineers obtained?

(d) What is the normal life of these engines, and what is the normal life of the engines purchased before the war?

(e) Is it not a fact that the normal life of the old engines is seventy years and the normal life of the engines now imported is only about fifteen years?

(f) Have these engines been imported on lend-lease system? If so, on what conditions?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Total number of imported locomotives put into service from the 1st July 1944 to the 15th February 1945:

Broad Gauge engines 182;

Metre Gauge engines 116.

(b) Yes.

(c) Neither experiments nor a certificate from the C.M.E. are necessary for this purpose. The engines are of standard designs and are tested before being brought into use.

(d) Certain types imported from America are considered to have a life of 20 years. Others from Canada and United Kingdom 35 years, which is considered to be the normal life for engines imported prior to the War.

(e) No.

(f) All engines from the United States of America have been acquired on the Lease-Lend system. The conditions which apply to other items on Lease-Lend apply in this case also.

IGNORING CLAIMS OF MUSLIM SUBORDINATES FOR PROMOTION IN CERTAIN WORKSHOPS OF EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

790. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that the cases of deserving Muslim Subordinates were not considered for promotion to Officers' ranks in Jamalpur, Lillooah and Lucknow Workshops of the East Indian Railway during the period from January, 1944, to January, 1945?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the academic, special and departmental qualifications and the substantive posts held by the promoted non-Muslims, and the number of the Muslim Subordinates in the same category?

(c) Is it a fact that Muslims whose qualifications were on par with the qualifications of non-Muslims were left out of consideration for the posts of officers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (c). I have called for the information and will lay it on the table of the House in due course.

(b) I regret I cannot undertake to collect the details required, under present conditions.

QUALIFICATIONS, ETC., OF CERTAIN NON-MUSLIM (WORKS) STAFF AT LILLOOAH AND LUCKNOW

791. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the academic and special qualifications and the places of the completion of the apprenticeship of the non-Muslim occupants of the following posts in the Carriage and Wagon-Works at Lillooah and Lucknow of

the East Indian Railway who were promoted to the posts of officers noted against them during the years 1944-45:

Substantive Posts	Posts promoted to
(i) Office Superintendent, Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, Lillooah Workshop's Office.	Grain Shop Officer.
(ii) Chargeman, Heat Treatment Section.	Grain Shop Officer.
(iii) Foreman, Carriage Building Shop.	Assistant Manager, Finishing.
(iv) Chief Draughtsman	Assistant Works Manager, Manufacturing.
(v) Foreman, Machine Shop	Works Manager Manufacturing.
(vi) Foreman, Saw Mills	Personal Assistant to Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer.
(vii) Foreman, Carriage Repair Shop.	Production Engineer.
(viii) Foreman, Paint Shop	A. R. P. Officer.
(ix) Foreman, Production Section	Production Engineer.

(b) Is it a fact that Muslims of similar qualifications were not given the posts of Officers? If not, how many Muslims were there and why were they left out?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I regret I cannot undertake to collect the information under present conditions.

ANTI-MUSLIM ATTITUDE OF EMPLOYMENT OFFICERS (WORKSHOPS), EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

792. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Employment Officers at the Workshops of the East Indian Railway have functioned adversely to the interest of Muslim employees in all matters during the period January, 1944 to January, 1945?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the names of Muslim employees whose representations were investigated into and grievances redressed by them during the period from January, 1944, to January, 1945?

(c) Is it a fact that Muslims have never been considered for the posts of Employment Officers? If so, why was no Muslim considered for this job at all?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government have no reason to believe that this is so.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) The reply is in the negative; two of the existing four Employment Officers on the E. I. Railway are Muslims.

MUSLIM CHARGEMEN IN LILLOOAH WORKSHOP

793. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of Muslim and non-Muslim temporary and permanent Chargemen, separately, in the Lillooah Workshop of the East Indian Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that the appointment and confirmation of Muslim Chargemen have been withheld, in spite of the Muslim deficiency in the said cadres?

(c) If the reply to (b) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of vacancies in the said cadre during 1st January, 1943, to the 31st December, 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

QUALIFICATIONS OF CERTAIN NON-MUSLIM CHIEF CLERKS OF CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER'S OFFICE, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

794. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the academic and technical qualifications of the non-Muslims drawn from Welding Group to work as Chief Clerks of the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office of the East Indian Railway during the year 1944?

(b) Is it a fact that these non-Muslims of the Welding Group were replaced by workmen?

(c) What has been the method followed in the past and has Muslim representation been substantial in the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office of the East Indian Railway during 1944?

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

REVERSION OF SENIOR MUSLIM HEAD TRAIN EXAMINERS AT BADARPUR

795. *Dr. Habibur Rahman: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that during the year 1944-45 the Senior Muslim Head Train Examiners at Badarpur, Bengal and Assam Railway, were reverted to the posts of Senior Train Examiners and were replaced by Junior non-Muslim Train Examiners without holding Selection Boards according to the set procedures and Rules?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply Starred Questions Nos. 795 and 796 together.

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

SUPERSESSION OF MUSLIMS AT PROMOTION TO POSTS OF JUNIOR TRAIN EXAMINER IN BADARPUR DISTRICT

796. *Dr. Habibur Rahman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the Badarpur District, Bengal and Assam Railway, in the year 1944-45 at the time of promoting Train Examiners to the posts of junior Train Examiners, senior Muslims were superseded by junior non-Muslims?

(b) Is it a fact that Departmental Examination tests are only prescribed for Muslims for such promotions?

(c) If the reply to (b) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state if the non-Muslims promoted as stated in (a) were examined at all, and what methods were adopted for testing the merits?

TRAINING OF NON-MUSLIM FITTER COOLIES AS TRAIN EXAMINERS IN BADARPUR DISTRICT

797. *Dr. Habibur Rahman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the Badarpur District, Bengal and Assam Railway, in the year 1944-45 non-Muslim Fitter Coolies under the District Mechanical Engineer were sent to Katihar, Bengal and Assam Railway, for training as Train Examiners, ignoring the claims of senior Muslims?

(b) Was any test prescribed for such selection for training?

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

RESTRICTION ON BOOKING OF LICHI AND MANGO FRUITS FROM MUZAFFARPUR RAILWAY STATION

798. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that he has received a representation from the merchants of Muzaffarpur, Oudh and Tirhut Railway, regarding the booking of lichi and mango fruits from that station; and

(b) whether Government propose to ask the Oudh and Tirhut Railway to remove the restriction? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have no information as to the reasons for the restriction alleged to have been imposed. I am however calling for a report from the General Manager of the O. & T. Railway and will lay a further reply on the table in due course.

*For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 796.

INSTRUCTIONS re RESERVATION OF ACCOMMODATION FOR MEMBERS OF CENTRAL LEGISLATURE

799. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the Circular letter No. 3058-T. T., dated the 15th February, 1945, issued by the Government of India in the Railway Department, regarding reserved accommodation for rail journeys to and from Sessions of the Central Legislature, and state whether he proposes to instruct the Railways to reserve accommodation for the Honourable Members and their staff provisionally even on short notice?

If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, for the reason stated in my reply to part (c) of the Honourable Member's starred Question No. 628 on the 2nd instant. I would however refer the Honourable Member to my reply to his question No. 758 to which I have already replied this morning.

STOPPING OF MAIL AND EXPRESS TRAINS AT WAYSIDE RAILWAY STATIONS

800. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that mails and express trains are stopped at wayside stations where they are not scheduled to stop to enable certain persons to entrain or detrain;

(b) if so, whether the Railways maintain a list of persons for whom such facilities are given; and

(c) if trains are also so stopped to effect arrests of persons travelling in them, and, if so, under what law such trains are stopped?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Not normally.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) This is sometimes necessary. The stopping of trains at any particular stations is not governed by statute.

BAN ON TRAVEL FOR PILGRIMAGE

801. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that Railways used to advertise extensively encouraging various sections of the population to make pilgrimages to various places promising beatitude in heaven as a result of such travel;

(b) if it is a fact that now all such travel for pilgrimage is disallowed;

(c) if District Magistrates are being authorized to grant or not, as they choose, permits to persons wanting to travel from any one particular place to any other during the stated periods of time; and

(d) if Government are satisfied that this system is working well?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Railways used to advertise any special arrangements made by them in connection with *Melas*.

(b) No. But in order to conserve railway resources and to restrict overcrowding Provincial Governments at the request of railways have issued prohibitory orders under the powers conferred on them under Section (i) of Rule 85-B of the Defence of India Rules restricting travel by rail of pilgrims to certain important *Melas* and Fairs.

(c) In the case of certain *Melas*, Provincial Governments do authorize District Magistrates to grant permits to *bona fide* passengers other than pilgrims enabling them to travel as authorised irrespective of the prohibition of rail travel to the *melas* concerned.

(d) Government believe that the system is working fairly satisfactorily and that the objective has been partially achieved.

RULE FOR BREAK OF JOURNEY ON RAILWAYS

802. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please

(a) if it is a fact that break of journey on Railways is now permitted only at the rate of one day for 250 miles and only after the requisite 250 miles have been travelled;

(b) if the rule means that a person after he has travelled the first 250 miles can break his journey for as many days as the distance for which he holds the ticket permits; or whether he can only break his journey for one day after travelling every 250 miles; and

(c) if he proposes to issue a communique on the subject in view of the fact that the new rules are being interpreted differently by different authorities?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. The second part does not, therefore, arise.

(c) I have no information leading me to suppose that different interpretations are being placed on the rules. If the Honourable Member has any such information, I would be obliged if he would bring to my notice the nature of the discrepancy.

DISPENSING WITH PRODUCTION OF TICKET AT RESERVATION OF ACCOMMODATION BY MEMBERS OF CENTRAL LEGISLATURE

803. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to circular No. 3058-TT, dated the 15th February, 1945, of the Railway Board to members of the Central Legislature;

(b) if in paragraph 5 of the said circular, members have been authorised to reserve accommodation on particular trains a month before-hand;

(c) if the staffs of the said Railways are interpreting the paragraph to mean that members must purchase tickets a month before-hand if they want reserved accommodation, and if persons are being refused reservation facilities even when room is available, unless tickets are purchased and accommodation applied for a month before-hand; and

(d) if he proposes to circularise Railways the exact intention of his Department to prevent misapprehension?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) Paragraph 5 of the Circular advises Honourable Members to buy their tickets any time upto a month before the commencement of the journey, and in advance of the 'advance period' allowed to the public, so as to secure firm reservations.

(c) The intention is that tickets must be purchased to obtain firm reservations. I have no reason to believe that reservations are refused if, when tickets are produced, accommodation is available. Accommodation will always be available if Honourable Members will buy their tickets in advance of the general public, as they have been authorised to do.

(d) In the circumstances stated, the issue of further instructions to Railways is not called for.

I would however draw the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to question No. 758 asked by Mr. Badri Dutt Pande this morning.

PUBLISHED LETTER OF A CERTAIN ANGLO-INDIAN GIRL

804. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

(a) if he has seen the letter of an Anglo-Indian girl published in the Calcutta and Allahabad papers showing how an American soldier and she had fallen in love with each other; how she was carrying his baby; how he was prevented by his superior officers from marrying her; how he was sent away to America; and how she had decided to kill herself before the baby was born;

(b) if he has any information as to what the girl did with herself;

(c) if it is a fact that American authorities do not permit marriages of American soldiers in India; and, if so, under what law;

(d) if American soldiers are permitted to marry English girls in England; and

(e) if Government propose to represent to the American Government that, in view of the prevailing circumstances, they should permit marriages of Americans in India?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) Yes.

(b) No. Government do not think it fitting to attempt to identify unauthenticated writers of articles which bear evidence of being the product of irresponsible journalism expressly designed to create ill-will against the soldiers of our Ally.

(c) Yes—save by special permission under American Army Regulations.

(d) No, except by special permission.

(e) No.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

†60—79.

STAFF OF MECHANICAL AND DRAWING OFFICES OF NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY HEADQUARTERS

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

(a) the total strength of the staff of the (i) Mechanical, and (ii) Drawing offices of the North Western Railway Headquarters with communal composition thereof in each grade;

(b) whether it is a fact that the communal ratio of Muslims in these Branches is in the neighbourhood of 85 and 95, respectively;

(c) if the reply to (b) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to reduce the preponderance of one community in these Branches; if not, why not; and

(d) if the reply to (b) above is in the negative, what the actual ratio is; if over 60 per cent., whether Government propose to afford adequate representation to other communities in these Branches; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I lay on the table of the House a statement giving the required information.

(b) The reply is in the negative.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The actual ratio in the Mechanical and Drawing Offices is 37 and 71 respectively. As regards the latter part of the question, the 60 per cent. referred to by the Honourable Member is the quota reservation for Muslim candidates in recruitment to subordinate service on the N. W. Railway as a whole; it does not apply to specific branches or departments.

Statement showing sanctioned strength and Communal Composition by grades in Mechanical Branch of Headquarters Office

Branch	Grade	Sanctioned Strength	Posts at present held by communities					Remarks
			Muslim	Hindu	Sikh	Christian	Anglo-Indian	
Works Mechanical (including Electrical).	VI	1	...	1	...	...	...	
	V	3	1	2	...	...	...	
	IV	3	...	2	1	...	...	
	III	8	...	7	...	1	...	
	II	9	6	3	...	...	...	
	I	11	6	4	1	...	...	
Total		35	13	19	2	1	...	
Percentage		...	37.14	54.29	5.71	2.86	...	

†For these questions and answers, see pages 1122-27 of these debates.

Statement showing sanctioned strength and Communal Composition by grades in all Drawing Offices of Headquarters Office

Grade	Total Number of posts	Muslim	Hindu	Sikh	Parsi	Indian Christian	Remarks
VII	1	1	...	...	...	...	
350—25—500 (Supdt., DOE).	1	...	1*	...	...	...	*The permanent incumbent is a Hindu who is offg. as AEN. A Parsi is employed vice him in offg. capacity.
300—20—400 (Head Estimator).	1	1	...	...	...	...	
230—15—335 (Arch. Draftsman).	1	...	...	...	1	...	
170—10—300—15—375 (Computer and Track Recorder).	2	...	2	...	...	...	
VI 285—330	6†	3	1	1	...	...	†One post not filled.
V 215—275	6	5	1	...	...	...	
IV 160—200	23	16†	5	2	...	...	†Includes one Muslim who is working against an Anglo Indian transferred to Milly. Department.
III 100—140	43‡	31	4	5	...	...	‡Three posts not filled.
II 68—95	53||	37	10	5	...	...	||One post not filled.
I 39—60	39§	31	9	3	...	1	§Five tracers are utilized against the 5 posts in grade VI, III, and II which are not filled.
Total Percentage	176	125	33	16	1	1	71.02 18.75 9.09 .57 .57

SIGNIFICANCE OF REMOVAL OF EMPLOYEE'S NAME FROM RECOMMENDATION ROLLS (NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY)

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

(a) whether removal of an employee's name from the Recommendation Rolls for higher grade on the North Western Railway is considered withholding of promotion; if not, why not, if so, whether the employee concerned is offered an opportunity before such removal; if not, why not;

(b) whether any difference is recognized between the removal of the employee's name (i) at the time of periodical review of the Recommendation Rolls, and (ii) on the occurrence of a vacancy to which the person concerned is entitled to, what the exact nature of difference is, and whether it is covered by rules; if so, whether the Honourable Member will please refer to them;

(c) whether it is a fact that orders for promotion of grade I Ticket Collectors are issued by the General Manager, on a common seniority for whole Railway; whether it is also a fact that subsequent to April, 1943, the Divisional Superintendent, Karachi, has refused to carry out the orders of the General Manager for promotion of certain Ticket Collectors to grade II; if so, why; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to revise rules in the State Railway Establishment Code to clarify the points referred to above if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The question whether the passing over of an employee for promotion made on the basis of seniority is a penalty for the purpose of the rules is already under examination, but in the meantime the Railway Administration has been instructed to allow an employee so passed over the right of appeal.

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

(c) Government are informed that instructions as to the order in which the promotion of Ticket Collectors in Grade I is to be made on an all-railway basis are issued by the Headquarters Office, where the seniority list of the staff is maintained, but the actual orders of promotion are passed by the authorities competent to make substantive appointments. The reply to the second part is in the negative. The last part does not arise.

(d) The question will be examined further in conjunction with the examination referred to in the reply to part (a).

PROSECUTIONS UNDER ESSENTIAL SERVICE (MAINTENANCE) ORDINANCE ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

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

(a) the number of employees prosecuted on the North Western Railway under the Essential Service (Maintenance) Ordinance of 1941, as amended in 1942; with the result in each case; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the General Manager, North Western Railway, had issued orders that employees should not be prosecuted under this Ordinance until (i) the employees resigned or absented *en masse* or stopped work jointly, and (ii) the Provincial Government had considered such action necessary to keep the services well replenished; if so, whether these conditions were observed in prosecuting employees referred to in (a) above; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Out of eleven employees on the North Western Railway who were prosecuted under the Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance, three were sentenced to six months rigorous imprisonment; one was discharged; the cases of two were withdrawn, and those of the remaining five are pending in the Court.

(b) Government understand that confidential instructions, which however did not impose the conditions stated in the question, were issued by the Railway Administration, and that these were duly observed in the cases in which action was taken under the Ordinance.

DIRECTORS, ETC., OF SUPPLY DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATED WITH PRIVATE UNDERTAKINGS

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

(a) the number of Directors, Controllers, Advisers and Honorary Advisers employed by the Department who have been or still continue to be associated with commercial and industrial undertakings in this country; and

(b) if he proposes to give a list showing the names of such officers or Advisers, their duties, the firms with which they have been or are associated and the remuneration they draw?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Directors, One; Controllers, Two; Advisers, One; Honorary Advisers, Eight.

(b) A statement giving the necessary information is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

Serial No. (1)	Name of officers who are associated (2)	Designation of the officer (3)	Office in which working (4)	Duties (5)	Name of firm/firms with which associated (6)	Remuneration paid by Government (7)
1	Mr. W. H. W. Urquhart	Director	Electrical Commissioner's Organisation	Erection of power plant for Army and Ordnance Factories all over India.	M/s. Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd., Calcutta.	Nominally Rs. 129-8-0 per month.
2	Mr. E. G. Spooner	Controller	Iron and Steel Organisation	To perform functions of the Iron and Steel Controller.	The Steel Corporation of Bengal, Ltd.	Nominal salary of Rs. 1 per annum.
3	Mr. T. L. Dobson	Controller	Coal-Commissioner's Organisation	Coal distribution in Assam on behalf of the Coal Commissioner.	Assam Railways & Trading Company, Ltd.	Rs. 400 per month as allowance.
4	Mr. A. Gemmell	Adviser	DGMP Organisation	To advise on matters pertaining to importations of Rly. stores classifying and arranging priorities in deliveries of various materials in UK; assistance in scrutiny, rationalisation and co-ordination of Railways requirements of imported stores.	Messrs. Healy & Gresham Ltd., Calcutta.	Honorarium Rs. 500 per month.
5	Mr. W. R. Watt	Honorary Adviser on Woollen Industries, Cawnpore.	...	Their duties are to advise the Deptt. of Supply on all matters connected with the Industry, and to act as Liaison Officers between the Department and the various industries in matters relating to distribution of work to the manufacturing capacity available thus ensuring the most expeditious execution and delivery of all work entrusted to them. They also advise Govt. on points of a technical nature and tender advice as to the allocation of orders on different firms dealing with that particular industry.	1 New Egerton Woollen Mills, Dhariwall. 2 Cawnpore Woollen Mills, Cawnpore.	Nil
6	Mr. A. C. Inskip	Honorary Adviser on Tanning and Leather Industries, Cawnpore.	...	...	Messrs. Cooper Allen & Co., Cawnpore.	Nil
7	Mr. I. G. Kennedy	Honorary Adviser on Jute Supplies, Calcutta.	...	...	Messrs. Jardine Skinner & Co., Calcutta.	Nil
8	Mr. J. S. Quin	Honorary Adviser on Rope Supplies, Calcutta.	...	...	1 Messrs. Macneill & Company.	Nil
9	Mr. R. N. B. Brunt	Honorary Adviser on Petroleum Products, New Delhi.	...	...	2 Messrs. Ganges Rope Company Ltd.	Nil
10	Mr. C. Williamson	Honorary Adviser on Timber Supplies, Calcutta.	...	...	Burmah-Shell Oil Storage and Distributing Co. of India Ltd.	Nil
11	Mr. Mohd. Amin	Honorary Adviser on Hides, Cawnpore.	...	...	Messrs. Gillanders Arbuthnot & Co., Calcutta.	Nil
12	Mr. R. N. Thomas	Honorary Adviser on Web Equipment, Calcutta.	...	...	Messrs. Mohd. Amin Brothers, Calcutta.	Nil
					Messrs. Meleod & Co., Ltd., Calcutta.	Nil

TRANSFERRED STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS†

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

NEW INDIA PLANNING GROUPS

688. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state the work the New India Planning Group included in his portfolio is doing?

(b) What is the annual expenditure incurred on it and how is it spent?

(c) What is the necessity for this group when a whole department for planning is functioning under a Member of the Executive Council?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The New India Planning Groups are non-official study circles where current and post-war social and economic problems are discussed. Factual material is supplied by the Central Organisation, but the Groups are at liberty to discuss any problem or material from any other source. The intention is to stimulate thought and not to control or influence it in favour of any policy, schemes or projects.

(b) A sum of Rs. 1,428 was spent during 1943-44 on the staff at the Centre. During the current year an expenditure of Rs. 73,100 is likely to be incurred. The Government do not bear the cost of individual groups.

(c) As will appear from the answer to part (a), the New India Planning Groups do not overlap the functions of the Planning and Development Department. The groups can discuss plans but they do not prepare any plans.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENTS

689. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the Departments of the Government of India which publish annual reports of their work?

(b) Which of them are published and available to the public?

(c) Which of them are circulated to Members of the Legislature?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the table:

Statement showing Departments of the Government of India which Publish Annual Reports

Name of the Department	Nature of the report published	Whether available to the Public	Whether circulated to the Members of the Central Legislature
War Department	No annual report is published but a summary of important matters connected with the Indian Defence Services entitled "India's part in the year of War" is issued every year.	Yes	Yes. Copies are also placed in the Library of the Central Legislature.
Railway Department	Reports by the Railway Board on Indian Railway. Volumes I & II.	Yes	Yes, but on request only. Copies are also placed in the Library of the Central Legislature.
Commonwealth Relations Department.	No annual report is published but an annual review of events relating to or affecting Indians in various parts of the British Empire is issued.	No; but copies are supplied to certain select individuals.	No, but copies are placed in the Library of the Central Legislature.

Note: Certain other Annual Reports previously published by Departments have been discontinued during the war in the interests of paper economy and to eliminate unessential work in war time.

†The question hour of the 6th March, 1945, having been eliminated owing to the adjournment of the House without transacting any business, the answers to starred questions for that date were, in pursuance of convention, laid on the table of the House today.—Ed. of D.

SUPPLY OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ADVERTISEMENTS TO NEWSPAPERS IN NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE

690. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) who determines the question of the supply of Central Government advertisements to newspapers in the North-West Frontier Province;

(b) the names of newspapers in the North-West Frontier Province which receive the above advertisements; and

(c) whether these advertisements are supplied to the *Tarjuman-i-Sarhad* if not, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The Departments and offices of the Government of India send advertisements direct to newspapers in all Provinces including the North-West Frontier Province, provided the newspapers selected are included in the list prepared in the Bureau of Public Information. This list is based on the commercial advantage to Government of placing its advertisements in a newspaper which is judged by its circulation.

(b) The following newspapers in the North-West Frontier Province are included in the list:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Frontier Mail.</i> | 6. <i>Hamdard-i-Sarhad.</i> |
| 2. <i>Khyber Mail.</i> | 7. <i>Kaisar Kiari.</i> |
| 3. <i>Afghan.</i> | 8. <i>Mujahid.</i> |
| 4. <i>Daily Sarhad.</i> | 9. <i>Paigham-i-Sarhad.</i> |
| 5. <i>Frontier Advertiser.</i> | 10. <i>Prabhat.</i> |
| | 11. <i>Tarjuman-i-Sarhad.</i> |

(c) The *Tarjuman-i-Sarhad* receives display advertisements from the Department of Information and Broadcasting. Information regarding other Departments and offices is not readily available and the time and labour spent in collecting it will not be commensurate with the results.

RESTRICTIONS ON AGHA SAYED ZAMAN SHAH, AN AFGHAN SUBJECT

691. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether Agha Sayed Zaman Shah, an Afghan subject, is now under restrictions under the Defence of India Rules in Peshawar;

(b) whether his monthly allowance is Rs. 75 *per mensem*;

(c) whether the number of his dependants is 11; and

(d) whether Government will increase his allowance to enable him and his family to live?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (d). Agha Sayed Zaman Shah, who is a British and not an Afghan Subject, was detained by order of the Government of the North-West Frontier Province to whom a copy of this question and answer is being sent.

SUBJECTING PRESS TELEGRAMS TO SCRUTINY OF PRESS ADVISER IN PESHAWAR

692. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) whether no press telegram can be transmitted from the Peshawar telegraph offices without being read and signed by the Provincial Press Adviser;

(b) whether press telegrams received in Peshawar are not delivered till they are passed by the Press Adviser; and

(c) whether the same practice obtains in other provinces; if not, why this discrimination in the North-West Frontier Province is?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) and (b). There is a censorship station in Peshawar which examines all inward and outward foreign press telegrams. As regards inland press telegrams the practice is that these are referred to the Provincial Press Adviser for advice before their transmission.

(c) Government of India have no information. They have not issued any directives on this subject.

PRESS ADVISORY BOARD IN NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

693. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) whether a Press Advisory Board has been set up in the North-West Frontier Province;

(b) whether similar Boards exist in other Provinces; and

(c) whether the President of the All-India Newspapers Conference demanded the setting up of a Press Advisory Board in the North-West Frontier Province; if so, the nature of the action taken thereon?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Government are not aware whether any Press Advisory Board has been set up in the North-West Frontier Province.

(b) Provincial Press Advisory Committees exist in some of the other provinces. These have been constituted by the Provincial Governments concerned in consultation with the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference.

(c) Government have no information.

PERMISSION FOR MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH HIS PUBLISHERS

694. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether Maulana Abul Kalam Azad is permitted to enter into correspondence with his publishers about his book "Tarjuman-ul-Quran";

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that some people have pirated on the copyright of the Maulana Sahib, taking advantage of his incarceration; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent this practice?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by Sir Reginald Maxwell to question No. 443, put on the 15th March 1944, by Maulana Zafar Ali Khan.

(c) and (d). Government have no information.

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION FOR AJMER-MERWARA

695. *Raj Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state whether Ajmer-Merwara finds any place in the Post-War Development and Reconstruction Plans of the Government of India?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, why are the claims of Ajmer-Merwara being neglected?

(c) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will Government inform the House what schemes for development and reconstruction in Ajmer-Merwara have been included in the plan, and what is their cost?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) Yes.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As in the case of the Provinces, a draft five year plan has been called for from the Chief Commissioner.

SECTIONS 111 TO 121 OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1935

696. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) whether he has received any representations that sections 111 to 121 of the Government of India Act, 1935, are serious obstacles to the development of indigenous Indian companies which are necessary to make any future planning for the country a success;

(b) if so, whether he has considered these representations; and

(c) whether any representations have been made to His Majesty's Government to amend or delete these sections?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) to (c). I invite the Honourable Member's attention to my speech on Friday the 2nd March during the debate on Mr. Manu Subedar's resolution.

EXPENDITURE ON 'DENIAL POLICY' IN BENGAL

697. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether an investigation has been made on the expenditure connected with the Denial Policy in Bengal;

(b) what has been the result of the investigation;

(c) how much was spent on acquisition of boats, cycles, etc., under this policy;

(d) how much was recovered by re-sale of these things; and

(e) what action has been taken against delinquent Government servants and others?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Local audits have been conducted by the Accountant General, Bengal in the area concerned since 1943. In addition a special enquiry was conducted by an audit officer in considerable detail in the two districts where the expenditure was heaviest.

(b) The accounts in these two districts have now been prepared in a manner susceptible to audit. A number of irregularities, both in payment and in the maintaining of accounts, were pointed out by the investigating officer. A comprehensive report from the Bengal Government on "Denial" expenditure as a whole is expected shortly.

(c) I place a statement on the table indicating expenditure incurred by the Government of Bengal on the acquisition of boats, cycles, etc. The grand total is Rs. 1,36,62,866.

(d) Final accounts are not yet available, but so far Rs. 27,55,627-15-0 have been realised from the sale of boats, and a sum of Rs. 29,947-8-0 has been credited to Government from the resale to the public of bicycles in the districts of Midnapore, Bakarganj and Faridpur.

(e) The Bengal Government report that suitable action will be taken against any persons whom the enquiries arising out of the audit reports show to be chargeable with bad faith or culpable negligence in the execution of the "Denial Policy".

Statement showing the total expenditure incurred on acquisition of boats, cycles, etc., under the "Denial Policy."

Items of expenditure	1942-43	1943-44	First nine months 1944-45	Total	Remarks
I.					
(i) Boats	1,05,91,361	11,32,368	5,08,485	1,22,32,214	
(ii) Cycles	5,65,694	5,707	27,667	5,99,068	
(iii) Motor vehicles	87,526	23,847	5,325	1,16,698	
(iv) Other conveyance	46,946			46,946	
(v) Elephants	1,67,501	75,574	2,501	2,45,576	
(a)		(b)	(c)		(a) On account of removal of tents.
II. Other Miscellaneous	824	74,333	43,575	1,18,732	(b) and (c) On account of payment of compensation to Burma Oil Co. and Indo-Burma Petroleum Co. for removal of Kerosene oil, Petrol etc. from Chittagong.
III. Evacuation of Saw Mills.	52,678	8,938		61,616	
IV. Staff	86,161	1,37,005	18,850	2,42,016	
Grand total	1,16,98,691	14,57,772	6,06,403	1,36,62,866	

FINANCIAL EFFECT OF INCREASE OF PAY OF BRITISH SOLDIERS IN INDIA

698. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the financial effect of the recent increase of pay of British soldiers in India;

(b) whether the whole of the burden will be borne by Britain or will have to be shared by India also; and

(c) if so, what will be the financial effect on the Indian exchequer?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The amount will depend on the strength of British Troops in India from time to time which in its turn depends on the course taken by the war.

(b) and (c). The expenditure will be shared between India and His Majesty's Government in accordance with the principles of the financial settlement. It is estimated that the extra expenditure likely to be borne by Indian revenues on this account during 1944-45 is Rs. 51 crores. The corresponding amount for 1945-46 depends on the strength of troops employed in India for local defence. Assuming that the maximum strength held to be necessary for that purpose were so employed throughout 1945-46 the amount would be Rs. 151 crores.

LEASE-LEND AMOUNTS

699. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the total amount of Lease-Lend received from the U. S. A. during the official years 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45 (up to the 31st December, 1944)?

(b) What was the amount of reverse Lease-Lend during the same period?

(c) What was the outlay of Government on the reverse Lease-Lend and how much of it was on each kind of article?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to my Budget Speech which contains all the information on the subject that can be made public at this stage.

(c) The details asked for are not available.

APPLICATIONS FOR DOLLAR CREDITS

700. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state for what amount applications were made for dollars and what the amounts released during 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45 up to the 31st December, 1944, were?

(b) What was the value of the total exports from India for U. S. A. during these periods?

(c) What was the value of the reverse Lease-Lend given to the United States during these periods?

(d) Have Government received complaints that credits required for essential machineries, tools, stores and chemicals are not being given and Indian producers are suffering serious inconvenience?

(e) Is it a fact that even members of the delegation to the International Businessmen's Conference were not given adequate amount of dollars and were unable to reciprocate courtesies extended to them?

(f) Have Government reached any decision as to the release of India's share of the dollar pool to India?

(g) If so, what is the total amount to the credit of India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I regret that the information cannot be collected without an undue expenditure of time and labour.

(b) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the accounts relating to the seaborne Trade and Navigation of British India which are published every month.

(c) 1942-43	Rs. 12 crores
1943-44	Rs. 35 crores
1944-45 (estimated)	Rs. 76 crores

(d) Not so far as I am aware.

(e) No.

(f) and (g). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to my last Budget Speech.

INSTRUCTIONS TO PROVINCES RE NATIONAL SAVINGS DRIVE

701. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether any fresh instructions were issued to the Provincial Governments regarding the National Savings Drive after the House adopted the adjournment motion moved by Maulvi Abdul Ghani on the 10th February, 1945; and

(b) if the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, whether the Honourable Member proposes to place a copy of that circular on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) No. The matter is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

APPLICATIONS FOR DOLLAR CREDITS

702. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) how many applications have been made for dollar credits during the current financial year, and what the total amount applied for is;

(b) how many of them have been accepted, and what the total amount involved is; and

(c) the difficulty in accommodating all the applications in full?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the replies given to part (b) of Mr. K. C. Neogy's starred question No. 589 on 1st March, 1945 and part (a) of Mr. Manu Subedar's starred question No. 700 today.

(c) Shortage of dollars.

ECONOMIC CONDITION OF INDIAN RESIDENTS IN LIBERATED BURMA

703. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state the approximate number of Indian residents in those tracts of Burma which have already been liberated from enemy occupation, and what reports have been received from the military sources about their general economic condition, and what help is being rendered to them by the military authorities for their rehabilitation and general welfare?

(b) What is the type of interim administration that the military authorities have set up for these areas; and what part, if any, do the Indian personnel of the Indian Army play in such administration?

(c) What facilities are the Army authorities granting to representatives of Indian trading interests, with previous affiliations with Burma, in proceeding to these areas for the purpose of re-establishing their contracts, and have similar facilities been granted by the military authorities to representatives of non-Indian business interests?

(d) Is any publicity work being undertaken by the military authorities for the special benefit of Indians resident in Burma? Are these Indians being given adequate facilities for communicating with their relations and friends in India?

(e) Has any special financial allotment been made to the military authorities in Burma so as to enable them to promote welfare measures for the special benefit of the Indian population in liberated Burma?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a), first part of (b), (c) and (e). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the answer given on the 5th March to starred question No. 667.

I may add that no specific reports have been received regarding Indians, but that such rehabilitation measures as are possible during the period of military administration have been, and will continue to be carried out for Indians to the same extent as for British and other allied subjects in Burma.

Second part of (b). 28 per cent. of the officers of the Civil Affairs Staff (Burma) are Indians.

(d) An Urdu newspaper prepared by the South East Asia Command is made available to the inhabitants of Burma, and leaflets which are dropped for the information of the public generally in Burma have been translated into Urdu. Until postal facilities for the public in general are restored in the re-occupied parts of Burma, normal means of communication between Indians in Burma and their friends and relatives in India are not available.

SAFEGUARDS AGAINST CARTELS

704. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Planning and Development been drawn to the article "Profit before Patriotism" in the *Bombay Chronicle Weekly* of the 11th February, 1945?

(b) What is their considered policy to safeguard India against the evil of cartels mentioned therein?

The Honourable Sir Ardesir Dalal: (a) I do not find the article referred to by the Honourable Member in the *Bombay Chronicle Weekly* of the 11th February.

(b) The problem of cartels and their control is under Government's consideration.

TACTICS TRAINING CENTRES AND STAFF COLLEGES

705. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) if he is aware that the Tactics Training Centre and the Staff College are in different Provinces in India?

(b) if he is aware that it is desirable to have the Tactics Training Centre and the Staff College in the same place from the point of view of training army officers; and

(c) if the answer to (b) be in the affirmative whether he proposes to see that the Staff College at Quetta is transferred to Dehra Dun in view of the facts—

(i) that Dehra Dun is a Tactics Training Centre, and

(ii) that the wars hereafter will not only be open warfare or mountain-warfare but jungle-warfare and that there are all these facilities round about Dehra Dun and not at Quetta?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The question of the future locations of the Staff College and Tactical Training Centre is already under consideration and I may assure the Honourable Member that all factors including those suggested by him, will be taken into account before a decision is reached.

SCARCITY OF WATER IN NOWGONG

706. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the War Secretary please state if he is aware that Nowgong, where Kitchner College is situated, suffers from scarcity of water supply and that in summer the scarcity of water is felt very much? Does he propose to see that this college is closed for the hot weather period; if not, what arrangements do Government propose to make to get over these difficulties and to continue the pre-cadet training during that period?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Yes, Sir, but measures to overcome the difficulty are under consideration. As regards the second part, arrangements are being made to move the cadets and staff to a hill station for the hot months this summer.

ARRESTS FOR OFFENCES COMMITTED BY MEMBERS OF AMERICAN FORCES IN INDIA

707. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) With reference to his replies to starred question No. 207 and connected supplementary questions on the 14th February, 1945, regarding Americans prosecuted for offences committed in India, will the Honourable the Home Member please state: whether any general or special directions have been given by or under the authority of, the Central Government for the purpose of giving effect to any arrangements made by that Government with the Government of the United States of America in regard to the delivery to any U.S.A. authority of the custody of any member of the military or naval forces of U.S.A., who may be arrested by any one in British India in the exercise of the powers of arrest, etc., exercisable under the law in force in British India? If so, what are these directions and arrangements?

(b) In how many cases during the period mentioned by him in his reply to the above question, were arrests made of U.S.A. military or naval personnel in the different Provinces in the exercise of powers of arrest, etc., exercisable under the law in force in British India, and in how many cases during the same period were arrests made in the different Provinces of such personnel otherwise than in the exercise of powers of arrest, etc., exercisable under the law in force in British India?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: With your permission, Sir, I will answer Questions Nos. 707 and 708 together.

I have made no attempt to collect the statistics asked for by the Honourable Member as there was no hope of our being able to do this in time to answer the question and I doubt whether the result would be at all accurate even if a longer time were allowed.

I understand, however, that the Honourable Member's object is to obtain information in order to satisfy himself that offenders are duly brought to Court. The answer to Sardar Mangal Singh's Question No. 207 of 14th February, 1945, to which the Honourable Member refers, showed that as regards the actual Court proceedings the result is satisfactory. From reports that have been received by the Government of India there appears to be no reason to suppose that the conduct of the investigation of complaints against members of the United States of America armed forces is any less satisfactory. But, in order that the Government of India may be kept in touch with the position and be in a position to give Honourable Members such information as they may require on the subject, Provincial Governments have been asked to submit half yearly reports on the points raised in these two questions and in Sardar Mangal Singh's Question.

No special procedure has been laid down to enable Provincial Governments to keep in touch with these matters but, there is, where necessary, close liaison between Provincial Governments and the United States of America Army authorities. This has been found to work satisfactorily in practice.

Nor have any general or special directions been issued by the Central Government regarding the delivery to United States of America authority of persons arrested by the police. No need for such directions has been felt. But Provincial Governments have been asked whether they consider that such directions should be issued.

CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS AGAINST MEMBERS OF AMERICAN FORCES IN INDIA

†708. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state how many complaints came to the notice of the British Indian Police or other authorities in the different Provinces, during the period referred to in part (b) of the preceding question, in which charges of a criminal nature were made against U.S.A. military or naval personnel, and in how many such complaints references were made by the Police or other authorities concerned to the U.S.A. authorities, and with what result?

(b) How many complaints of a criminal character against U.S.A. military or naval personnel were received directly by U.S.A. authorities in the different Provinces at the instance of any Indian during the same period, and with what result?

(c) What procedure, if any, is permissible to be followed by, or on behalf of, the Central Government for the purpose of watching the course of any proceedings that may be taken by any U.S.A. authority in India against any U.S.A. military or naval personnel as a result of complaints referred to in (a) and (b) above?

(d) What reports, if any, have so far been received from the different Provincial Governments regarding the satisfactory character or otherwise of the disposal of the complaints referred to in (a) and (b) above?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 707.

ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR LEASE-LEND STORES

709. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please refer to paragraph 14 on page 13 of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee for 1942-43, wherein it is stated "we are pleased to see that it has been found possible, at last after much effort, to put into force accounting arrangements for Lease-Lend stores, which have for so long presented varied and almost insuperable difficulties", and state:

(a) whether the position in the matter of accounting arrangements for Lease-Lend stores has improved since his last Budget Speech and that each item of Lend-Lease stores received in India but used by His Majesty's Government or by the Government of China is allocated to the respective Governments;

(b) whether he is now in a position to state that the accounts have now been completed so as to show the actual receipts of Lend-Lease goods by India for the exclusive use in India only; and

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, the actual or approximate amount of Lend-Lease debt which India has now incurred?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The answer is in the affirmative. I may explain that the principle adopted in allocating Lease-Lend Aid is that such allocation goes to the Government to which the financial benefit accrues. India thus incurs the obligations associated with Lease-Lend only in respect of supplies for which, but for Lease-Lend she would have had to pay.

(b) and (c). The allocation is made as a result of a retrospective review of the utilisation of Lease-Lend supplies received over a period. The results of such a review so far as can be made public are contained in my last Budget Speech.

RAW MATERIALS PROVIDED TO AMERICA ON MUTUAL AID

710. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state: (a) whether it will be possible for him to give details of the raw materials which are being provided to U.S.A. on the Mutual Aid basis, what those commodities are and the approximate tonnage of each commodity supplied till the close of the year 1944;

(b) whether he is in a position to state that all or some of these commodities are of vital importance to the United States of America, and could not be secured by the U.S.A. Government except by payment of cash if the Government of India had not agreed to fall in line with the terms of Mutual Aid Pact;

(c) whether the United States of America continue to absorb the profits made on the sale of gold in this country notwithstanding the fact that the Mutual Aid arrangements now subsist between India and the U.S.A.; and

(d) whether the Government of India have taken steps to point out to the United States Government that, in view of the fact that a mutual aid arrangement now subsists between the two Governments, it is scarcely equitable for the United States to make a profit by the sale of a commodity that is scarce in India like gold?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) A statement showing the quantities of various raw materials which the Government of India have agreed to supply on R/A by the 31st December, 1944 is placed on the table. The actual tonnages shipped up to the close of the year 1944 are not yet known.

(b) Yes.

(c) Reciprocal Aid is granted in consideration of the receipt of lease-lend goods and services from the Government of the United States of America and is a matter entirely separate and distinct from the question of the sale of gold in India on behalf of the Government of the U. S. A. for the purpose of providing the rupees necessary to meet U. S. A. war expenditure in India. As I have explained on several occasions, the question of profit on the sale of gold does not arise in view of the purpose of these sales and the fact that the rise in prices of other commodities is greater than that of gold.

(d) Does not arise.

TRANSFERRED STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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Statement showing the commodities and the quantities accepted for Reciprocal Aid during the period 1st April to 31st December, 1944

Serial No.	Commodity	Quantity
1.	Manganese	1,00,000 tons
2.	Jute	82,500,000 lbs.
3.	Burlap	246,331,810 yds.
4.	Sugar bags	5,812,500 bags.
5.	Hides	All shipments on account of the United States Government during the period Approximately 150,000 Pieces.
6.	Cashew Shell Liquid	2,000,000 lbs.
7.	Mica	6,344,500 lbs.
8.	Tea	5,163,000 lbs.
9.	Goat skins	4,250,000 skins.
10.	Bristles	240,000 lbs.
11.	Shallac	4,500,000 lbs.
12.	Steatite Block Talc	510 tons.
13.	Beryl	1,100 tons.
14.	Rubber	2,745 tons.
15.	Tantalite	2,500 lbs.
16.	Columbite	1,500 lbs.

LIABILITY FOR COST OF DOUBLING BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY METRE-GAUGE LINES

711. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please refer to his reply to question No. 308 of the 18th November, 1943, in regard to the liability for the cost of doubling the Bengal and Assam Railway metre-gauge lines, wherein he stated that allocation of the cost is under the consideration of the Government and state:

(a) whether this matter has now been finalised; and if so, what the actual cost is; and what proportion of it has been debited to His Majesty's Government;

(b) the basis on which the allocation has been made; and

(c) the total mileage of railway lines that have been doubled for military reasons, the total cost incurred thereby and the portion of the amount of which has been debited to His Majesty's Government?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). The whole of the capital outlay on this project is being borne by His Majesty's Government. Interest and depreciation as well as maintenance charges are borne by the Bengal and Assam Railway which charges the usual rates for all passenger and goods traffic handled.

(c) 59 miles of broad gauge lines and 169 miles of metre-gauge lines have been doubled, to meet military requirements. Final figures of cost are not yet available, but it is estimated that the capital outlay on this new track will be roughly Rs. 4 crores.

TEMPORARY OFFICIALS SERVING IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

712. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) the approximate total number of temporary officials of all kinds excluding inferior servants, at present serving in the Government of India;

(b) approximately how many of them have put in more than three years' service;

(c) in view of the comparatively long period of service put in by most of them if any special concessions in the matter of leave admissible to them have been sanctioned; and

(d) whether Government have any proposal in regard to absorption of these temporary employees in the permanent establishment or for otherwise providing employment for them in the post-war period?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). The information asked for is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justified by the result.

(c) Temporary Government servants in superior service with not less than one year's continuous service have been allowed as a special concession for the duration of war, leave on medical certificate at the rate of 15 days for every completed year of service. They are also entitled to casual leave on the same scale as permanent Government servants.

(d) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the Home Department *Press Communique* of the 7th September, 1943, wherein provision has been made for the absorption of those temporary Government servants who are otherwise suitable and eligible for permanent appointment, in 30 per cent. of the vacancies filled on a temporary basis during the war.

SALE OF GOLD IN INDIA BY FOREIGN ADMINISTRATIONS

713. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether there has been any change in the policy of the Government of India in regard to permitting Foreign Administrations to sell gold in this country on their own account;

(b) whether he is aware of an analogous situation existing in any other country in the world where, as in India, gold is a scarce commodity and foreign administrations are permitted to sell gold therein on their own account;

(c) whether he is aware of the conditions under which gold has been or is still being sold in Egypt by foreign Governments; and

(d) whether he is aware that in the case of Egypt a large share of the profits resulting out of the sale of such gold by foreign Governments has been absorbed by the Egyptian Treasury?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The position whereby gold is sold by the Reserve Bank of India on behalf of the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America to provide rupees towards meeting the war expenditure of those two countries in India has been explained by me on numerous occasions on the floor of this House and continues unchanged.

(b) to (d). The Government have no definite information. It is believed, however, that sales of gold on behalf of Allied Governments in other countries in circumstances similar to India are invariably made at local market rates.

CERTAIN LETTER WRITTEN BY SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, GORAKHPUR

714. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to a letter written by the Superintendent of Police of Gorakhpur to his family on September 7, 1942, recently published in the Press, in which the following words occur: "Trouton and his troops leave the day after tomorrow and the Suffolks relieve them. We shall be sorry to see Trouton and his men go. They have done us proud and have not hesitated to go beyond the scope of their duties to help us over various tight spots when we wanted them. I only hope the Suffolks will be as obliging"; and

(b) if Government have made enquiries as to how and when the military persons referred to went beyond their duties; and if any action was taken against them for doing so?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). The officer who wrote the letter referred to is now dead and so no inquiry can be made from him as to the exact meaning of what he wrote. But if the Honourable Member's suggestion is that the troops not only went beyond the scope of their duties but exceeded their powers, I can assure him that no such incident was brought to my notice, though I myself visited Gorakhpur during the time they were there.

HEALTH OF PANDIT BAL KRISHNA KAUL, A SECURITY PRISONER

715. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if Pandit Bal Krishna Kaul has been a security prisoner in the Central Jail of Ajmer since August 1942;

(b) if he has been in bad health all through and has lost much in weight;

(c) if the Civil Surgeon of Ajmer, Colonel Khareghat, had reported that Mr. Kaul was suffering from rarefaction of the collar bone and had prescribed Calcium injections and if he used to send Mr. Kaul for Ultra-Violet treatment to the Victoria Hospital;

(d) if Colonel Khareghat's successor has stopped all medical treatment of Mr. Kaul who is not allowed to keep a thermometer to mark his temperature or apply even Iodex to painful swellings on his body; and

(e) if Government propose to get Mr. Kaul examined by a Medical Board and arrange for his proper treatment in Ajmer or elsewhere?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes.

(b) No. On the contrary he has gained 7 lbs. in weight since 1st April, 1944.

(c) Yes; but the present Civil Surgeon does not agree that Mr. Kaul is or was suffering from rarefaction of the collar bone.

(d) The prisoner was given necessary treatment as a result of which he has gained 7 lbs. in weight. As regards the keeping of a thermometer and application of Iodex to alleged swellings, this was not considered necessary.

(e) This does not appear to be necessary in view of the Superintendent's reports and the increasing weight of the security prisoner.

HEALTH OF PANDIT JAWAHAR LAL NEHRU AND PANDIT GOVIND BALLABH PANT

716. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant have been transferred from the Ahmednagar Fort to the Bareilly Central Jail;

(b) the condition of their health and what arrangements are being made for further medical treatment of Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant;

(c) if any other Members of the Working Committee have also been shifted from the Ahmednagar Fort; and, if so, who have been thus transferred and where they have been sent; and

(d) if Acharya Narendra Dey is still in the Ahmednagar Fort, and what the condition of his health is?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Arrangements are being made for the transfer of the Members of the Congress Working Committee from Ahmednagar to their respective Provinces, but I have so far received no information that any of the transfers has actually taken place. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Acharya Narendra Deo are in good health. As I have explained before, Pandit Pant may have to be operated on for hernia and if so, the necessary arrangements will be made after his return to his own Province. I should like to take this opportunity to correct a slight mistake which I made in answering question No. 106 on February 10th. I then said that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had had an attack of lumbago from which he had recovered. Pandit Nehru was actually suffering from slight neuritis in the Arm. It was Mr. H. K. Mehtab who had been suffering from lumbago. In both cases the ailments had disappeared before the end of January.

HYDARI MISSION

717. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the War Secretary please state the grounds on which His Majesty's Government invited the Hydari Mission to England?

(b) What will be the principal functions of this Mission?

(c) What are the terms of reference?

(d) Why have Government excluded non-official Indian businessmen and bankers, or Indian non-official members of the Legislature, from this Mission?

(e) Have Government asked the Hydari Mission not to make any commitments with regard to the future, which would be opposed by Indian public opinion, or which would embarrass future Governments?

(f) What precautions have they asked the Hydari Mission to take with regard to the import of consumer goods, the production of which has expanded in India during the war?

(g) Do Government propose to take an early opportunity of placing before the House the interim results of the efforts of this Mission in order to ascertain the views of the Assembly on the subject?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) to (d) and (g). I would refer the Honourable Member to my replies to his starred question No. 474 and supplementary questions thereon on the 22nd of February, 1945.

(e) The Hydari Mission has not been empowered to make any such commitments.

(f) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies, to part (b) of Mr. Neogy's starred question No. 303 on the 16th February, 1945.

PRIVILEGE OF MAKING SALT ENJOYED BY COASTAL VILLAGERS OF KAKATPUR THANA

718. *Pandit Nilakantha Das: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether it is a fact that coastal villagers of Kakatpur Thana in the Puri District (Orissa) were enjoying the privilege of making and using their own salt under "Gandhi-Irwin Pact"?

(b) Has the privilege been withheld because Government last year allowed duty paying co-operative societies to manufacture salt in some parts of this area and compelled all petty manufacturers of the area to pay duty on the salt manufactured under the "Gandhi-Irwin Pact" for home consumption?

(c) Do Government propose to allow the coastal villagers of the Thana to manufacture and use their own salt without paying duty as they used to do under "Gandhi-Irwin Pact"?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (b) and (c). 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.

719* and 720*. [Cancelled.]

DESIRABILITY OF SENDING DEPUTATIONS OF INDIAN SCIENTISTS, etc., TO RUSSIA

721. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state if it is not a fact that Soviet Central Asian Republics are easily accessible in a considerably shorter time than U. K. and U. S. A.? If so, do Government propose to send deputations of Indian Scientists, Industrialists, Agriculturists Legislators, etc., to Russia to find out the possibilities of gaining first hand knowledge and experience in the interest of rapid industrialisation of our country in the post-war reconstruction and also send batches of students for training?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The rest of the question therefore does not arise.

DESIRABILITY OF SENDING DEPUTATIONS OF INDIAN SCIENTISTS, etc., TO RUSSIA

722. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Planning and Development aware as stated in the *Hindu*, dated the 3rd February, 1945, that British Parliamentary Delegation recently visited Russia? If so, will Government get in touch with the Russian Government to allow deputations of Indian Scientists, Industrialists, Legislators, etc., to visit their country for the purpose of studying how Russia made marvellous achievements during the last two decades?

(b) Has the Honourable Member's attention been drawn to the book entitled Soviet Asia—The Power Behind U.S.S.R. By Mr. K. S. Hirlekar, Bombay,

which shows how illiterate and primitive Soviet Asia could reach that stage of being technologically educated and highly industrialised within a short period of only about fifteen years? Does the Honourable Member propose to take full advantage of the ways and means taken by the Soviet Russia to achieve that object for India in post-war reconstruction?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) Yes. But the object of the U. K. delegation is not known to Government. As regards the second part of the question, the suggestion will be borne in mind.

(b) I have seen the book referred to. The case the author makes out may be impressive, but it does not by any means follow that we can or should adopt all the methods used by Soviet Russia. In fact, some of them would be quite out of place in India.

723*. [Cancelled.]

TRANSFER OF PANDIT JAWAHAR LAL NEHRU AND PANDIT GOVIND BALLABH PANT TO BAREILLY JAIL

724. *Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Home Member been drawn to the report which has been published in the issue of the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 17th February, 1945, that Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant have been transferred from Ahmednagar Fort to Bareilly Jail?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether the report is correct?

(c) Has Acharya Narendra Dev also been transferred to U. P. Jail?

(d) Have the other Members of the Working Committee in Ahmednagar Fort been repatriated to their own Provinces?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Honourable Member is referred to the answer I have just given to question No. 716.

SENIORITY OF PERSONS APPOINTED TO LISTED POSTS vis-a-vis MEMBERS OF I.C.S. AND I. P.

725. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the rule for determining the seniority of persons who are appointed to listed posts vis-a-vis members of the I.C.S. and I.P.?

(b) Is seniority determined according to the length of service?

(c) Is the same principle followed in the case of the Secretariat staff (Assistant Secretaries and Superintendents)?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) The rules are contained in the Home Department Notification No. F. 38/30-Ests., dated the 12th February, 1930, as amended by the notification No. F. 169/36-Ests., dated the 22nd June, 1937, and in the Indian Police (Regulation of Seniority) Rules. A copy of each of the rules has been placed on the table of the House.

(b) Stated in brief the rule is that seniority is determined according to the length of continuous service in a superior post.

(c) No Sir. The rules regulating the seniority of members of the Secretariat Staff are being placed on the table of the House in reply to the Honourable Member's question serial No. 726.

THE INDIAN POLICE (REGULATION OF SENIORITY) RULES.

(Made by the Secretary of State for India in Council under section 96B (2) of the Government of India Act, on the 10th December, 1929.)

(Corrected to 1st March, 1937.)

1. These Rules may be called the Indian Police (Regulation of Seniority) Rules.

2. In these Rules—

(i) the term "promoted officer" means an officer not belonging to the Indian Police before his promotion appointed substantively to a superior post in that service;

(ii) the term "recognised service" as applied to a promoted officer means service rendered after attaining the age of 23 in Government service.

3. The seniority of promoted officers is determined by the date of substantive appointment to a superior post.

4. An Indian Police officer substantively appointed to a superior post shall take rank in order of seniority above—

(a) any promoted officer who was promoted to a superior post or who began to officiate continuously in a superior post at a date subsequent to the date on which the Indian Police officer (or an officer junior to him in the Indian Police) began to officiate continuously in a superior post;

(b) any promoted officer whose recognised service is less than the total service of the Indian Police officer;

(c) any promoted officer who, though not falling within the description contained in paras. (a) and (b) above, is junior to any person falling within either of those descriptions, and

(d) any Indian Police officer already substantively holding a superior post who is junior to him in the Indian Police.

5. For the purpose of these Rules an officer shall be treated as having officiated in a superior post during any period in respect of which the Local Government certify that he would have so officiated but for his absence on leave, his tenure of a special appointment or other exceptional circumstance.

6. Nothing in these Rules shall affect the seniority of any promoted officer who was appointed substantively to a superior post before the 9th day of March, 1927.

HOME DEPARTMENT NOTIFICATION No. F. 38/30-ESTS., DATED THE 12TH FEBRUARY, 1930, AS AMENDED BY HOME DEPARTMENT NOTIFICATION, No. F. 169/36-ESTS., DATED THE 22ND JUNE, 1937.

No. F. 38/30.—The following Resolution passed by the Secretary of State for India in Council is published for general information:—

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 96B of the Government of India Act, the Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the majority of votes at a meeting of the Council of India held this 10th day of December, 1929, hereby makes the following Rules:—

1. These Rules may be called the Indian Civil Service (Regulation of Seniority) Rules.

2. In these Rules—

(i) the term "holder of a listed post" means an officer not belonging to the Indian Civil Service appointed substantively to a superior post in the Indian Civil Service cadre, whether by promotion from the Provincial Civil Service or by appointment from the legal profession;

(ii) the term "recognised service" as applied to a holder of a listed post means employment after attaining the age of 25 either in Government service or as an enrolled pleader, vakil, or advocate, as the case may be.

3. The seniority *inter se* of holders of listed posts on the executive or judicial side, as the case may be, is determined by the date of substantive appointment to a listed post.

4. An Indian Civil Service officer substantively appointed to superior post on the executive or judicial side, as the case may be, shall take rank in order of seniority on that side above—

(a) any holder of a listed post who began to serve continuously, whether in an officiating or substantive capacity, in a superior post on a date subsequent to the date on which the Indian Civil Service officer (or any officer junior to him in the Indian Civil Service) began to serve continuously in the manner aforesaid in a superior post;

(b) any holder of a listed post, whose recognised service is less than the total service of the Indian Civil Service officer;

(c) any holder of a listed post who, though not falling within the description contained in paragraphs (a) and (b) above is junior to any person falling within either of those descriptions, and

(d) any Indian Civil Service officer already substantively holding a superior post who is junior to him in the Indian Civil Service.

5. For the purpose of these Rules an officer shall be treated as having officiated in a superior post during any period in respect of which the Local Government certify that he would have so officiated but for his absence on leave, his tenure of a special appointment or other exceptional circumstance.

6. Nothing in these Rules shall affect the seniority of any holder of a listed post who was appointed substantively to a superior post in the Presidency of Bombay before the 6th day of October, 1925 and in other provinces before the 9th day of March, 1927.

H. G. HAIG,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. F. 38/30-ESTS.

A copy forwarded to the Government of Madras/etc. for information and guidance.

By order;

U. C. STUART,
Asstt. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

DETERMINATION OF SENIORITY OF STAFF IN HOME AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

726. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state how seniority of gazetted and non-gazetted staff is determined in the Home Department in the various grades?

(b) How is such seniority determined in the Secretariat Departments, in general, and the War Organisation in particular?

(c) Is the seniority in the Secretariat Departments in the various grades determined by the date of appointment or promotion to the grade concerned in the Department concerned, or is it determined by the total length of service in whatever grade it may be and in whatever office it may have been rendered?

(d) Have the Home Department issued any general instructions for the fixation of seniority in the Secretariat Departments and the War Organisation? If so, does the Honourable Member propose to place a copy of such instructions on the table of the House? If not, does he propose to consider the issue of such instructions and place them on the table of the House in due course?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a), (c) and (d). A set of orders regulating the seniority of officers serving in the Departments of the Secretariat is placed on the table of the House.

(b) It is not understood what the Honourable Member means by "War Organisation". The above rules are observed generally by all other Departments of the Government of India.

Copy of a Memorandum No. 98/43-Ests., dated the 24th April, 1943, from Home Department, to All Departments of the Government of India.

SUBJECT:—Decision that the seniority of an officer in a particular grade is to be determined by the date of permanent appointment in that grade, and not by his total service in the Department.

The undersigned is directed to state that after consultation with the Federal Public Service Commission it has been decided that the seniority of an officer in a particular grade should be regulated in accordance with the following principles:—

(a) In the absence of special rules to the contrary, an officer's seniority in any grade should be determined by the date of his permanent appointment to that grade. If two officers are appointed permanently to a particular grade on the same day, then seniority in that grade should be determined with reference to the dates on which they began to officiate continuously in that grade.

(b) When seniority is taken into consideration for the purpose of promotion from any grade to a higher grade or post, it should be reckoned not with reference to total service in the Department or Office concerned but to length of service from the date of permanent appointment in the former grade only and in cases of the kind referred to in the second sentence of clause (a) from the date on which the officers concerned began to officiate continuously in that grade.

Copy of an Office Memorandum No. 20/1/40-Ests(S), dated the 14th May, 1940, from the Government of India, Home Department, New Delhi, to All Departments of the Government of India.

SUBJECT:—Determination of the relative seniority of candidates appointed by direct recruitment and by promotion.

Enquiries have not infrequently been received in this Department as to the relative seniority of candidates obtained by transfer from other Departments and offices or of those appointed as direct recruits *vis-a-vis* persons already employed in the Department or office concerned. As it is desirable that there should be uniformity of practice in this matter, the following principles are laid down for the information and guidance of Departments and offices:—

(a) Except in cases covered by rule 19-A(a) (iii) (A) of the Government of India, Ministerial Establishment (Recruitment, Promotion and Seniority) Rules, the seniority of a candidate obtained by transfer from another Department or office shall be reckoned from the date of his joining the new Department or office.

(b) The seniority of a candidate appointed on probation shall be reckoned from the date of such appointment and not from the date of confirmation.

(c) The seniority of candidates appointed to newly created posts or vacancies which are filled partly by promotion or transfer and partly by direct recruitment (i.e., in the Assistant's grade, class I in the Secretariat and the First and the Second Divisions in attached offices) shall be determined according as, under the rules, the vacancy to be filled by direct recruitment or that to be filled by promotion occurred earlier. For instance, in a Department where two permanent or quasi-permanent vacancies occur, even simultaneously in the Assistant's grade and the first vacancy is in accordance with the cycle meant for a direct recruit, the direct recruit will rank in seniority above the departmental candidate (i.e., the candidates appointed by promotion or transfer) even though he joins his post after the departmental candidate has been promoted and confirmed.

2. These orders will apply to vacancies filled on and after the date of this office memorandum, the seniority of candidates appointed in vacancies filled before that date being determined by whatever orders were in force in the Department or office concerned. It is requested that these orders may kindly be communicated to the offices, if any, attached to the Finance Department/etc.

Copy of Office Memorandum No. 20/25/40-Ests(S), dated the 11th December, 1940, from the Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department to all Departments of the Government of India and the Political Department.

SUBJECT:—*Determination of the seniority of candidates posted to permanent and quasi-permanent vacancies.*

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Home Department Office Memoranda No. 3/68/37-Ests(S), dated the 8th June and 17th October, 1938, and to say that in accordance with the system detailed therein, a number of candidates on the top of the Federal Public Service Commission examination list are reserved for nomination to permanent vacancies direct and nomination to quasi-permanent vacancies is started from below that position. As a result of this system, a candidate higher in the list has to wait until his turn for nomination to a permanent vacancy comes while a candidate junior to him in the list may get employment earlier on a quasi-permanent basis. If the higher candidate happens to be nominated to the same office after the lower candidate has been appointed, the former is naturally junior to the latter. It also happens sometimes that a candidate, who, on account of his rank, was reserved for a permanent vacancy is nominated to a quasi-permanent vacancy due to the non-occurrence of the expected number of permanent vacancies with the result that, under the circumstances explained above, he becomes junior to those lower in the list. The system of posting by which a candidate higher in the list is thus rendered junior to the one lower in that list for the purposes of promotion, etc., gives rise to genuine grievances, except of course, in the case of those appointed with a view to securing proper communal representation in the services. It has accordingly been decided that the following procedure should be observed in determining seniority of candidates of the category mentioned above.

(a) When a candidate higher in the list (taking also into account the effects of the communal roster) is appointed to a permanent vacancy in a Department or the office to which a lower candidate has already been appointed to a quasi-permanent vacancy, the former should, in all circumstances, be reckoned as senior to the latter.

(b) For the purposes of confirmation, the orders contained in paragraph 3 of the Home Department, Office Memorandum No. 20/20/39-Ests. (S), dated the 17th August, 1939, should apply, except in the following case.

When a candidate who, on account of his rank, was reserved for a permanent vacancy is nominated to a quasi-permanent vacancy owing to the non-occurrence of the expected number of permanent vacancies, he should be treated, for the purpose of seniority, as if he had been nominated to the first quasi-permanent vacancy that occurred in the Department or the office concerned after the list to which he belongs came into force, irrespective of the date of his nomination. This seniority should hold good both for the purpose of confirmation and promotion. When future nominations are made the necessary intimation on this point will be sent to the Department concerned.

2. The above decision should apply to candidates posted on the results of the examination held in December, 1937, and subsequent examinations.

HOME DEPARTMENT SECTION DEALING WITH COMMUNAL REPRESENTATIONS, etc., IN SECRETARIAT STAFF

727. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state which section of the Home Department deals with cases relating to communal representation and other service questions relating to the Secretariat staff?

(b) Is the officer-in-charge of the Section a Muslim? If not, are Government satisfied that he safeguards the interests of the minority communities which this Section of the Home Department is intended to safeguard?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of appointing a suitable Muslim officer for this post?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) These questions are dealt with in the Establishment (Special) Section of the Home Department.

(b) There are two officers immediately in charge of that section, namely, an Assistant Secretary and a Deputy Secretary. All important cases are submitted to the Secretary. It is not clear to which officer my Honourable friend refers, but none of these officers is a Muslim. I might, however, point out that the Home Department itself, and not any particular officer, is responsible for safeguarding the interests of the minority communities.

(c) The distribution of work amongst officers in a department must depend on departmental and administrative convenience. Government cannot accept the suggestion that particular class of work should be allocated only to an officer of a particular community.

HEALTH OF SETH GOVIND DAS.

728. *Pandit Shambhudayal Misra: (a) Is the Honourable the Home Member aware of the report which appeared in the various newspapers about the ill-health of Seth Govinddass, M.L.A., at present detained in Damoh Jail?

(b) Is it a fact that he is suffering from giddiness since a considerable time and now he remains unconscious for some hours?

(c) Is it a fact that he had applied to the Government of the Central Provinces to get him examined and treated by some specialist doctor?

(d) Is it a fact that his application was rejected?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the condition of his health and the action taken as regards his treatment?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (e). Seth Govindas is detained in Damoh Jail under the orders of the Provincial Government and not those of the Government of India, but the Provincial Government has supplied the following information regarding his health.

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

Although he has complained of occasional giddiness for the last eight months, his general health is quite satisfactory. His request that he should be treated by his family physician and family vaidya was refused: he receives proper medical treatment when required.

HEALTH OF MR. PREMJAS RAI OF DELHI

729. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if one Mr. Premjas Rai of Delhi has been under detention under the orders of the Chief Commissioner of Delhi;

(b) if it is a fact that he was transferred from Delhi to Multan and from Multan to Ferozpur Jail where he is not keeping good health;

(c) if it is a fact that he is suffering from pain in his hand and also from stomach troubles due to which he is much reduced in weight and has been admitted in Hospital and X-rayed;

(d) if he has been X-rayed, the result of the X-ray examination; and

(e) whether his case has been examined periodically, and whether Government propose to release him in view of his present condition of health?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (d). I have asked for the information but it has so far not been received. I hope to be in a position to give all necessary information on 14th March when another question about Mr. Premjas Rai is to be answered.

(e) His case has been periodically reviewed, as are the cases of other detainees, but it is not proposed at present to release him.

RESTRICTIONS ON INTERVIEWS OF LALA SHANKAR LAL

730. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether Lala Shankar Lal, a security prisoner now confined at Coonoor (Madras), is allowed to attend to his business through correspondence as well as through interviews with his relations;

(b) when the last interview was held and whether he was allowed to talk on business matters;

(c) whether he could not hold his interview with his relations as he was not allowed to talk on business matters; and

(d) whether Government propose to ask the Madras Government not to place such restrictions on his interviews?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a), (b) and (c). Mr. Shankar Lal is allowed to write and receive business letters but he is only allowed interviews with members of the family on personal and domestic matters. His last interview with a relation was in April, 1944.

(d) I am prepared to reconsider as a special case whether he may be allowed to discuss business affairs with his relations.

POWER OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO WITHHOLD IN INDIVIDUAL CASES, PENSION, ETC., OF INDIAN RANKS

731. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if his attention has been drawn to correction slip No. 37 of November, 1936, purported to have been approved by the Secretary of State, empowering the Government of India to withhold in individual cases, the grant of service, disability, family pension and children's allowances or arrears thereof to Indian ranks?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will he please state the particular section of the particular Act of the Indian Legislature or of the British Parliament under which this power has been created and delegated to the Government of India?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) On the assumption that the Honourable member refers to correction slip No. 37 of November 1936 to Pension Regulations for the Army in India (1928 edition) the answer is in the affirmative:

(b) The Honourable Member is under a misapprehension. The position is that the subject "military pensions" is not a matter of legislation; it falls entirely within the scope of the 'Royal Prerogative'. Such pensions are in the nature of gifts or bounties from the Crown, and may therefore be granted or withheld at pleasure.

DISMISSALS BY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF VICEROY'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS GRANTED KING'S COMMISSIONS

732. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if his attention has been drawn to the fact that Viceroy's Commissioned Officers granted Commissions by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in the name of His Most Exalted and Illustrious Majesty the King Emperor of India have, while on 'active service' in the last war, been dismissed by orders of the Commander-in-Chief and the personal powers vested in the Commander-in-Chief under Section 13 of the Indian Army Act to dismiss the Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, have been exercised non-judicially by someone other than the Commander-in-Chief while their total previous service commencing from the date of enlistment to the date of the aforesaid dismissal have been forfeited without express orders either from the Commander-in-Chief or from any judicial body and irrespective of the fact whether on the date of their dismissal they had completed the terms of their first original enlistment and were serving on extended terms of enlistment forced on them by the war and by war requirement in personnel, etc.?

(b) If the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, will he please state the statutory authority to forfeit the total service of these officers with special reference to the limitations on the powers of the executive Government as to "forfeitures" and 'stoppages' contained in Sections 51, 43 (h) of the Indian Army Act and with special reference to limitation on the powers to dismiss contained in Section 96-B of the Government of India Act 1919?

(c) Will he please state the authority of the Non-Judicial body to govern Viceroy's Commissioned Officers on 'Active Service' by departmental rules and regulations as distinct from the consolidated law enacted and contained in the Indian Army Act, 1911?

(d) What action does he propose to undo the injury caused by actions of the non-judicial body referred to in (a) and when, by what body and under what procedure is the said injury meant to be redressed and dealt with legally?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) I regret that after this lapse of time, it is not possible for me to verify the facts stated by the Honourable Member. If he would be so good as to quote a specific instance of the cases he has in mind, I shall be glad to make enquiries.

(b), (c) and (d). Do not arise at this stage in view of the answer to (a).

FINDINGS OF MEDICAL BOARDS ON INDIAN PERSONNEL IN RESPECT OF DISABILITIES CONTRACTED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

733. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if his attention has been drawn to the fact that findings of Medical Boards on Indian personnel in respect of disabilities contracted on 'Active Service' during the last war and in this war also certifying that the disabilities are not contracted on Field or Foreign service not attributable to Military Service and not aggravated by war service, have been looked upon by the Controller of Military Accounts and by higher authorities also as constituting a warrant sufficient to withhold not only the disability element of the Indian personnel's pension but also the special, and mustering-out pension customarily paid on discharge brought by circumstances beyond one's control and on reduction of establishment on public grounds?

(b) What action does he propose to take to redress the grievance referred to in (a)?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) The Honourable Member is under a misapprehension. The facts are that when a disability is considered by the medical authorities to be not attributable to, nor aggravated by military service, the case is referred for the decision of the Government of India. If the medical board's finding is upheld, no disability pension or element is payable, but any service pension or gratuity admissible under the rules will be paid.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer to (a) above.

ARMY RECRUITMENT

734. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the latest figures for army recruitment for both the combatant and non-combatant ranks, province and community-wise; and

(b) in case the above information cannot be given for security reasons, whether he proposes to give percentages of such recruitment, province-wise and community-wise?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). No statistics of recruitment by Provinces and communities of officers in the Indian Army are maintained at General Headquarters. As regards other ranks, I lay on the table a statement giving percentages of total enrolment, both combatant and non-combatant, by Provinces and communities. I regret that separate figures for combatants and non-combatants are not available.

STATEMENT

(a) Estimated percentage by Provinces of total Enrolment, Combatant and Non-Combatant, of Indian Army.

Madras	22.0
Bombay	6.1
Bengal	6.6
United Provinces	13.8
Punjab	29.9
Bihar	3.3
C. P. and Berar	1.9
Assam	0.8
N. W. F. P.	4.0
Sind	0.4
Orissa	0.6
Total	89.4

(b) Total Enrolment, Combatant and Non-Combatant, by main Communities:

	Percentage.
Hindus	47
Muslims	30
Sikhs	6
Gurkhas	5
Christians	5
Others	7
	100

735* and 736*. [Cancelled.]

TRANSFERRED UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS†

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT

60. **Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above in all the Departments and Offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The collection of the information asked for would entail expenditure of time and labour which would hardly be justifiable in war-time.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

61. **Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above in all the Departments and Offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I lay a statement on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

Planning and Development Department

Designation and scale of the post	Total Number of posts sanctioned	Number of Sikhs	Number of Christians	Number of Europeans and Anglo-Indians	Number of Parsis	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

(i) Secretariat

Stenographers						
Rs. 175—124—375—15—450—25—500 (Old).	11*					
Rs. 125—5—300 (New).						
Assistants.						
Rs. 200—15—500 (Old).	16†					
Rs. 140—10—310—15—400 (New).						
Rs. 100—10—200 (Unified)				1		

All posts are temporary.

*Includes 3 vacant posts.

†Includes 3 vacant posts.

†The question hour of the 6th March, 1945, having been eliminated, owing to the adjournment of the House without transacting any business, the answers to unstarred questions for that day were, in pursuance of convention, laid on the table of the House today.—Ed. of D.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(i) Secretariat—contd.							
Assistant-in-Charge							
Pay of Assistant plus Rs. 40 special pay.	3	1					
Superintendents							
Rs. 600—40—800 (Old)	2						
Rs. 500—20—600 (New)							
Assistant Secretary							
Rs. 1,000—50—1,250	2						
Under Secretary							
Rs. 600—50—1,000 plus Rs. 300 special pay.	1						
Adviser on Mineral Development							
Rs. 2,000	1					1	
Deputy Secretary							
Senior scale of I.C.S., plus Rs. 400 special pay.	2						
Economist							
Rs. 2,500	1						
Joint Secretary							
Rs. 3,000	1						
Secretary							
Rs. 4,000	1						

All posts are temporary.

(ii) Office of the Industrial Adviser

Stenographers							
Rs. 125—5—300	5						
Assistants							
Rs. 120—8—200—10—350 (Old).	5						
Rs. 140—10—310—15—400 (New).							
Rs. 100—10—200 (Unified)							
Superintendent							
Rs. 400—20—500	1						
Investigators							
Rs. 200—20—400	2						
Research Officer							
Rs. 350—50—700	1						
Assistant Industrial Adviser							
Rs. 600—50—900	4*						
Deputy Industrial Adviser							
Rs. 1,200—50—1,500	5†					1	
Assistant to Industrial Adviser.							
Rs. 1,000—50—1,250	1						
Industrial Adviser							
Rs. 3,750	1						

All posts are temporary.

*Includes 1 vacant post.

†Includes 1 vacant post.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER WAR DEPARTMENT

62. **Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the War Secretary be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of

Rs. 100 p. m. and above in all the Departments and offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The information required by the Honourable Member is not readily available, and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour which is unjustifiable in war-time.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

63. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since the creation of the Defence Department in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above in all the Departments and offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The information is not readily available, and I regret I am unable to undertake its collection, as it would involve expenditure of time and labour which is not justifiable in war-time.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER FINANCE DEPARTMENT

64. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above in all the Departments and offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The information asked for is not readily available, and its collection would entail an expenditure of time and labour which would not be justifiable in the present war-time conditions.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER HOME DEPARTMENT

65. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above in all the Departments and offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

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

RECRUITS IN EMERGENCY CADRE OF INDIAN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS SERVICE

66. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

- the total number of recruits in the Emergency Cadre of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service and the number of Sikhs; and
- if there is no Sikh the reason therefor?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The total number of officers at present in the Emergency Cadre is 52. It so happens that no Sikh is included.

(b) Promotion to the Emergency Cadre from the subordinate gazetted and non-gazetted establishments in the Indian Audit Department is made by selection and purely on merit. If candidates qualified by ability and experience are forthcoming from the various communities, the Auditor General endeavours, other things being equal, to secure their reasonable representation.

TOLL COLLECTED BY POLICE FROM TONGAWALLAS AT CONNAUGHT PLACE, NEW DELHI

67. Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

- if he is aware that a person is appointed by the Police authorities in Delhi Province to collect a toll at the rate of annas two per trip from the

Tongawallas using the Tonga Stand at Connaught Place (near Odeon Cinema), New Delhi; if he is not aware, whether he proposes to make enquiries and acquaint himself with the facts; if not, why not; and

- how this collected money is disposed of?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) No such appointment has been made or order issued by the police authorities concerned.

- Does not arise.

PROCEDURE RE WINDING UP OF ACCOUNT IN GOVERNMENT OR RAILWAY PROVIDENT FUND

68. Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

- if it is a fact that a member of the Government or Railway Provident Fund is entitled to wind up his account in that Fund while he is in service; and

- the rule or regulation in which the procedure for the winding up is prescribed?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) A member of a Government Provident Fund or the Railway Provident Fund is not entitled to wind up his account in the Fund while still in service, save in the following special circumstances:

- when he has proceeded on leave preparatory to retirement, or, if he is employed in a vacation department is on leave preparatory to retirement combined with vacation; or

- while on leave, has been permitted to retire or has been declared by a competent medical authority to be unfit for further service; and

- in the case of the Defence Savings Provident Fund, on the expiry of twelve months from the date on which the present war is declared to have terminated.

- The rules concerning this special provision and the procedure for the winding-up are:

Rule 11 of the I. C. S. Provident Fund Rules, 1942;

Rule 15 of the I. C. S. (Non-European Members) Provident Fund Rules;

Rule 21 of the Secretary of State's Services (General Provident Fund) Rules;

Rules 29 and 30 of the General Provident Fund (Central Services) Rules;

Rules 23 and 24 of the Contributory Provident Fund Rules (India);

Rule 13 of the Defence Savings Provident Fund Rules; and

Rule 1335 in the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume 1.

CASES OF CHEATING, THEFT, ETC, REGISTERED IN POLICE STATIONS IN DELHI PROVINCE

69. Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the number of cases of cheating, theft, dacoities and robbery registered in the Police Stations within Delhi Province during the preceding year together with the result of their disposals and the reasons for the increase or decrease over the preceding three years?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The attached statement shows the number of cases registered and decided during the year 1944.

The increase in cheating and theft cases is due to the remarkable increase in population, the importation of coolie labour and the general rise in the prices of foodstuffs and other necessities of life. Dacoities and robberies do not show any appreciable variation.

	Statement			
	Registered	Convicted	Acquitted	Untraced
Cheating	101	23	14	30
Theft	3,305	560	136	2,269
Dacoity	11	2	1	4
Robbery	69	19	14	31

+Parts (a) and (a) (iii) of the answer were subsequently amended in answer to unstarred question No. 89 for the 14th March, 1945.—Ed. of D.

SLACKNESS IN POLICE PATROLS IN DELHI

70. Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the roads, streets and lanes in the city of Delhi are required to be regularly patrolled by the Police Officials day and night;

(b) if it is a fact that now-a-days no police official is seen on duty at any time during the day in those places; and

(c) the reasons for not providing the citizens with the assistance of police officials at all times during day and night at those places?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

GRADE 'A' UNIFIED SCALE EXAMINATION IN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES

71. Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) what criterion has been adopted by the Auditor General in India for conducting the Grade A examination of the unified scale; and

(b) if it is a fact that the Auditor General in India has issued general instructions to all the Audit and Accounts Offices under him regarding that examination; if so, why those instructions are not followed only by the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, in conducting the said examination?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The information asked for by the Honourable Member has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

GRADE 'A' UNIFIED SCALE EXAMINATION IN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES

72. Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the object of introducing Grade A examination for the unified scales in Audit and Accounts Offices?

THROWING OPEN DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATIONS TO TYPISTS OF DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI

73. Seth Sheodass Daga: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that typists in the office of the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi, are not allowed to sit in any departmental examinations and thus are debarred from bettering their lot; and

(b) whether he proposes to instruct the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, to throw open all the examinations to the typists?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The information asked for by the Honourable Member has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

THROWING OPEN GRADE 'A' UNIFIED SCALE EXAMINATION TO LOWER DIVISION CLERKS OF DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI

74. Seth Sheodass Daga: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that after five years continuous service a lower division clerk in the Deputy Accountant General's Office, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi, is allowed to sit in the S. A. S. Examination? If so, why is he not allowed to sit in the Grade A Examination of the unified scales which is of a lower standard?

ACCREDITED PRESS CORRESPONDENTS.

75. Seth Sheodass Daga: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please lay on the table of the House a complete and up-to-date list of the Accredited Press Correspondents with the Government of India showing the class in which they are grouped?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 71.

‡For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 73.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: A list containing the required information is in the Library of the House, where it was placed in connection with Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam's question No. 33, dated the 1st March, 1945.

PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS OF PRESS CORRESPONDENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

76. Seth Sheodass Daga: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please place in the Library of the House a copy of the proceedings of the meetings of the Press Correspondents' Advisory Committee and its Sub-Committees held to date? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The minutes of meetings of the Press Correspondents' Advisory Committee and its Accreditation Sub-Committee are treated as secret. I am not prepared, therefore, to comply with the Honourable Member's request.

MEASURES FOR SUPPRESSION OF IMMORAL TRAFFIC IN DELHI

77. Seth Sheodass Daga: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the measures adopted by the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, for the suppression of the trade of immoral traffic by pimps and touts, Turkish Baths, Hotels, etc., in Delhi, especially on the Roshanara Garden Road, Nicholson Road, Queens Road, Fatehpuri and Katra Baryan? If no measures have been taken, what are the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Honourable Member's attention is invited to my reply dated 22nd February, 1945, to Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan's starred question No. 476.

PROVISION FOR S.A.S. PASSED CLERKS OF DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI

78. Seth Sheodass Daga: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state what action has been taken by the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Simla, to provide the recently S. A. S. passed clerks in the S. A. S. cadre of the office of the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi?

ELIGIBILITY FOR GRADE 'C' UNIFIED SCALE OF TYPISTS IN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES

79. Seth Sheodass Daga: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that typists in all the Audit and Accounts Offices are eligible for "C" grade of the unified scales which has been recently introduced by Government?

(b) Is it a fact that a special pay of Rs. 10 per mensem is being given to the typists in all other Audit and Accounts Offices except the Posts and Telegraphs Audit and Accounts Offices? If so, why?

THE GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume General Discussion of the Budget.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the other day, when I got up in my seat to say a few words about the sixth Budget of the Honourable the Finance Member, we were suddenly overtaken by the sudden and tragic shadow of death of our late colleague Mr. K. S. Gupta. I will therefore begin my speech and say what I started saying the other day. This sixth Budget of the Honourable the Finance Member can be styled only as a thesis on extortion, not only taxation. It is nothing but a thesis on extortion even for future. I say it is a thesis on extortion in many different ways, by taxation to the full, by levying an excise duty and by levying a tax on the poor man's tobacco and also on different forms of communication in India. That is why I style it a thesis on extortion. If this thesis were read in the University of Delhi, I

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 73.

[Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali]

am sure the Honourable the Finance Member would obtain a Degree and would be elevated to a Doctorate. The people of India, however, know that there is absolutely no relief for them and even I should say that the pensioners who are getting only Rs. 100 or Rs. 200 are getting absolutely on relief. They are getting no relief in the form of dearness allowance even and their families are allowed to starve without food. The Budget has been presented under such distressing conditions.

The Honourable the Finance Member had an opportunity to travel long distances on various missions connected with the finances of India. But what has been the result of all his trips? First of all he went to U. S. A. For what? For monetary and financial conference. What happened? His proposal was for an orderly liquidation of war finances. Again, he was forced for reasons which he knows well to go to England. He talked about India's sterling balances with the officials in England. There he was asked to furnish the required data for settlement of accounts. My submission is, he failed in both the two journeys and he brought nothing to the poor people of India, except taxes, famine, devastation and pestilence, and nothing more. Nothing has been settled. Issues were raised in both the two countries which he could not meet. Under those conditions I am constrained to say he has absolutely failed in his missions. If the Government of India missions are to fail in this way and expenses are incurred, what will happen to this country? If the Finance Member of the Government of India is not listened to by the U. S. A. and U. K. financial magnates, then I am afraid we will simply be in a quandary. We do not know what to do. Another beggarly mission has been sent under the guidance of Sir Akbar Hydari and I am afraid that will also fail. The mission was sent to find some sort of goods for India from England and in this way an attempt is being made to wipe out the sterling balances remaining to the credit of India. From our past experience, I can easily say what will happen. We will be simply told no accounts, no data. These are the conditions under which the poor people in India are labouring. What becomes of the boasted British trusteeship which the Government have always been telling us? What is the duty of a trustee? To protect the interest of those who are put under his care. Is this the way to protect? If that is the position, then I would appeal to the Government of India that the sooner this trusteeship is put an end to the better for us. The Finance Member went to England, there he discussed and he returned without getting any fruitful result. At the same time the Honourable the Finance Member has not explained 124 crores increase in the total of India's reciprocal aid in 1945-46 to U. K. May I ask if India is a big lease-lend supplier of materials at some contractual rate? I submit this has not been properly explained. These are the conditions under which we labour.

Sir I have been told by my Party Secretary to curtail my speech to ten minutes duration, although 15 minutes have been allowed. I am quite prepared to abide by the wish of our Secretary. I will say a few words about the grow more food campaign. We know the condition in which the poor agriculturists are placed in India. This grow more food campaign is a great hoax. We all know how *taccavi* loans were distributed in India and how they were realised. Our Food Member is always solicitous of inviting some suggestions from this side, some constructive schemes for increasing the food output of the country. I am prepared to say a few words on that. To feed India six crores tons of cereals and one crore and two hundred lakhs tons of pulses are necessary, and the maximum potentiality of the cultivated land has been reached. Therefore, my question is, what have Government done about that? If intensification of irrigation were taken up then increased yield per acre of different crops would be possible. If plant food besides ordinary manure on a scientific basis were taken up then increase in cereals, vegetables and sugar-cane would result. I am stating this from the experience that I have myself as a cultivator. The existing yield of wheat is 675 pounds per acre and if good and increased seed were provided more yield of wheat would result. Owing

to war conditions the supply of bullocks has become an impossibility and very costly. The slaughter of animals has devastated and ruined not only land but also the health of the people simply because ghee and the products of milk are not to be found very easily, even as much as may be needed to feed the children of India.

Now, Sir, a radical change in the system of land tenure and holdings was necessary and was not done. The cultivator can produce two blades instead of one by the means which I have just described. If these means are not adopted the result will be that India will not be able to produce what is needed.

Sir Henry Richardson (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, last Wednesday we heard the Finance Member give the House the sixth and last account of his stewardship. Happily he is to be with us here in this House a few weeks longer before he leaves India, so it is not yet the time for anything in the way of a valedictory pronouncement from me on behalf of my Party. But before passing on to my observations on the Budget I would like to say that once again we are indebted to Sir Jeremy Raisman for a clear and lucid exposition of a complicated set of accounts and for his straightforward explanation of the financial and economic issues before the country. The Honourable the Finance Member does not need me to defend him against his critics. But I would like to say before I go any further, how strongly I and, I believe the vast majority of the Members of this House, deplore the personal attack which was made upon him the day before yesterday and the language that was employed for the purpose. Now, Sir, time and repetition has made the main outlines of the war budgets familiar to most of us. Heavy taxation, a swelling volume of currency controls, a high price level and a complete change in the balance of India's overseas indebtedness are the chief landmarks of the new financial regime under which we live. This year I am glad to note that no new disturbance of the financial structure is reported by the Honourable the Finance Member and that on the contrary there are some signs that stability is being attained. New taxation is of a moderate order, the inflationary gap is no wider but on the contrary appears to be firmly held, controls and price levels are working more effectively and a more liberal imports policy may be expected to mitigate somewhat the rather artificial character of our overseas trading account. Whatever the necessity, the almost completely closed economy in which we have been living for the last few years cannot be maintained to the end of time, nor is it in India's best interests that it should. All these developments lead me, Sir, to think that we are now reaching a stage where some of the worst distortions of war finance can be straightened out, and the Honourable the Finance Member and his staff are entitled to our thanks for the vigilance which they have brought to our affairs during the past twelve months.

I was naturally glad, as I have already said, that new taxation is of a moderate order, but I was particularly glad to hear the Honourable the Finance Member's allusion to Government's determination to devote more attention to the subject of tax evasion and the enforcement of existing obligations, because this is a subject to which my Party has always attached the greatest importance and we have regularly advocated the more stringent application of the powers which Government possess to deal with this major social evil. As I listened to the Honourable the Finance Member. I felt, although he did not say so, that there was a direct connection between his remarks upon this subject and his announcement in the early part of his speech that taxes on income had suffered a deterioration of about Rs. 9 crores—a figure which a mere miscalculation in budgeting would hardly explain. So, Sir, we welcome Government's determination to wage new war against evasion belated and overdue as this decision is, for I recall that my Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir in one of his speeches a year ago declared that the "pay-as-you-go scheme" which we were then considering should be deferred until arrears of tax were collected. I did not follow him all the way in that contention, but I thought then, as I think now, that there is very little of justice in a policy which exacts the last anna from the honest taxpayer, and even makes him pay in advance (for that

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is what pay-as-you-go in its first year meant) whilst leaving the dishonest citizen to dodge his way through the loopholes created by administrative shortcomings. I must say however that we sincerely hope that such steps as are to be taken, will not place further inconvenience upon the honest taxpayer. Then, Sir, there is another kind of arrears of taxation in which no real guilt attaches to the assessee. I refer to the arrears created by the delays and circumlocutions of the assessing authority. The Honourable the Finance Member takes credit, and probably justifiably so, for the fact that in the last year E. P. T. assessments have been speeded up and some of the back-log worked off. I congratulate him; but I am also bound to tell him that much remains to be done. For it is within my personal knowledge, and it is the very general experience of my constituents that there are still considerable and, we believe unnecessary, delays in final assessments. There are many companies of all kinds who would be only too glad to get outstanding tax obligations off the liabilities side of their Balance Sheets and to get rid of money which is sterile and in reserve against tax claims yet to be determined. In this matter the Honourable Member's department must help itself with more realism and vigour, for we in this House cannot assist him, except by good advice and exhortation. If a real drive is now embarked upon and arrears of assessment are cleared up, it is obvious that the revenues will benefit accordingly, and certainly industrial finance will be the healthier.

I have not hitherto suspected our esteemed Finance Member of being a Socialist, though I suppose in these days of astonishing changes we are all of us coming under the influence of new creeds and that as to personal beliefs, very few of us stand precisely where we stood five or six years ago. Nonetheless I confess I was very surprised to listen to the Honourable Member's suggestion, towards the end of his speech last Wednesday, that the State might find it necessary to nationalise certain industries in order to have at its disposal additional sources of income. Coming from the quarter it did, I am obliged to say this sounded like very dangerous heresy, for the meaning of the Honourable Member's remarks, if I understood them aright, is something very different to the usual advocacy of State ownership of public utility enterprises. From many points of view the numerous excursions of the State into trade and industry during the war have not enhanced the reputation of the State in these difficult arts of commerce. There are no grounds for thinking that Government in India is any better qualified than any other government for undertaking State ownership and trading, and I feel I must utter a warning against entertaining the idea that somehow other Governments of the future will be able to swell their revenues by profits earned as the result of direct participation in the country's trade. Here I should like, if I may, to quote from a penetrating examination of the merits of State ownership which I recently came across. The author, a Mr. Wyndham, denies that the question can be answered by reference to the experience of totalitarian war, for he points that the conditions that it imposes on its victims are not compatible with the freedoms of peace. The concentration of production upon one over-mastering purpose and for one supreme consumer could be repeated in peace what his consumption should be. But freedom of choice in consumption is one of the prized elements of Western civilization, and in the absence of a purpose only were the State to assume the right of deciding for the individual as well defined and as universally accepted as the defence of the country in war, it would hardly be abandoned. The profit motive has hitherto been the test that industry was satisfying human needs, and the test also of its efficiency in doing so. Losses incurred in joint stock companies are absorbed by the shareholders in a loss of dividends. Public corporations have no such cushion and their Directors are consequently tempted to play for safety. These criticisms apply with even greater force to government control over another class of industries. What planning or development board would have pioneered cheap motor cars, refrigerators or radios, asks Mr. Wyndham? And are great

concerns built up by their founder's genius to be turned into public corporations, or to have State-nominated chairman imposed on them, because their Directors have succeeded in developing them into large-scale basic industries? What encouragement would this be to enterprise and imagination? The advocates of private enterprise therefore claim that industry should be left to regularize its own expansionist policy, the Government confining its actions to indirectly fostering regularity by its monetary, budgetary and taxation policies.

I commend those remarks not only to the Honourable the Finance Member, but also to his colleague the Honourable Member for Planning and Development. And that, Sir, brings me on to the subject of post-war planning, about which I am constrained to ask Government a straight question. Let me say, Sir, that within its proper limits we all welcome planning. Modern life has become so complex that we cannot do without some kind of overall direction. The undiluted *laissez-faire* of the nineteenth century will no longer do. But I should like to know whether it is Government's intention to surrender its collective judgment to the new Department of Planning and Development and whether in fact that Department is to be the supreme policy-making limb of the Government of India, or whether, as I think they should be, its activities are to be confined to investigation and target-making? I hope that either now, or later on, an answer will be given to this important question.

At a later stage members of my Party will have something to say to the House on the subject of retrenchment of expenditure. Meanwhile, I will only say that it is a subject which is very much in our mind and one in which we think that even now, under war conditions, there is considerable scope for Government to reduce unnecessary expenditure and waste, which we do not believe are inseparable from the conduct of war on its present scale. The ever enlarging activities of Government in all its branches are a development which we consider require the closest scrutiny, and I was disappointed that the Finance Member's speech made no reference to the idea of economy and retrenchment. "Peace, retrenchment and reform" was the slogan of a once great British political party. In our view there is certainly a case for seeing how much retrenchment can be effected in these days of big figures, big deficits, and ambitious spending. I commend the general principle to the Honourable the Finance Member's earnest consideration.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): The outstanding feature of the present Budget is the provision of defence expenditure on a colossal scale. In 1943-44 the defence expenditure amounted to no less a figure than Rs. 368 crores on revenue account and Rs. 39½ crores on capital account. In the current year defence expenditure amounts to Rs. 397 crores on revenue account and 59½ crores on capital account; while for the ensuing year defence expenditure is estimated at Rs. 394 crores on revenue account and nearly Rs. 18 crores on capital account. Now, Sir, the total war expenditure amounts to Rs. 407 crores in the past year; Rs. 456 crores in the current year and Rs. 412 crores for the ensuing year.

Sir, in a rich country like the United States of America or the United Kingdom these amounts may appear to be very small, but for a poor country like India these figures are staggering. I must also point out that, in addition to these staggering figures of defence expenditure, there are certain other items which may be regarded as concealed items of war expenditure. They are with regard to transport arrangements, the construction of railway lines for defence purposes, and so forth.

Not only are these amounts very large in themselves, but there is a tendency in defence expenditure to exceed the Budget estimates by large figures. We find that in 1943-44 defence expenditure exceeded the estimates by as much as 96 crores and in the current year it is expected that the defence expenditure will exceed the revised estimates by 120 crores.

These figures tell their own tale, and if we compare the present defence expenditure with the pre-war normal expenditure on defence, what do we find? In 1938-39 defence expenditure amounted to only 36 crores. In the pre-war

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years we from this side of the House always complained that the defence expenditure of the country was placed at a high level and we urged the reduction of such expenditure. Now, Sir, we find that the Defence expenditure is ten or eleven times as much as it was in 1938-39.

Again, how do you account for the excess expenditure during the last year and the current year over the estimates? The Honourable the Finance Member says that the Japanese invasion was the principal cause for this excess expenditure. If that were the real cause, then at least in the ensuing year there should be a substantial reduction. But we find that the provision of defence expenditure on revenue account for the coming year is almost as much as that of the current year.

Let us take the Honourable the Finance Member at his word: Let us agree for the sake of argument that this expenditure was due mainly to the Japanese invasion. My Honourable friend the Finance Member says that the price which we paid to protect ourselves from the Japanese invader was a very small one. In this connection the question may be asked, Why did Japan invade India? Was there any grudge harboured by Japan against India? Was there any separate quarrel between India and Japan apart from the fact that India is associated with the United Nations in the prosecution of the war against Japan? No, nothing of the kind. Japan invaded India, because India has from the very beginning of the war been regarded as the most important base, the vital base, of the war effort of the United Nations in South Eastern Asia.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Why did Japan invade China?

Dr. P. N. Banerjā: In recent times India has become what has been described in a recent pamphlet issued by the Government and known as "India's Part in the Fifth year of the War" as the spring-board of the Eastern campaign. It is evident that it was with the object of destroying the vital base, it was with the object of weakening or damaging the spring-board that India was attacked by Japan. If that be so, why should India bear the whole cost of the burden of repelling Japan? My Honourable friend the Finance Member says that, in accordance with the financial settlement of 1940, as the operations took place within the borders of India, India has to pay. Is there much sense in that? Has a particular settlement to depend for its functioning on the latitude and longitude of the places where the operations take place? Or are not the different nations expected to pay according to certain fair standards? India has surely derived some benefit, perhaps a great benefit, from the repelling of the Japanese invasion; but did not the other nations derive any benefit? Did not the United Kingdom or the United States of America derive any benefit? What would have happened to the war effort of the United Nations if India had been conquered by the Japanese? Would not the United Nations have suffered? It is a strange argument to put forward that because the operations took place within such and such latitudes and such and such longitudes, therefore India must bear the whole burden of those operations.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): She did not bear the whole burden of them.

Dr. P. N. Banerjā: Then, what portion of the burden?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The portion which relates to the troops that she provided and the materials that she provided.

Dr. P. N. Banerjā: Is that a proper criterion? What should be the proper criterion for allocating the cost of the war between the different participants in the war? Certainly, this was not the proper criterion.

My Honourable friend the Finance Member told us that this Financial Settlement was the target of attacks from different quarters and from opposite points of view. True. I know that a deliberate attempt was made in Britain to have the Financial Settlement modified in favour of Britain, and I have no

hesitation in saying that the Finance Member put up a very stiff fight in order to defeat the designs of those reactionaries. I have a high regard for the honesty and integrity of the Honourable the Finance Member; I have watched his activities as a Finance Member both in this House and on the Committees. But I must say that, while he did a great deal to prevent the Financial Settlement from being modified against us, in a manner which would have proved prejudicial to India,—his attempts did not bear full fruit. He was unable to go very far, and have the financial Settlement modified and placed on a proper and reasonable basis.

Sir is it a fair basis,—a basis which is reasonable, just and equitable,—on which the Financial Settlement stands now? It is fair, is it just, that war expenditure should be allocated according to latitude and longitude? No. I am not one of those who say that this war is not our war, and that we should not contribute to the war effort. On the other hand, I think that India has made a good contribution,—more than its equitable share of contribution,—to the war effort, both directly and indirectly. India has contributed in men, material and money,—but the monetary sacrifice should not be pushed too far. That is what I urge. Sir, the consequences of this war on the people of India have been most disastrous. There has been a devastating famine in Bengal, there have been scarcities in many parts of India, and the aftermath of war will perhaps entail further difficulties all over the country. Still, I am prepared to make a proper contribution to the war effort in future.

Now, what should be the criterion for judging India's share? The Honourable Finance Member himself is not satisfied with the existing financial settlement, because towards the end of his speech he says it has not been possible to find out a criterion which may be regarded as just and proper. But I assert that it is possible to find out a criterion which is both just and proper, and that criterion is ability to pay. Ability to pay has been universally regarded throughout the civilised world as a fundamental principle in taxation. If you extend this principle to the allocation of the cost of war, we shall get a satisfactory basis for the solution of our difficulty. President Roosevelt said more than once that, when different nations are associated in a common effort, the share of the burden should be distributed according to each nation's capacity to bear the burden. That I urge as a proper criterion. If you accept this criterion there will be no grumbling on our part to submit to further war expenditure.

Now, Sir, if we look at the budgets of the Government of India during the last six years, what do we find? We find that taxation has been imposed on no less than ten occasions, and that the burden of this taxation has fallen on all classes of the people including the poorest. We also find that a heavy debt has been incurred, and that the burden of this also has fallen not only on the richest, but also on the poorest, classes of the population.

So far as the taxation proposals in the present Budget are concerned, I have no quarrel with the Honourable the Finance Member. I object, not to the method of taxation, but to the purpose of this taxation. As a matter of fact, I appreciate his decision to grant allowances for depreciation and for research in respect of income-tax. I welcome his decision to accept the principle of discrimination between earned incomes and unearned incomes, and I support him in his effort to prevent evasion of taxation. He has been very moderate in imposing further taxes in this Budget. But why? Because he feels that the limit of the taxable capacity of the people has been reached, and he looks to the other alternative, namely, borrowing.

Now, with regard to borrowing I should like to place certain fundamental facts before this House. In the first place, borrowing places a greater burden on the community than taxation. In the second place, borrowing places a greater burden on the poorer classes as compared to the richer classes. In the third place, borrowing transfers the burden from the present generation to the future generations, which is both immoral and economically undesirable. Lastly, Sir, we should remember that this Legislature has no say in the matter

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of borrowing. Considering these facts with regard to borrowing, I ask this House,—Is it desirable that a further large sum should be borrowed in order to meet the deficit in the coming year? With regard to the debt position, my Honourable friend himself points out that the loans amount to Rs. 833 crores and calls this an impressive figure. I say it is a staggering figure.

I ask this House to speak with one voice and unanimously urge that no further burdens shall be placed on the future generations of the country among whom will be included the starving millions of India.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions; Non-Muhammadan Rural): It is with a heavy heart and painful recollection of the tragic incident of that day that I rise in my seat to continue the loyal work for which my friend on my left died at his post of honour. The Leader of the European Group has bestowed much praise on the Finance Member because they all belong to the same body of exploiters, one through profits from commerce and the other through taxation. They may have mutual praise and mutual dinners, but we on this side cannot praise the Honourable the Finance Member. We hoped that after he goes home on retirement the white man's burden will descend on an Indian, but even that hope has been shattered. Nobody in this House or in the country outside believes in the promises of this Government, because this Government has not only deceived man, but has deceived even God by forcing the hands of the clock by an hour so much so that when God strikes 6 this Government strikes 7. And what was the reason put forward? It was for saving coal, but no one knows how coal is saved. Even the Honourable Member could not explain. Nobody believes in the budgeting system of this Government. This is a War Lords budget. The expenditure is enormous, we can not even imagine it. From Rs. 46 crores in normal times he has gone up to Rs. 400 crores and they are increasing taxes and borrowing every day.

This war is not of our seeking. We were never consulted and the leaders were never consulted; the country was never consulted. The war is not for the liberation of India. If it were for the liberation of India, I would give everything—every pie, our heads and our souls and our hearts. But it is not of our seeking and no announcement is made as to what would be the destiny of India after the war or during the war. But we are asked to pay and pay and pay more. So, if it had been for our liberation we would be ready to pay for it; but as it is for the perpetuation of our slavery and of imperial interests, so this bill must be paid by the Allies who brought in the war—by Messrs. Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill. These are the three big allies who are fighting this war for power and for influence over certain countries and certain parts of the world—America will have influence here and Britain will have influence there and Russia will have influence over certain other countries; these are the three big powers who are fighting; they have brought on the war and they must pay the bill, not India. We are practically exhausted. Our attitude really towards this war is in the language of the poet:

*"Tare bismilla kati tamasha hambhi dekhenge,
Bataste jan jagegi tamasha hambhi dekhenge."*

An Honourable Member: Translate.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: We have even exhausted our poetry: it cannot be translated; it is murdered if it is translated. We have exhausted on this side of the House all our arguments; while on the other side the Finance Member has exhausted all sources of taxation—snatching at tobacco and betel-nuts and E. P. T., income-tax, sugar, matches, excise—snatching this and that and everything and now he comes to the last thing—death duties which they call in India, *Kafan khasote Bill* (Coffin Snatching Bill) that is that thing which remains last, and whether that duty will have to be paid by India or not, will be known hereafter. To our National Government we will pay everything; we will give our blood, our honour, our soul—everything we will give to

our National Government. But to this Government, composed as it is, we want it to die unlamented and unsung—we will never give anything to this Government. Snatch they may, take they may as tribute: they may snatch everything by D. I. R. or under any orders, under the Indian Penal Code—they can snatch everything from us as they are doing; but we are not paying anything willingly.

Now, Sir, we cannot touch this War Department—we cannot touch anything; we can only touch the pay of a few clerks. This Viceroy is like Brahma the *chatur-mukha* Brahma of the Hindu Puranas: one title is Viceroy, the other is the Crown Representative; the third is Governor General at his discretion and the fourth is Governor General in Council. Like Brahma, he is spending Indian money on all sides under one name or another. We cannot touch this Crown representative's budget who spends 2 crores without asking us. The Political Department and the External Affairs Department are kept in *Purda*—we do not know what happens there. There is a political deadlock among the ruling princes—we cannot discuss it here—we do not know anything of what happens. Probably Mr. Amery may give a short summary in England; but we here are denied that courtesy even, and yet we have to pay the Bill. Expenditure on civil administration has also increased; and not only on the military side, but on the civil side from 11 to about 28 crores. Every department that we read in this labyrinth of figures—in small type and big type—the big black type predominates here indicating increase. The nation building departments show a small increase—24 lakhs to 53 lakhs in education; health has increased from 22 to 37 lakhs; but the police budget has increased from 29 lakhs to 291 lakhs in these centrally administered areas which consist of small and petty chief commissionerships and Baluchistan. Who can say that there is no police *raj* and who can deny the statement in the United States of Mrs. Vijay Lakshmi Pandit that India is a vast concentration camp? In my own province the police expenditure while I was an M. L. C. used to be about 14 crores, while it is about 4 crores now. Rs. 17,000 was distributed to the jail officials recently for suppressing that imaginary rebellion of August 1942; and five lakhs of rupees were distributed to the police by the present Home Member when he was the Chief Secretary in the United Provinces—Rs. 5 lakhs were distributed as *Inam* to the police. Look at this lavish expenditure.

As regards Broadcasting—the Honourable Member is not in his seat—the expenditure has increased phenomenally from 27 lakhs in 1938-39 to 94 lakhs in this year. In spite of our protests against the policy of broadcasting, the thing is increasing and increasing. What is the use of increasing your expenditure on dancing girls and paying them enormous honoraria when you have a war budget to pay? What is the use of bringing those musicians, like the Moghuls of old, and having dancing there? That expenditure ought to be curtailed. You can broadcast news, but not these dances and debauchery—in all fairness you must not broadcast all these things. It is not desirable in any circumstances. The radio policy has neither pleased the Hindi or the Urdu public, the policy requires revision.

The Honourable the Finance Member has bestowed praise on the food and textile departments. The man in the street does not approve of your controls which have practically failed. Even we, M.L.A.'s, have to bring our fuel from Ajmere Gate and our rations from a small shop at Asoka Road, where the rations are dirty. When we people supposed to be in the upper strata of life have to experience this difficulty, what about the poor man in the street? Everything has gone into the black market. We cannot get cloth unless we pay a heavy price in the black market. That is what is happening. The moment these controls are abolished, India will become better. Sugar we are given at 5 *chittaks* a week and that is very meagre quota for all.

As regards Posts and Telegraphs: that is the only useful department and they are very honest and hardworking people there: they have produced 10 crores of rupees, and only 2 crores is given to them. They deserve more

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pay in the subordinate grades: only the inspectors and superintendents are corrupt; the others are honest and they must be given more.

I shall now speak about the sterling balances. When I was in my place recently, a kisan came to me and asked "When will we see the real King George"—meaning a silver rupee—"and a golden sovereign, and when will this paper George disappear?" I was very much amused by the kisan's intelligence. He said when will we get real silver and gold money? We cannot have this dirty paper money—we have no place to keep it; it is easily burnt and soiled and so we cannot keep it and we must have the old money. Now, the Finance Member knows when that money will come; but he will not tell us about these sterling balances—whether they will be paid at all or whether they will be repudiated. He only knows it—lord and master of all, whether he will make an announcement from London when he goes there as special adviser or what he will do, we do not know.

Now, take the Planning Department. Here you find that Sir Ardeshir Dalal has separated from his colleagues, the Birlas and the Tatas.

P.M. In post-war period he says outside this House that India will be flowing with milk and honey; new heaven and earth; peace and plenty, and that our status will be raised. He says that everything will be nice and there will be a National Government. He says all this outside that there will be a National Government but not inside the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: More money is spent on committees and commissions and inquiries and nothing is spent on the man in the street.

I now come to the Executive Councillors. Their expenditure has increased to 11 lakhs 17 thousand. With the exception of the Railway Member and the Law Member, I would say that their conduct is not up to the proper standard. People who go higher and higher up must keep their tongues under control and even when provoked they should not be ruffled and they should keep calm and quiet.

"As my time is limited, I will only say that I cannot support this Budget. Even my sons, grandsons, great grandsons will not be able to pay this huge debt-accumulating. I do not know if it will be repudiated but unless it is repudiated it is going to fall on our sons, grandsons and great grandsons and they will not be able to pay it. With these words, I conclude my speech.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): While speaking on the Budget one is oppressed by a strong feeling of unreality, irresponsibility and helplessness. Here is all the paraphernalia of a supreme and sovereign legislature (*An Honourable Member*: "Not sovereign.")—I say 'paraphernalia' of sovereign Parliament—Here are the Treasury Benches sitting on the right of the Speaker and the Opposition sitting on the left of the Speaker. There are budget speeches, debates, there are ayes and noes lobbies. We walk in and we walk out. What is the result? (*An Honourable Member*: "Exercise!") What part of the budget is voted and what part is non-voted it is difficult to calculate from this book. Hardly less than 1/12th part of the Budget is voted and even on that small sum who cares for the vote of this House. The vote of this House is vetoed in quick succession, without giving any reason. Every year, the Honourable the Finance Member comes forward and makes a long speech for 100 minutes but he does not tell the House how and why and under what circumstances H. E. the Viceroy was constrained to upset the decision of this House. Ordinary courtesy demands that Government should give the reasons why they were forced to veto a particular decision of this House. There is not a word or a whisper about this extraordinary procedure. We were told that the veto is for extraordinary occasions only but here it has become a downright routine. It is used without slightest compunction and without hesitation.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This has nothing to do with the Budget. The Honourable Member must confine himself to the Budget. There will be other opportunities for dealing with political questions.

Sardar Mangal Singh: The Honourable the Finance Member lays claim to be the Finance Minister of a National Government. (*An Honourable Member*: "He does not claim.") He is behaving as an Indian—that is his claim. Last year when I said that as we were arguing from different premises it was difficult for us to agree. We are speaking here as the representatives of the taxpayers. He is speaking as the representative of British Imperialism and therefore it is difficult for us to agree. He indignantly protested that that is not the case. He says that he represents the Indian taxpayer as well. I am aware of his efforts at the World Monetary Conference in favour of India. I am also aware of the efforts which he made in his talks with the Treasury officials of His Majesty's Government. I am also aware of his failures—how much he was able to get for our country.

Coming to the Budget, I am sorry that it does not give any relief to low paid officials. We were expecting that he will give some relief to those people who are getting Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 3,000, that he will raise the exemption limit from Rs. 2,000 and take it up to 5,000 or at least 3,500. Although he has for the first time made a reference to earned and unearned incomes, that is a welcome reference in the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member of the Government of India but the relief he has given is very small and will not meet the requirements of the situation.

In the short time at my disposal I do not propose to make a speech but I will ask four simple questions. I am a simple villager and I do not want to lose myself in the intricacies of complicated figures. (*An Honourable Member*: "You do not look like a villager.") The first question is: What is the total war expenditure? How much has he actually spent from the Indian Treasury? I have not been able to get that from his speech or the books he has supplied. How much money has actually gone out of the Indian Treasury? He has not given that figure. I want a simple answer to a simple question. My friend Mr. Joshi tells me that he has mentioned it. I maintain he has not mentioned it. He has given the figure, only 456 crores. That is not the actual war expenditure. I want to ask from him how much he has spent on behalf of U. K. I want to know how much he has spent on behalf of the United Nations. I do not care how he accounts for these sums. I want to know the total sum that has been spent from the treasury of my country.

The next point which I want to understand is this. Last year the Honourable the Finance Member gave us revised figures of defence expenditure as 262 crores. That was in March. By 31st March that figure jumped up to 358 crores. Surely in those 15 days, no unexpected invasion or emergency happened.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No, no.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I know the reason which he gives. He says in his speech, "this was due partly to the fact that the Japanese fight took place within India instead of wholly outside India". But may I tell him that that fighting took place in summer season, several months before the Budget was prepared. My own suspicion is that large sums were included in the war budget under the so-called financial settlement because my Honourable friend was prevailed upon to put that burden on this country instead of U. K. defraying the whole expenditure.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Will the Honourable Member instead of harbouring suspicions revive his memory of the date when the Japanese actually invaded India? Exactly at the end of last financial year.

Sardar Mangal Singh: They invaded India in 1942. There was heavy fighting in Arakan sometime in 1943 when our people had to come back.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My Honourable friend seems to have forgotten that the Japanese really invaded India in force exactly a year ago.

Sardar Mangal Singh: That was after March.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions, Non-Muhammadan Rural): When did the British come?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is ancient history.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau, Indian Commerce): According to Seely, they never conquered India.

Sardar Mangal Singh: This year also the revised estimate has gone up to 456 crores and it is just possible that by 31st March this figure might also go up by another 100 crores. There is all the difficulty in accounting. I know the position of my Honourable friend the Finance Member, howsoever he may wish, he is ultimately prevailed upon by a superior Government to put these sums on to the Indian treasury. Then, Sir, as the Honourable the Leader of the Nationalist Party put it, if this expenditure was excessive, the expenditure was due to the fact that fighting was done inside this country. Then, how and why it is that for the next year also you have budgeted about 400 crores, though fighting is being done entirely outside the country. Even according to the terms of the financial settlement you will have to satisfy this House why this enormous expenditure is still necessary when the fighting is taking place not in India.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division, Non-Muhammadan Rural): He anticipates another invasion of India.

Sardar Mangal Singh: My next question is what is the amount of sterling debt and how much interest do we earn therefrom. I want to know whether sterling balance is a debt which U. K. owes to us? Or what it is? How much interest do I get on it? If it is a debt, as it should be, then I am entitled to ordinary bank rate of interest. If we calculate at the rate of 2½ per cent. it comes to about 30 crores. I am assuming that the sterling balance stands at the figure of 1,200 crores. At present we are getting only five crores, that is not even half a per cent. If it is a debt, then I am entitled to a reasonable amount of interest on it. Even if I invest it in Government paper, even then I am entitled to 2½ per cent. or 3 per cent. interest. Who is pocketing this 25 crores? I am deprived of this sum.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I want some light thrown on all the points I have put to the Honourable the Finance Member. I hope the Honourable the Finance Member will give me correct figures in his reply. In his Budget speech, he has not given figures, as to how much he spent on behalf of U. K., how much he spent on behalf of Canada, how much on behalf of Australia, how much he spent on behalf of the United Nations. I want to know all these figures. I also want to know whether U. K. is going to pay this sterling debt to India even after the war. The language which the Honourable the Finance Member used in his speech leads us to suspect the intention of U. K. regarding this sterling debt, whether it is going to make payment in due course. Sir, with these words, I oppose the Budget.

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. Jaminadas M. Mehta: Sir, in the concluding portion of his Budget speech the Honourable the Finance Member was pleased to make the following statement. Referring to the part he had played in the realm of India's finance during his term of office he said: "I would rather leave that task to the historian and the economist who will in due course pass judgment on the handling of these matters".

He was leaving to the historian and the economist what to say about his regime as Finance Member of the Government of India. He claimed that he had done his work with the most intense and prolonged anxiety and that at

all times he was actuated by a zeal to serve the best interests of India. These are the parting words of the Finance Member and I wish to submit a few observations on what he has told us in his farewell speech. The historian and the economist will no doubt have their say; but contemporary opinion is equally entitled to make up its own mind about the results of his financial stewardship for the last six years.

One outstanding achievement of his Membership of the Finance portfolio has been that the age-long debt of this country in foreign-lands has been repatriated. So except for about 70 crores we have now virtually a clean slate so far as foreign indebtedness is concerned. That will stand out to his credit for all time, although I have always held that the repatriation might have been a little cheaper for us. He has besides done all that he could to keep the financial machinery of Government in ample repair capable of responding to all the stimuli that might be applied to it. I therefore feel that his regime has been a real attempt to serve this country; his profound knowledge and his manner of presentation which sometimes reminds me of the classics, have always earned my great admiration. The historian, I am sure, will say the same thing. But the historian will also say that on account of the unfortunate incursion of war his regime was marred by 84 lakhs of deaths in Bengal and starvation, privation and misery for the bulk of the provinces. That is not his fault exclusively, it is the fault of the times in which we live. But unfortunately this very tragic episode will be associated with his regime.

The Finance Member also claimed that he is leaving India in a position of immense strength. Sir, I am reminded of Goldsmith who said pitifully about a country where wealth accumulates and men decay; if I am to judge the financial strength of Government the claim is perfectly valid; but Government have placed their hands in our pockets at all times and obtained whatever money they needed. But it will also be admitted that men have decayed during the last 5½ years of war as nowhere they have decayed. Only this morning we read the opinion of Dr. Chattopadhyaya of Bengal that 40 per cent. of the adults in Bengal are suffering from major diseases. But that is not all. Five years before the war, five years during the war and five years after the war, every child that is born during all these fifteen years will carry with him throughout its life the marks of malnutrition and under-nutrition, and the life of these children will not be a full life during the whole of their human existence. Although a just claim will be made of the earnestness, sincerity and strenuousness with which during the last 2½ years control measures have been pressed it was like closing the stable door after the horse was stolen by inflation. My submission is reinforced by Sir Norman Angell who in his book, "The Story of Money" says that the havoc created by inflation in the terms of human life is something unparalleled; the improvement of the poorest, the enrichment of the richest, dislocation among classes and confiscation of the poor man's little scanty store of wealth if any are the continuing features as the war has progressed. Regarding the peasantry, the speech of the Secretary of State, Mr. Amery, in November, 1943, admitted that in India there are five crores of small holdings being continuously further fragmented. And in these five years, even if you take an average family of four people to one holding, 20 crores of people in this country are living on a subsistence level. The words used by the Secretary of State are: "The vast majority of the peasants in India are subsistence cultivators". During ordinary times the subsistence which they get is below what they need because part of what they need has to be diverted in order to enable them to pay rent, taxes, interest, and such of the little absolute needs of life like cloth, kerosene and salt which they must buy and for that purpose they sell out of their scanty store. Small holdings are the real reason for the low standard of life of the people. I wish to submit for the consideration of the Honourable the Finance Member that nothing has happened during the last 5½ years of war to improve the situation of these uneconomic holdings which are being further divided into fragments by inheritance and these 20/22 crores of human beings in

[Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta]

India are now living in a state of hand to mouth existence. According to the highest authority of the Secretary of State in India, they have no margin to draw upon and it is somewhat cruel to ask them to support the small savings campaign which in spite of the great claim made for it has, in my humble opinion, failed. If you will look at page 32 of the accompaniment to the Budget you will find that in the pre-war year the total amount of small savings was Rs. 141 crores and in the revised estimates for 1944-45 it was Rs. 118 crores—all told, from postal cash certificates, post office savings bank, etc. The net result is that at the end of the sixth year the small man has found it necessary to reduce his savings by Rs. 23 crores. Is it worth while to incur the displeasure and odium and unpopularity of this campaign when after 5½ years the net result is a deficit of Rs. 23 crores?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Honourable Member is quoting the opening figure of the current year. The closing year figure is given as Rs. 157.25 crores.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I am quoting the opening because that opening figure is the account of the previous year. What you are quoting is an estimate. What I am pointing out is an account. In 5½ years you have lost Rs. 23 crores after all your small savings campaign. I do beg of the Honourable the Finance Member that this campaign among the poor masses is not necessary. I have the authority of the Secretary of State for India. I have quoted other sources and I am quoting his own figures.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have one minute.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I submit that the condition of the poor agriculturist is what I have told you. The condition of the industrial worker is also far from satisfactory as will be seen from page 33 of the accompaniment to the Budget. There you will find that in January 1943 the cost of living index was 236. In January 1945 it is 251. Yet the claim is made that the prices are stabilized. 'Stabilized' is a doubtful word. It means the price has not risen but the Budget papers show that it has risen much and that even now it goes on rising. In January 1945 the general price index for the poor man had risen by 16 points and the same is the case for the other indices which I could quote if there were time. But I wanted to emphasize worsening of the condition of the worker and the agriculturist; I say their condition has deteriorated: it was bound to deteriorate: it could not be otherwise under inflation and the least that could be done for their relief, if taxation could not be lowered, was to pursue the controls with greater vigour. But the controls cannot succeed so long as you keep the inflation going.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Your time is up.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: The real remedy would be that inflation should be stopped, but he cannot do it alone. Public opinion must be behind him and unless public opinion is behind him, the hoarders, the speculators and the exploiters will go on fleecing the poor.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You must conclude now.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: This is the last sentence.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, Before I proceed with my speech I wish to bring to your notice that as this is the discussion on the general budget and various departments of the Government must come under examination, it is proper that all Honourable Members and Secretaries of the Government responsible for various subjects must be in their seats.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Quite correct. Otherwise it is useless to talk.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: There are some in the House who may congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member for his budget, but I question his right and title to submit this budget. His claim may be that he is a representative of a Government which has been established in this country by law.

Sir, where is that law? What is the definition of law by which a government can be established? According to all political tenets, law is defined as nothing else but the will of the people expressed in terms of law. Is there any such law in this country? The answer must be a definite "no". Everybody knows that this Government has been established by the law of the British Parliament and the British Parliament can express only the will of the British people and not of the people of India. Therefore there is no valid law in this land by which a government can be established.

Sardar Mangal Singh: The law of the jungle!

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: There can therefore be no legal Government in this country and in the absence of such a government, the question of a budget does not arise. The Government exists in this country by means of the sword. Let them realize as much money as they want by means of the sword and they are actually doing so. They must do it to deceive the people of the world and the people of this country. It is our misfortune that we also have to take part in this farce. If we look at the various activities of the Government, you will see that throughout the country only anarchy and lawlessness prevail. People are put into prison without any fault. Thousands of our countrymen have been rotting in jails, among whom there are some of the best brains of the country. Not only that, political prisoners are kept in chains day and night. I know one Babu Saligram in Hazaribagh Central Jail who is kept for no fault of his in chains day and night. Besides in the jails the political prisoners are not getting proper food, nor sufficient clothes. Can there be anything more barbarous than this? I tell the Government that this sort of inhuman behaviour will not help them long.

I am glad that the National War Front is buried.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore cum Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Not in Bihar.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: But National Savings drive still goes on. In the country about 90 per cent of the people do not know what two meals mean and the Honourable the Finance Member, who knows nothing of the country, has launched this National Savings drive. In my own area in Hazaribagh district there are thousands of people who live for several months in the year on roots and fruits from the jungle and in that very area the people are abused, assaulted, arrested, put in custody and harassed in hundreds of ways in order that they might contribute towards this devilish National Savings drive. People are selling their cattle, they are selling their land, they are selling all their belongings in order to contribute towards this National Savings drive. Humanity demands that this sort of things must be stopped at once.

There was a time when I was under the impression that the Government might be treating our Indian military personnel in a better way. But when I began to hear and learn things concerning the military department, I found the same acts of injustice and lawlessness even there. Racial discrimination of the worst type is prevalent in the military department. Even in matters of pay, pension, food, clothing, etc. Indian soldiers get very much less than British soldiers. The cost of British soldiers per head is about four times the cost of one Indian soldier. Even in matters of medicine the distinction prevails. I do not know what is the actual position now but so far as pre-war conditions go I know that for two lakhs of Indian soldiers medical expenditure was only about 50 lakhs, whereas for only 60,000 British soldiers the medical expense was over 70 lakhs.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: They suffer from more and dangerous types of diseases. What can you do?

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: In matters of pension so far as these British soldiers are concerned, their pensions cannot be forfeited save and except by

[Mr. Ram Narayan Singh.]

the decision of a court martial. But the pensions of Indian military personnel can be stopped by the order of any military officer. When any mention is made to them of the law, they say "*Mān Kanun ki bāt mat karo*", "*Hamara hukum hai*" "Do not talk of law" "This is my order". If you look at the Indian Army Act, according to section 20 of the Act, even the Commander-in-Chief has no right to touch the pension of a military officer. By way of preamble to the Army Pension Regulations there is a Royal Warrant in which it is expressly mentioned that in such matters if Indian military personnel is dissatisfied with the decision of his superior officer, his case must be referred to the Secretary of State. But I do not think any such case has ever been referred by this Government to the Secretary of State. In order to govern the military people, it is said, there is an Indian Army Act, there is an Army Regulation, Army Instruction and so on and so forth but in practice every thing is done in a high-handed manner. And especially in the case of pensions it is very difficult to understand how things are regulated. I may quote some instances.

The Victoria Cross is one of the greatest honours for Indian and British soldiers. The Victoria Cross allowance and a military pension were granted to one Mst. Baktawari in 1918. Both these were stopped on flimsy grounds in 1924. After a lot of petitioning and prayers the pension was renewed in 1934. The Victoria Cross allowance also has been restored in 1943. The order was received only 2 or 3 weeks ago. It is difficult to understand how these things are forfeited and renewed again and if such things are still going on in the Military Department, I do not know what is the use of there being an Indian as a War Secretary.

In the same way one Subedar Sadi Ram and Subedar-Major Antu Singh have been deprived of their pensions for nothing. I can quote hundreds of instances but of course there is no time for it. Only two or three days ago we got a booklet from the War Department in which Indians have been praised to the skies for their bravery, loyalty, efficiency and for other military virtues required of a soldier. But what is the use of all these empty praises when they are treated so badly?

Before I finish, Sir, I must say that the war must be brought to an end.

3 P.M. For this war only the British people are responsible: not only for this war, but also for all the wars fought within the last two hundred years, British people alone are responsible. Their vast possessions all over the world must create in the minds of other people the lust to extend their own territories. If they want peace, let Britain give up her possessions? Let India be free, and there will be peace in the world.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Sir, I propose to confine my remarks in the few minutes at my disposal to only one point that seems to deserve greater consideration than it has so far received—I refer to the Lease-Lend arrangements and the Reciprocal Aid Agreement, which are in operation not merely between India and the United States of America, but also between India and the Dominion of Canada. My principal complaint is that we in this House have not been taken sufficiently into confidence in regard to these complicated arrangements which involve economic and political problems of some magnitude.

The Honourable the Finance Member towards the end of his speech was pleased to observe that he had constantly in mind the full status that India was shortly expected to achieve, and that he had endeavoured to order matters entrusted to him in consonance with that expectation. May I enquire from him whether he is entitled to draw the conclusion that he has tried to do his duty in the manner indicated in his speech, so far as giving necessary details to the House in the consideration of this important question? In the observations which I am about to make there will perhaps be many inaccuracies, but for all that the responsibility will be that of the Honourable the Finance Member and not of myself.

Sir, the first mention that we had in this House of the Lease-Lend arrangements was perhaps in the Budget speech of the Honourable Member two years ago. On that occasion he enunciated the broad policy underlying that agreement and said, quoting virtually President Roosevelt, that each of the United Nations was under these arrangements expected to contribute from its own resources and in proportion to its capacity to the common war effort. We wanted a specific statement from him as to how he had come to the conclusion that the aid we were expected to give under this arrangement was in conformity with the financial capacity of India. I do not seem to have received any reply on that point, although a pointed question to that effect was interposed by me, while he was giving his reply to the Budget debate.

Sir, India has been linked with Great Britain for certain purposes in connection with the working of these arrangements. The Honourable Member stated two years ago the difficulties in carrying out all the obligations that India had undertaken under these conditions, and he expressed himself in favour of an independent agreement being negotiated between the United States of America and India on the analogy of such agreements which the United States had concluded with some of the Dominions. Later he seemed to have met these difficulties, but he met them in a different manner. The idea of negotiations with the United States of America was given up, and the Honourable Member gave us certain general forms in which the aid of both the sides was to be given. Sir, the difficulties he mentioned on that occasion as standing in the way were worded in a cryptic language and did not enable us to appreciate the situation. But from the practical point of view it seems to me that although there is no agreement, India is being treated for certain purposes independently by the United States authorities. That is the conclusion to which one arrives while reading some of the reports that have been made to the Congress in the United States dealing with the services rendered by India in regard to Reverse Lease-Lend arrangements as also Lease-Lend benefits which India has derived from time to time. It is very difficult for us to understand the exact method of working in this matter, to what extent we are under the control of His Majesty's Government in the matter of administration of these arrangements, and to what extent we are in a position to deal independently with the United States of America. These are points which should have been made clear by the Honourable Member at some stage of the Budget discussion, and I hope that I shall succeed on this occasion in eliciting a helpful reply from the Honourable Member.

Now, Sir, so far as the question of financial settlement of the accounts is concerned, it appears that the President has been endowed with very wide powers, very wide discretion, as regards the methods by which the financial settlement may take place. We do not know whether there will be any definite settlement under which India will be expected to make a contribution corresponding to the contribution in terms of the money value of the Lease-Lend benefits which we have been getting from the United States of America. On this point it is very interesting to observe that the British Government have definitely declined to have any exact calculations made of the benefits derived from Lease-Lend as well as of the services rendered in response to Lease-Lend by the Government of the United Kingdom. I have in my hand the Proceedings of the House of Commons, dated the 11th November 1943, in which the Chancellor of Exchequer has said:

"I should have preferred not to have introduced the money symbol even partially into this record",—

and then he said,—

"The Honourable Members should see from the White Paper that accurate and comprehensive calculation, even had we wished it, is not possible for us without a gross misuse of human power."

[Mr. K. C. Neogy]

But we have in this Budget statement of the Honourable Member certain figures worked out—I do not know whether he has been guilty of gross misuse of human power—for the purpose of giving us an idea of the financial value of the Lease-Lend services that we have obtained and of the services that we have rendered to the United States Government in return. Sir, the Honourable Member has given us an assurance that in the end perhaps we will not be called upon to make sacrifices greater than the benefits we have derived from the Lease-Lend arrangements. I do not know how the ultimate settlement of the accounts will take place, but I find referring to the Canadian Agreement—and here again I must pause for the purpose of making a complaint that the House has not been given any details of this agreement, and we have to depend upon newspaper reports for the details—I find that the Canadian agreement is substantially different from the agreement with the United States, in that it contemplates certain definite methods of repayment of the benefits that the Government of India may get under that agreement. I have no time to deal with these points, but the differences are so striking that I think we are entitled to a fuller statement from the Honourable Member on this particular point.

On reference to article 3 of the Reciprocal Aid Agreement with the United Kingdom, which I take it also operates so far as India is concerned, I find that certain forms of mutual aid are indicated there; and as far as I can see, on a strict interpretation of those conditions, raw materials and food stuffs which are being sent to the United States of America cannot be held strictly to fall within the purview of the agreement. I very much think that the scope of that particular clause has been expanded in practice, because I find that in the course of a parliamentary debate it was stated that it was necessary—this is the debate to which I have referred already, dated the 11th November 1943—to include the essential raw materials and food stuffs into the list of articles which we are expected to offer to the United States; but that was an agreement with Great Britain. I am very much afraid that, so far as that explanation of the scope of the mutual aid agreement is concerned, it was automatically applied to India also, because I take it that Great Britain had not much of raw materials or food stuffs to offer to the United States of America. Now, recently, very recently as a matter of fact, there has been a change—a very material change—in the Lease-Lend arrangement between the United Kingdom and the United States, by which the scope of articles which Great Britain expected to get from America has been restricted; and I find that this restriction is intended to enable Great Britain to build up certain industries and to restart her export trade in regard to those industries, so that the restriction of the scope of the Lease-Lend arrangement in this behalf is likely to benefit Great Britain. Now, let us examine the position from our point of view. We will in future receive less of Lease-Lend goods as a result of this restriction; but is our liability to furnish mutual aid in any way restricted correspondingly? That is the point that I sought to raise this morning in the course of a question which I addressed to my Honourable friend the Supply Member, and I hope to get a reply from the Honourable the Finance Member on this particular point. In reply to a question which was put by my Honourable friend to my right, a statement was laid on the table giving an idea about the raw materials which India has been sending to the United States in response to the arrangement for according mutual aid, and that list includes several minerals like manganese, mica, beryl, tantalite, columbite, etc., some of which are comparatively rare, and India is not certainly overstocked with some of them. Then there are jute, sugar bags, tea and shellac and so on.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have got one minute more.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I should very much like to know whether under the agreement it is for the United States of America to demand these articles without our having any voice in the determination either of the quantity or of the policy underlying the export of such valuable raw materials from India.

Just a word about the price factor. As I have already stated, England is not particular about maintaining accurate statistical returns regarding the value of the commodities which are being received under the lease-lend arrangement. There has been a lurking suspicion in the minds of our countrymen that perhaps the lease-lend aid is being over valued deliberately somewhere, and that impression was strengthened by the revelation that was made on the occasion of the Railway Budget that we are paying three to four times the normal price for the railway engines that are being received under the Lease-lend arrangement. These suspicions are not confined to this country.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Your time is up.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Just one word, Sir. In the parliamentary debates of the House of Commons on the 6th December 1944, a well known Member of Parliament, Sir William Wakefield who is a prominent businessman, gave expression to these suspicions, and I beg leave to quote one or two sentences from his speech. He says:

"I actually came across an instance only the other day of certain materials which were obtained from the United States but were sold to another foreign country at about half the price."

Again he says:

"American machines were costing, either under Lease-Lend or for cash payment, twice or three times as much under war conditions as the British machines, but the prices being quoted for post-war trade were lower than British prices."

Then he said, "Where are we?" That is the question with which I would like to end my speech—"Where are we?"

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Sir Yamin Khan: after him Sir Cowasjee Jehangir.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Sir, personally I will be sorry that my friend Sir Jeremy Raisman will be going soon, but I have to confine myself very briefly about the Budget that has been presented this year.

The total defence expenditure in six years' time has come, I find, to 17,00 crores of rupees: and during the last two years and this present Budget year, the total amount is to be 12,64 crores 49 lakhs and 50,443 rupees; and out of this I find that within these three years the capital expenditure is intended to be Rs. 114,62,69,431. These figures will show what has been going on about the war budget, and what control has been put on this. 12,64½ crores is a big amount to be budgeted in three years. I find that the Honourable Member refused the advice of this House which had been given by a great majority, to appoint a committee of the House to scrutinise the expenditure year after year, and day by day, and the Honourable Member had admitted that such a kind of committee will be very useful; but in spite of that he refused to act upon the advice of this House. What was the result? Within a month we find that the budget of 1943-44 rose, including the capital amount, by more than Rs. 1,33,86,21,443; though it is made out that extra expenditure was only of Rs. 96 crores, but if we include the capital amount also, even the extra amount comes to Rs. 1,33,86 lakhs. Again, what do we find? That the Honourable Member budgets in 1944-45 for the defence budget Rs. 301 crores, including capital expenditure; and the result comes to Rs. 4,56,63,88,000 altogether. All this might have been checked if proper control had been put and vigilance had been exercised by a committee which we had on this side proposed, and the Honourable Member ignored that advice, and he is making us face this huge budget.

Another thing that we find is that Rs. 833 crores is the amount of loans up to January 1945. Now, Sir, I do not know how the two loans which are

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

maturing in 1948-52 and 1953-55 will be paid? Where will the money for this come from? How will the loans which come to be repaid within 10 years be repaid?

I cannot conceive that after the war this inflation will continue and the taxation will remain as it is. Besides this, we find that the figure of the loan is 833 crores of rupees and I do not know where this capital expenditure of 114.62 crores will be coming from. This will probably be found by borrowing the money. It will not be easy for this poor country to pay this huge sum unless it is taxed beyond its limits.

Again, there are many Railway lines which have been built exclusively for war purposes and the Standing Finance Committee pressed that this amount should be debited to defence expenditure and not to railways, because railways are a commercial concern. If this whole amount is also debited to defence expenditure, I think a large amount will be found for this purpose.

Then there are several items of expenditure and we do not know how the money will be paid back. Sardar Mangal Singh raised a pertinent question—how the expenditure we are meeting on behalf of the Government of Burma and the United Nations in this country will be repaid? Where will this come from? No explanation has been given by the Honourable the Finance Member as to in what way this money will be paid back.

Then a lot of concessions have been given in the name of war to people who are not residents of India but people really hit are not provided for. For instance, the families of people who are prisoners of war in the hands of Japan are allowed only what they were allowed before they embarked for the war. Increment in salary has been given to many people but because these people are prisoners their families have been ignored and they are out of the mind of the Government. On the other hand, preference is given to evacuees from Burma who are not Indian nationals but are Anglo-Burmans or Europeans. Even Austrians and Austrian Jews who have been shut up in camps, they have been given the King's Commission and they have been employed as medical officers. One of these men whom I had seen in one of the concentration camps which I went to visit as a member of the Aliens Advisory Committee hailed me in the train. I found from him that many of these people who were not British subjects had become Commissioned Officers as doctors. I found that Austrians and German nationals had been provided for, while Indians have been ignored in this country.

Another preferential treatment is that people who were business men, non-Indians, non-Asiatics in Burma and other places have been found jobs in the Supply Department, the War Department and the Defence Department, in the Secretariat and elsewhere. An Indian who is an M.A., LL.B., gets only Rs. 60, while a man who is an evacuee gets Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 2,000 in Government service. This kind of injustice has been done. My friends on this side have been greatly responsible for having allowed this kind of condition to come in. But for their absence Government would not have dared to do what they have done and I hope that pressure will now come in, to get a redress in this direction.

As regards the Supply Department, I find that most of the purchasing sides are corrupt from top to bottom and there have been complaints and it is an open secret that a contractor has to pay to so many people before he can get a contract or before he can get his goods passed. If this is going on, where is it coming from? What vigilance has been exercised and what is the check exercised by the Government? I think Government has not been able to put a proper exercise of control over these people who are squandering public money and we are asked to pay through taxation in order to make payment to this class of people. There is not one case but there are thousands of cases which I can quote when the proper opportunity comes.

I find that women typists are given more salary in the Defence Department than men typists or men clerks. This is another preferential treatment.

Then I find that non-Asiatics who are above 55 years are employed in this country and are given overseas allowance. Why is this? When a man is

past 55 and he is re-employed, then he can be re-employed under new conditions. He will not be considered to have been appointed by the Secretary of State and his appointment cannot be taken as having been made in England. He should be treated as having been appointed in India on a new basis under new conditions and under a new contract. There can be a lot of saving under this head and this ought to be done. Indians have got a great grievance in this respect.

I find that the Honourable Member has not given any kind of explanation whatsoever under the head which we have got in this Appendix to Demands for Grants for payments to the Crown Representative. The expenditure was 1,39,13,536 last year and this year it has risen to 1,75,86,000. This means a net increase of over 36 lakhs. What is this due to? Does the Honourable Member think that this House does not want an explanation as to how the Crown Representative is squandering this money in the manner as he likes? This ought to be stopped. If the Civil List is increased even by one rupee, the Parliament has to be given an explanation but here we find an increase of 36½ lakhs and yet not a word of explanation is forthcoming before this House. I find in the whole Budget that Defence gets 412 crores, the Crown Representative gets one crore 75 lakhs—this is all non-voted. The entire civil expenditure comes to only one crore 23 lakhs, out of which nearly half is non-voted. Then what are we here for? What vote are we expected to record? We are called here to discuss this Budget and to give our vote. When we are not given the freedom to vote, he can as well budget whatever he likes and spend whatever he likes. Why should he ask us to tax our people and give him money? Is it possible for us to do what he wants? Under these circumstances, if we do not have this explanation as to how this increase has come, there is no use of our discussing this Budget. Last year, I proposed and the House also supported it; that there should be a Committee appointed. But this Committee was not appointed. Now, on the other hand I find there are many useless Departments which ought to be abolished at once because they are doing no useful work of any kind. I think the Department of Post-war Planning is absolutely unnecessary. We do not want this. It should be abolished at once. The other Department which should go is the Food Department. It is quite unnecessary, because it has not improved the food position in the country. The next Department which should be abolished is the Civil Defence Department. I do not know what this Department is doing now?

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Running canteens.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Yes, they are running canteens. I do not find any kind of civil defence from them, nor is there any Member present from that Department to defend it in this House. Therefore I think the Civil Defence Department should be abolished at once. It is absolutely unnecessary.

Then, I come to the Department of my Honourable friend Mr. Khare. The House is aware that the post of High Commissioner for South Africa was recommended by this House to be abolished. In spite of the unanimous wish of elected Members of this House in that respect, the Honourable Member thought it worth his while to appoint a new High Commissioner and send him to South Africa. He has flouted the unanimous wish of the non-officials of this House. He would be well advised to recall the High Commissioner, otherwise the House will have to reject the provision under the head 'High Commissioner for South Africa'.

The next thing to which I wish to refer is this. I hope I will be excused if I say that I do not find there is any necessity for a representative of this Government attached to the Government of Burma. The Honourable Member says, "attached to the Government of Burma". I do not know what kind of attachment subsists between that representative and the Government of Burma, because I find he is only attached to this House, much more than to the Government of Burma.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare (Member for Commonwealth Relations): There is a detachment in his attachment to this House.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: That is a detachment which the Honourable Member finds only in his brain.

The next point which I wish to refer is the abolition of National War Front. In spite of the distinct assurance given to this House that the National War Front will be abolished, I find provision made for the same in the Budget under the Department of Information and Broadcasting. I do not know why this is done.

An Honourable Member: That is more for the Provinces.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: It may be. In spite of the assurance given a few days back that this will not find a place in the Budget and that the wishes of the House will be given effect to, I find an item appearing in Budget. Even the name is not changed. Therefore, I submit that this provision should be deleted and the National War Front abolished.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member has got one minute more.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I shall conclude soon, Sir. I find that provision is made for salaries and pensions for the evacuees from Burma who are not Indians. I submit that no non-Indian evacuee should be employed if an Indian is available to fill the place. Even if an evacuee is appointed, he should not be given more than two-thirds of the salary which you will give to an Indian. I submit this huge expenditure shown under this head can be greatly curtailed and saved. I think if the Honourable Member works on these lines and puts a check on the spending Departments, he will make a lot of saving.

One more word about the provision of ten crores for Bombay explosion from Indian budget. I think the entire responsibility for this unfortunate incident rests on the British Government, because it is the British Government representatives that were in control over that area. It is therefore the British Government and not the Government of India that was responsible for this explosion. Therefore the relief that is proposed to be given to people who suffered damage in this explosion should come from the British exchequer or from the United Nations and not from the Indian budget. As for income-tax proposals I find that the relief proposed under this scheme is not equitable. A man who is getting Rs. 2,500 will pay instead of Rs. 51 only Rs. 34, i.e., Rs. 17 less, while a man who is getting salary up to Rs. 50,000 a year will also get relief under this scheme. This has been put in only as a camouflage. A poor man's widow who has only a property of Rs. 2,500 a year will suffer the most, while a man who has salary of Rs. 50,000 will get more relief. This is a scheme which has been put in only to throw dust into the eyes of this House. We cannot support this scheme. It may be that this is a scheme which may appeal to my Honourable friends of the European Group. They have probably not examined this scheme thoroughly or they have their own interest to serve. I find a great differentiation made. Therefore we have to oppose this Budget and we cannot support this Grant. There is nothing for us to vote in this Budget and so we have to oppose the whole Budget.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member is to be congratulated that in a year of war he has produced what might be characterised as a humdrum Budget. If one has to confine one's remarks strictly to this Budget, the speech also must be of a humdrum character. There is one new feature which did not appear in any past Budgets and that is the relief given to earned incomes.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Not only that, but throwing burdens on others.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: The relief given to earned incomes, I am sure whether it is the low paid Government servant or a servant in private employ, will be accepted with some gratitude. But then to compensate the treasury, he has done nothing very unusual, he has put up the income-tax. I am afraid we have got accustomed to these increases during the last six years, but the reason for the increase is different from past years. I may be excused for

bringing to the attention of this Honourable House one or two matters which have engaged the attention of this House in the past and which deserve their attention again.

One of these points is the allotment of war expenditure between India and the Allies, and I repeat that I am not satisfied that the constitution of this House being what it is, it has a sufficient check on this allotment, according to the settlement made by the Finance Member. We have had occasion to express satisfaction at the manner in which the Finance Member represented the interests of this country in negotiating this settlement with men—may I say—of great influence. But the settlement once having been fixed, there is no machine whereby we can test how the allotment of expenditure between India and the Allies takes place and whether it is strictly according to that settlement or not. I fully recollect the explanations given by the Finance Member; logically they may be correct but in theory they are not satisfactory. We have a committee which is supposed to examine it; it was called a *post-mortem* examination by my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari. Now considering that this Government is an autocratic Government, I think we are justified in asking that we must be satisfied that this allotment is at least according to this settlement; but we have no means of satisfying ourselves and it is up to Government to invent some machine—have a committee if you like—whereby not only this House but public opinion may be satisfied with regard to this very important point in war time.

Now, Sir, it is nothing unusual during these last six years to see the war expenditure jump up. We are getting rather accustomed to it and so are other parts of the world who are at war. But one point has been raised inside this House and outside it which requires some explanation. There has been a big jump in the previous year and in the current year over and above the estimates; and, as every one knows, the reason given is that the war was within the boundaries of India, and according to the settlement India would have to pay a greater proportion of the expenditure. It was for the defence of India; there is no doubt that an enemy country attacked India, and naturally we have to defend ourselves, and in doing so the expenditure should be higher. But as there is no longer a threat of invasion some explanation is due as to why the estimates for the next year are practically as high as for the last year and the year before. I am unable to understand it nor have I been able to find anything that explains it. Probably the Honourable Member will make that point clear because it has been raised in so many quarters.

Now, Sir, one word with regard to India's sterling balances. We are in the same position as we were last year. We were told then that some move would be made with H.M.G. to go a little further than we were by means of negotiations. I fully realise that a great deal will depend upon the quantity and value of suitable materials that England can supply to India and India's capacity to absorb them. But we are not going to depend entirely upon England for our future requirements; we shall have to go to the U.S.A. and perhaps to other continental countries. Therefore it is disappointing that no negotiations have started and that there are even no prospects of negotiations until the war is over. I think that is not a very satisfactory position, considering that the very life-blood of India is concerned. These balances are of a huge character. They are growing; they are our assets. We believe them to be our assets, we believe in the honesty of Great Britain to pay back this money.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Ready money!

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: The less the Honourable Member says the better; we have heard him speak.

Sir, we expect that negotiations will open as soon as possible and that we should at least get some idea of where we stand.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Don't you want delay which the Finance Member says will not be prejudicial to this country?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I have expressed my view that negotiations should start immediately.

Now, Sir, just, one word with regard to the encouragement that Government are giving to the expansion of the old industries and the establishment of new industries—this 10 p. c. depreciation allowance on buildings and 20 p. c. on machinery. Naturally we are grateful for small mercies. But we cannot erect buildings because they are under control. Machinery we cannot get; and this depreciation is coming into existence from 31st March. Where are the buildings and the machinery to be depreciated?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The idea is that this would be available at any time at which the machinery is obtained or the buildings are built.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Any time up to how many years?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Until the concession is exhausted.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: The point is that we are not able to build just now on account of control and we cannot get any machinery. If this concession is withdrawn by his successor next year where are we? There is no concession. We cannot benefit unless the Honourable Member will give an assurance that this concession will continue for at least the next 15 years. Then it may be of some value; without that it can be of no value to us. I will repeat that I may be able to build buildings and get machinery five or six years hence, but this concession may not be in existence then. Then I am nowhere and this concession will mean nothing to me. If the Honourable Member would guarantee the import of machinery and the supply of materials to build, the matter would be different. Therefore I think that some assurance that this concession is going to last for a period of years, at least till such time and a few years afterwards as we can build and get machinery should be given; otherwise, there is not much in the concession, unless I am very much mistaken.

Now, Sir, I will refer finally to the point raised by my Honourable friend Sir Henry Richardson. Instead of the collection of income-tax having improved it has decreased and that is inexplicable. People's incomes have not gone down. People are earning as much as they did before. How does he explain the decreased collection? Now, Sir, he has said that he has been merciful to us and he has not increased the income-tax more than three pies, but that "there would be greater efforts to combat evasion and enforcement of existing tax obligation". What does he propose to do to bring that into effect? What are the executive orders that he means to pass before he leaves? What is he going to do to effect this excellent sentiment of his?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have one minute more.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Last year we pointed out to him that it would pay him to have a larger and a more efficient staff. Evasion is going on. How is it possible for men to become multi-millionaires in war time with his income-tax, his super-tax and his excess profits tax if there were no evasion? And does he mean to tell me that he has not heard of men having become millionaires in this war within the last two or three years and who did not earn much before? How did they do it? Can he explain? I cannot. Well, it was evasion. On the other hand the honest man is subject to a certain amount of harassment due to inefficiency, due to his best paid officers not knowing the law.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Your time is up.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: These things are taking place in India today. We are losing money and if this evasion can be stopped, I make hold to assert that the income-tax and excess profits tax could be considerably reduced if the Honourable the Finance Member could so assert himself as to make it not possible for evasion to the extent that it is going on today, and if he could send some of these notorious evaders for a few months' rigorous imprisonment, he would be doing a greater service to India than anybody else.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): I have three facts as the background for my speech. This is the last budget of the Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman. The whole tenure of his office has been covered by the war period and lastly I have heard from one or two distinguished non-official Indians who accompanied him to the Bretton Woods Conference and London and that the case for India could not have been better put than by the Honourable the Finance Member, and if India failed in this matter it was not the fault of the Honourable the Finance Member.

At the same time I cannot be blind to facts that so far as the Indian side is concerned, the whole of his period is marked by hesitation and by failure to take strong measures either in respect of inflation or in respect of the increase of expenditure both on the civil side and on the defence side which again reacted on inflation. If one looks into the figures of the civil administration expenditure and the number of departments created, particularly what are called the Miscellaneous departments, and if one reads through the budget speeches and the accountings between the civil and the defence side, the number of items which are kept away from the public eye and even from the eye of the Assembly, one is staggered at the enormous expenditure that is being now incurred. The expenditure on the defence side at any rate is now nearly Rs. 400 crores apart from those other concealed items, the magnitude of which it is impossible for us laymen to assess. Whatever it is, I am astonished again to find more than Rs. 300 crores and more being provided for next year though the Honourable the Finance Member perhaps said in his speech that the war activities would hereafter be beyond the borders of India, in which case the expenditure must be debited to the United Kingdom and elsewhere. I do not know what explanation he has got for the provision of this further Rs. 300 crores and more. At any rate the Honourable the Finance Member must have realized that even a fraction of that amount is beyond the capacity of this country to pay. If you take into account the substantive value of the large amount of money which is being converted into paper money by way of inflation, I am sure the Honourable the Finance Member in his generous moments would agree that India is being famished for at least another six generations of her essential goods and productivity and that she cannot recover to her normal conditions at least for another fifty years. All the advertised talk of improving the foodgrain position and other things is fictitious. There are not in fact any improvements in the food supply nor in your plans for the betterment of the economic condition of this country.

Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Finance Member that he has thrown bombshells even with regard to our prospects of improving the industrial side of this country by the fact that either he or he in conjunction with the Honourable Member of Civil Supplies, is importing large quantities of consumer goods into the country for civilian use and in the Honourable the Finance Member saying that the post-war development is entirely that and could not be advanced. These two are enough to kill any prospect of industries being raised in this country. I do not know what this country has done to deserve such cruel treatment from successive Finance Members and how the present Finance Member, having regard to his experience of the economic life of this country, could have agreed to such large expenditure being incurred and so many things being kept hidden from the public eye. I wonder if it would not be possible for him to institute a committee to scrutinise the expenditure while being incurred and whether it is not possible for this country to come to a more reasonable settlement in regard to the share in the expenditure for the defence of this country. I have heard some of my honourable friends in this House twitting us for not enthusiastically supporting the war effort. But we believe that we must come to a definite understanding as to what expenditure this country must bear. Its economic interests come first. It would be folly to parade insincere loyalty to these war efforts at the expense of the people and beyond their capacity.

[Mr. Sami Vencatachellam Chetty]

The question of sterling balances seems to be clouded in great mystery. I take it that the United Kingdom as a Government does not owe us any money and that the sterling balances are in the shape of credit to the Indian Government and that once we are able to get goods from England, it would be possible to cash in those sterling balances. But if England is not willing to supply goods, except at her own rates and conveniences, what is the good of these locked up sterling balances or credit entries? Why should they not be loaned to the United Kingdom Government at a certain rate of interest because there is no chance of your cashing in this amount immediately? Would it not reduce inflation? Is it the intention of the Finance Member that we should be sufferers in interest as well in this matter? Will it not be possible to lend on a term of 15/20 years the whole amount and be able to get some money by way of interest? I know some industrialists in this country are fondly attached to the sterling balances. But whether they are doing it knowing that it is impossible to get these balances, or whether it is a shrewd business venture, it is difficult to say. Whatever it is I have got the belief that it is not possible either for

4 P.M. England to cash in the sterling balances nor for India to be able to receive it. The former course would cause inflation in England which they have taken particular care to avoid. Therefore we have got to make the best out of the worst bargain we have got into. I would therefore suggest that if it is possible for the Honourable the Finance Member he should insist upon this amount carrying interest up to the time of payment. So far as the Lease-Lend arrangements with the United States of America and the United Kingdom are concerned; there is no doubt of the fact that we are getting these things at a very high cost, whereas we have to supply our own goods at controlled rates and at a sacrifice for the Indian consumer.

There is some sort of complacency in the second paragraph of the Honourable Member's Budget speech. He has said that the food situation is improving. It is far from improving. There does not seem to be any change either in the surplus or deficit areas just as there has been no change in the anatomy of the Food Member.

I understand that even cloth is very scarce in Bengal. There is something wrong in that part of the country. I would suggest that the whole superior secretariat of Bengal be transferred to some other Province and another secretariat put in there, in order that there may be no corruption and people may receive their quota of food and cloth. Otherwise the Honourable the Finance Member and his colleagues would be responsible as they have been for the deaths of 5 million people in Bengal and some more millions in Malabar, Cochin, Travancore and Ganjam and Vizagapatam on whose behalf my Honourable friend Mr. Gupta has sacrificed his life.

There is another question which I would mention before I conclude. What are the plans by which he would absorb these increased establishments in the Civil Departments and also with regard to the demobilised soldiers. I understand that there are far too many temporary staff that are being maintained. As a matter of fact as my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar said there is not a single man who having failed in the matriculation examination has not found appointment in the Secretariat of the Central Government. And I know as a matter of fact that ordinary graduates who have just come out of the University and who have been drawing Rs. 30 or 40 have been drafted to the Central Secretariat at Rs. 200 and 250 a month. It may be that the cost of living in Delhi is very high but on that account there is no use of increasing the staff who are inefficient. Has the Honourable the Finance Member ever gone into the Secretariat Departments and found out what is the work that is being turned out? Has he considered whether in view of the fact that at least one sector of the defence has been reduced, it would be possible to decrease the establishment to that extent and provide for the displaced staff in suitable places?

With these few words I resume my seat.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, this has been a somewhat chequered debate and it was marred by a tragedy of a very unusual kind, an unprecedented happening in my experience in this House. That upset the course of the debate and has cast something of a cloud over the whole proceedings. I also feel that the tone of the debate was somewhat chequered. It started off on what I, at any rate, must regard as a somewhat unfortunate note and from my point of view, at any rate, it improved as it went on.

It will not be possible for me in the course of my reply to this debate to answer all the points that have been raised by various Members and I shall not attempt to do so in this speech, though, I hope, I may have opportunities to provide replies to the more important points at some time during the course of the next two or three weeks.

I realise, Sir, that when I made my Budget speech, I was, so to speak, asking for trouble when I declined to give a review of my own administration and left it to the judgment of the historian and the economist. However, more than one speaker has nobly stepped into the breach. Mr. Manu Subedar started off and took up the challenge, as he called it, and I must admit.....

Mr. Manu Subedar: It was an invitation.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Very well. If vituperation is historical record, he is a very fine historian and if venomous vindictiveness is economic judgment, then I award him the title of an economist. I shall also add to his knowledge of English idioms on which he prides himself. He mentioned two phrases, one of which did not strike me as being particularly English: I thought it was Trans-Atlantic. But to his two phrases I would add a third "hitting below the belt".

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

I would not have dealt with the speech of Mr. Manu Subedar at any length; I must admit that being on the whole a man of peace, my instinct was to ignore it. But the subject matter of his speech, apart entirely from its personal offensiveness, revealed the defect—what one speaker referred to as the unreality,—of his arguments. You can only argue with a man, if you have some common ground. It would be impossible, for instance, in my opinion, for Mr. Churchill to argue with Hitler, although if that were taking place in any particular room, I should like to be a fly upon the wall. It is impossible for me to argue with Mr. Manu Subedar upon the footing which he chose, because, in my opinion, it is as directly contrary to my view of the course of events as is Adolf Hitler's. In fact, I should say that his point of view is much more nearly that of Goebbels and Hitler's and that a great deal of his speech was redolent, and some of his phrases were redolent, of their pet obsessions.

The fundamental point surely is whether one is assisting the participation of India in the war or not. Now I quite realise that there is closely linked up a political issue of the first magnitude. Nevertheless, in dealing with the actual conduct of the war and the conduct of Indian administration in relation to it, what we have to make up our minds about is the criterion which we should apply: was the Government of this country to facilitate the proper participation of India in the war, or was it to act as a neutral or a non-belligerent? It seems to me that there is only one possible answer to that question. Mr. Manu Subedar will no doubt answer it in a different way, and that being so, there is, as I have said, no common ground on which he and I can discuss these matters. From his point of view the Government of India is comparable with the Vichy Government. That is exactly what Dr. Goebbels would say, and in fact it merely illustrates what I said a little while ago, that his standpoint is that of the enemy.

There is only one other matter. I have always understood that Mr. Manu Subedar was a representative of the Indian Merchants Chamber in this House,

[Sir Jeremy Raisman.]

I trust he will correct me if I am wrong. Well, I do not wish to cast any reflection on any trading community, but it is somewhat surprising that a representative of the trading and commercial community should not only deprecate, but sneer at the qualities which after all make for their own success. I should not have thought that he at any rate would choose that particular ground.

Now, Sir, it has been, shall I say, my ill luck to have been the Finance Member of the country during a period which was almost entirely a period of war. I hope the Budget speech which I delivered the other day is the last war budget speech which will be delivered in this House: I may not be right, but I hope that will be so. It is obvious that the financial administration of a country during a period of war is an entirely different thing from its administration during peace. In peace time the business of the Finance Minister is so to distribute the resources of the Government as to promote the best advantage of the country as a whole, and to see, as far as he can, that the objects which the country most needs and desires—education, health, economic uplift and so on—are catered for from the resources of the country which he is able to handle and is going to distribute. In time of war there intervenes one over-all crushing factor which he cannot possibly disregard. He is bound, whether he likes it or not, to endeavour to adjust the resources and the economy of the country to the prosecution of this single purpose. I would claim that the sphere of activity of even the Finance Minister of a neutral country is almost equally restricted. It is not possible to pursue the even tenor of peace time finance in time of war, no matter whether you are directly engaged or whether you are merely one of the countries on whom these terrific blows fall from outside, when there is a tremendous upheaval in the economic structure of the whole world. Of the countries which have remained neutral until the other day, in Turkey, for instance, I do not know if the Members of this House are familiar with the economic developments there in recent years. I should be surprised to find that they were very different from those of India. I should be surprised to find that many of the problems which we have to face here today are not pressing, for instance, in a country like Turkey. Egypt was a neutral, and of course we know that they have exactly the same problems as we have. Countries like Iraq, Iran, etc., which occupy slightly differing positions in relation to the conduct of the war, have all undergone similar experiences. A country like China which is of course a complete belligerent as well as an independent country, has perhaps undergone the worst economic experience of all. Greece has also been through terrible difficulties and in fact has gone through a period of completely uncontrolled inflation.

An Honourable Member: What about Switzerland?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Switzerland is perhaps the single country which has been able to maintain a comparative equilibrium during these difficult times, but I should think even Switzerland has to face problems of terrific economic adjustment at the present time, and so certainly Sweden, Spain and Portugal.

Now, in the various general criticisms which have been made of my administration, I find it difficult to piece together a consistent or a consecutive picture of what the critics have in mind. On the one hand, it is urged, it is protested, that the burden of Defence expenditure on India has been grossly excessive. On the other hand, simultaneously and some times from the same lips, it is argued that the accumulation of the sterling balances is a dreadful thing. It is curious that critics do not seem to realise that if war is taking place and if expenditure is taking place in India, it must ultimately fall into one or the other category. It must either fall directly upon India, or, if it does not fall upon India, it takes the form of a credit which is the sterling balance. Again, we have this dilemma. On the one hand it is urged that the demands on India's physical resources have been enormous and grossly excessive. On the other

land, it is simultaneously argued that the Indian economy has not been afforded the opportunities which it should have been afforded in war time. The Hydari Mission, for instance, which has now gone to England in order to investigate the possibilities of a diversion of the strain which has been placed on India and to some extent of compensation, is criticised as being aimed at Indian industry. The critics do not seem to realise the inconsistency of these two lines of criticism. I know that these things are not easy to understand; but I should have thought it was obvious that you could not at the same time protest against the use of Indian resources for war purposes and also object to attempts to divert the strain upon India. Again, I have critics like my friend, Professor Banerjea, for whom I have the highest respect, who pointed out that in his view taxation had reached the highest limit to which it could go. Then he turned to the sphere of borrowing and I understood that he objected to the large scale of borrowing to which we were resorting. At the same time he assured us that he was not opposed to India's participation in the war or to India's war effort.....

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: To the extent of her ability to pay.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Well, Sir, I find it difficult to construct—and here I am dealing with a highly intelligent and if I may say so competent critics—to construct a picture, so to speak. I find it difficult to see exactly how Dr. Banerjea would have handled these problems: he would not increase taxation, he would not increase borrowing; and above all of course, as I know, he would not resort to inflation; so that I am not clear how these figures tot up, as it were, to the final sum.....

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Result: do not fight the war!

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Nothing of the sort.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That in my opinion is the conclusion to which I and you could come: therefore my Honourable friends are more logical.....

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: On a point of personal explanation, this is not correct. I would not unbalance the budget, but I would pay something like 250 crores for the next year's war expenditure—not beyond that: that is my position.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I understand that; but then again we still remain in this position; it is not merely a question of whether Dr. Banerjea would pay Rs. 250 crores. Supposing 750 crores of war expenditure occurred in the country, what would he do about the other 500 crores, since he also objects to borrowing? How would he counteract the effect of the other war expenditure which took place? What would he do? Would he reduce the scale of the war in India to that extent?

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: No. I would modify the inequities of the financial settlement of 1940. I have made that clear.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: He would modify that settlement. That would mean that out of the 750 crores or 900 crores or whatever it may be, he would pay only 200 or 250 crores. . . .

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: For the coming year, yes.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: But that would still leave him in the dilemma that another 700 crores or so of expenditure was coming on, because the war was continuing. That would be beyond his power, and therefore I must, in spite of Dr. Banerjea's superior economic knowledge, point out to him that his inflationary gap would be of the order of 700 crores of rupees.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Not at all.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The price level would go up to three or four or even ten times what it is now. Oh yes; he cannot escape from the iron bounds of that argument; he cannot get away from that; the fact is there. If the war goes on, the expenditure goes on; the money is poured out; then you must either by taxation or by borrowing neutralise it, or the result is inflation.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: He wants you to fight up to your ability.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes; if I could control the scale of the war as it took place in and around India, then that would be an entirely different matter. But unfortunately that is not within the scope of the Finance Minister. The business of the Finance Member is to be the object of odium. While military leaders may be national heroes in war time, finance ministers never are.

Now, I come to some of the specific questions which have been put to me and I will try to deal with the main ones. The first is how it happens that there was such an enormous increase in the defence expenditure towards the end of the year 1943-44; and here I find, as so often, that people take a curiously detached view of the war—so curiously detached a view that they even forget chronology and the ordinary course of events. The budget which is presented at the end of February is based on figures which are compiled up to about the end of December. It does not purport to give the exact position as at 5 P.M. on the last day of February. That is hardly possible; it has to be compiled some time before. It also cannot purport at any time to be an accurate prediction of what will take place in the next thirteen months, and not even in the month which still remains before the end of the year. Moreover, at the end of the year and before the accounts are finally made up, there are always certain adjustments relating to the whole year which have to be brought to account.

As I mentioned in my Budget speech, the main reasons for the large increase at the end of last year were, first, that the Japanese chose to invade India just about the time or shortly after I delivered my Budget speech. Now, it is argued by some critics that that should not really have made any difference. They say, what does it matter whether these hostilities took place on this side of the border or the other? I am familiar with those words from critics in England. They have said, if these operations are connected with the defence of India, "What does it matter whether they take place ten miles further forward or ten miles further back? Surely in either case your concern and your interest is the same". The answer is that when you allot a sector of war expenditure to a country, there must be some point—a line somewhere: it must have a boundary; and you are bound to get anomalies when that boundary is either just crossed or when you just stop this side of it. In the present case the Japanese.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): What is the maximum limit of that boundary?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That boundary is the geographical limits of India. So, as I say, the argument seems to be couched in the same terms both from this side and from the other, but of course the intention is diametrically opposite.

The other reason for that large increase was that an item relating to motor vehicles from Canada which had been in suspense and had been under discussion for some time was finally adjusted in the accounts of that year; and it was a very large item.

The next question that is asked is, if the expenditure of the current year was so large because of the operations which took place inside India's borders, why is there little or no change in the expenditure of the next year in the forecast? I said a little while ago that the estimate is based on conditions usually in December or in January and there is no doubt that the war has undergone some rather startling developments since then. We actually did provide for a difference of 45 crores in the total defence expenditure for 1945-46 as compared with 1944-45. This difference is the result of an aggregate decrease of about 66 crores but 22 crores of this is neutralised by increases largely arising from the operation for a full year of certain increases in pay. The total decrease would have been 66 crores but actually about a third of that is neutralised and so the net decrease, taking into account both revenue and capital, is of the order of 44-45 crores. It is not the case, as my Honourable friend Mr. Neogy suggested, that I was catering for another Japanese invasion of India, for nothing is further from my thoughts, but I also cannot predict

what the course of events will be. It is conceivable that they may be even more favourable than what we took as the basis of our estimates. In fact, since the estimate was framed, events have gone very well. When Germany cracks and caves in, it is conceivable that the other Axis partner may think that it is the best moment to get out. That, as I say, is anybody's guess.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I put one question which will clear the matter? Why is the decrease so little on the revenue side? On the capital side, you reduced it for next year. Why is the decrease so little on the revenue side, considering that there is no war on the frontiers? That is the point. You have mentioned a total decrease of about 40 crores—capital and revenue. The capital expenditure has been reduced but not the revenue side. What is the explanation for that?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: What you have to cater for is the maintenance of the forces which will be retained in India for the defence of India. As I once explained in this House, the total number of forces is determined by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. Now, if those forces are maintained in India, during the year, then the whole of the cost of those forces is debitable to India.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Maintained for what purpose?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: For the local defence of India.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: There is no defence expenditure required to that extent.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That conception is absurd. You cannot suddenly say—The war has gone. So, all the soldiers who were required yesterday for my defence now cease to be my soldiers. They cannot be demobilised with that degree of rapidity. Suppose there is an army of a million or two million soldiers here standing on your territory for the defence of your territory. Even if the war ends tomorrow, you do not cease expenditure. The expenditure does not cease to be incurred. It goes on.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: The war is taking place outside the borders. Are not the soldiers now for that purpose?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is a matter of military judgment at each stage, as to what forces the country should entertain. It must be a difficult matter. It is not possible for me to isolate the defence problem of the country from the total defence operations of a number of Allies. That must be a difficult matter.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Come back to the Financial Settlement.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is a matter over which I have no control. Similarly, I have no control over the actual allocation of the cost of defence measures between India and Britain and neither have His Majesty's Government. So long as the Financial Settlement stands, then the application of that Settlement is something which is done by people over whom neither the Government of India nor His Majesty's Government have any control. It is done by auditors. It is done by the Auditor General and his Staff, as I have pointed out time and again.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: It should be modified. It ought not to stand.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: You can say—So long as the Financial Settlement is what it is, the Auditor General can continue to carry out his functions. He can check whether the allocation which is made in the first instance by the accounting staffs has been correct. I should have said the original allocation is made by the accounting establishments. The audit of that is done by the Auditor General. Now, it is open to him to say that so long as the Financial Settlement stands this item has not been correctly accounted for, it should have been accounted for on the other side and his objection has either to be complied with or alternatively some modification would have to be made in the Settlement.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Certainly. That is what we desire.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Professor Banerjee desires a modification of the Settlement but I am very doubtful whether he would be well

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advised. That is all I can say. The Auditor General then makes a report to the Public Accounts Committee. Having gone through the whole of the expenditure, the Auditor General reports whether the allocation was made in accordance with the Financial Settlement. That is his function and similarly the Controller and Auditor General in England reports to Parliament on the basis of that same report. He reports to the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament.

In dealing with this question of defence expenditure, I constantly find the most persistent misapprehensions about the items which are debited to India. For instance, although I have already replied to a question on the subject in this House, I find it assumed that the capital outlay on the doubling of certain railway lines in Assam has been charged to the Indian Railway budget. That is not the case. The entire capital outlay in this respect is being borne by His Majesty's Government.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: That has not been settled yet.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Is it still under consideration in the Finance Department and the Railway Department?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The information that I am given is that the cost of the doubling of certain railway lines in Assam is debited to His Majesty's Government and I gave a reply in this House once to that effect. The Honourable Member may be thinking of certain other types of expenditure.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: There are lines which are newly built for the purpose of defence there.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am talking of the cost of doubling. That is actually an item which was mentioned in the Press Communiqué of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce. That is why I have taken it.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: That is correct. That is mentioned there.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: It might have happened since we last met in the Finance Committee.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari pointed out a *propos* the Hydari Mission that U. K. and U. S. A. were already switching over to peace production and so he wanted to know what was the decision of the Government of India in that respect. That is exactly one of the main objects of the Hydari Mission, that is to find out how much of the war production that is going on in India can be released so that it can be switched over to peace production. These things have to be dovetailed together and I hope most earnestly that we shall secure at least a proportionate relief, the same degree of relief as is anticipated in U. K. and I would personally claim that we should be entitled to even greater relief.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Am I to understand that there will be a switching over to peace production in this country on the same percentage as U. S. A. and U. K.? Will there be an agreement to that effect similar to the agreement entered into between U. K. and U. S. A.?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I say that the target should be at least the same degree of release of war production for civil purposes and as far as I am concerned, I should like to see it a good deal higher. But you do find that when you endeavour to pursue these matters there are always vested interests which do not entirely agree with the object of your policy.

My Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari touched on the question of dollars and I have no doubt that we shall hear more of this during the Session. He quoted the case of Egypt where an arrangement has been made for 40 million dollars a year of expenditure in terms of foreign currency and he contrasted these with the 20 million dollars for each of the years 1944, 1945 which the Government of India have agreed to accept for post-war purposes. Well, Sir, the position is entirely different as I tried to explain to him at that moment.

In the case of Egypt, 40 million dollars represents the total amount of expenditure both in America and in other countries requiring foreign exchange for the year.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Only two currencies, the Swiss francs and the Swedish kroners.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: And the Portuguese escudo, if I am not mistaken. My impression was that there were at least four foreign currencies which were included in that.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: The report I saw was different.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The point is that in the case of India we are entitled to obtain our essential current requirements during the war and that 20 million dollars for each of these years is an earmarked amount, which will be available after the war. So that the position is entirely different. I cannot give a detailed explanation of the current use of dollars by India. I can only say that it is a figure far larger than that which Egypt employs.

More than one Honourable Member touched upon the question of prices in connection with Lend-Lease supplies from America and has contrasted them with controlled prices from India. As I understand it, these supplies are mostly made at prices which are controlled by the respective governments. In the case of locomotives from America, I am afraid that the position is not generally understood. As far as I remember, quite a large number of these locomotives are provided on Lend-Lease, but the fact that they are provided on Lend-Lease does not mean that the cost of these capital goods is not to be debited to the railway budget. Lend-Lease cannot be brought into railway accounts, it has to be brought into the accounts of Government as a whole and the Railways being a commercial department are charged the cost of Lend-Leased articles. But even where locomotives are not Lend-Leased or Lease-Lent, the war time use of them is. That is to say, that the depreciation which occurs during the period of war, whilst they are being used for military purposes, is an item which is deductible from the cost of capital equipment.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: But where is the credit for that amount?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The credit is shown in the defence estimates.

Then, my Honourable friend Mr. Neogy asked several questions about Lend-Lease. I cannot pretend that at this moment I should be able to give a complete answer to his questions, though, I hope that I shall be able to do so in the course of this Session. He gave a brief history of the arrangements with America. I think it is now no secret that the reason why the Government of India were not prepared to enter into an actual agreement with U. S. A. was on account of Article 7 which used some vague phraseology about the removal of tariff barriers. The Government of India felt that that might unduly restrict their future freedom of action in regard to their fiscal policy and they were not prepared to undertake a categorical commitment in that respect. For that reason, it was decided not to enter into a formal agreement, but to proceed on the same basis without actually signing a mutual aid agreement. His first question, as far as I remember, was, to what extent India is now treated separately, to what extent, arrangements were, so to speak, *via* England. The object has been as far as possible to separate our position, but the difficulty is that war stores particularly are at the disposal of Britain and it allocates them to different theatres and also to India for her own local defence purposes. And it is not possible to entirely separate these two types of relation. My Honourable friend complained of our not taking this House into confidence in regard to Lend-Lease matters. In the first instance, I must say that it has been very difficult indeed for us to clear up many of the matters about which he has had difficulties; and secondly, even when we have put out material it does not always seem to have attracted the notice of Members of this House. For instance, I actually laid on the table a copy of the mutual aid agreement with Canada, regarding which also he complained that we had not taken him into confidence. The agreement was laid almost as soon as it was signed by the Government of India.

M. T. T. Krishnamachari: Why was it not circulated to Members?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I suppose it forms part of the proceedings and is therefore available.

Mr T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot Non-Muhammadian Rural): It should be circulated instead of being laid on the table.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The next question, as far as I was able to get it, was in relation to the restriction of the scope of Lease-Lend aid to Britain, and he asked whether reciprocal aid from India would be similarly restricted. The position is that in regard to Lend-Lease arrangements after the termination of the war with Germany—and some of these modifications I believe take place even before that—there have been certain modifications and I do expect that there will also be some restriction of the scope of mutual aid, although the field of reciprocal aid from India will remain very much the same as it was before. But owing to certain changes it is possible that there may be some reduction in the scale of reciprocal aid. He asked whether the United States could demand, for instance, certain raw materials and get them without India exercising an option in the matter. The answer to that is definitely in the negative. It is not the position in any mutual aid arrangement that the United States can demand and expect these demands to be automatically complied with. These demands are always subject to the availability of goods and to the country granting reciprocal aid being in a position to spare them. His other point was about the price factor on which I have already touched.

I do not know if there are any other questions which he asked which I have not answered. I realise that I have not been able to give a complete or precise answer to his question about restriction of the scope of Lease-Lend. But I should like some opportunity to study the matter a little further.

My Honourable friend Sir Yamin Khan complained about the refusal of Government to set up a committee to scrutinise expenditure. I would remind him that when this subject was discussed last year I did undertake to consider what I could do. I do not say that what I did was necessarily satisfactory to my Honourable friend; but I wish to point out that I was not guilty of the discourtesy of ignoring the demand which he voiced. When I moved for the election of the Standing Finance Committee I explained to the House that I had then come to the conclusion that the best way in which Government could meet the demand of the House was to utilise the Standing Finance Committee in a wider capacity than it had yet been utilised. I explained the difficulties which Government felt in setting up an entirely new committee, an additional committee to those which already exist, namely, the Public Accounts Committee and the Standing Finance Committee; and I said that I saw no reason why the Standing Finance Committee should not undertake these wider functions. During the course of the year we have had some meetings. Unfortunately I was away for a good deal of the year and it was not possible to begin these activities of the Standing Finance Committee until after my return. Nevertheless we have had at least two meetings and I think we are shortly due to have a third in which I have invited the Standing Finance Committee to indicate the lines which it would like to pursue. The object has been to see in what way the committee can help with suggestions for dealing with waste, extravagance and corruption. We have had very free and full discussions in the Committee and I feel that the Committee is capable of rendering great assistance in this matter. I also feel that it is possible to put before the Committee material which it would be difficult to put before the House.

Sir Henry Richardson also complained that I did not deal with the matter of retrenchment and economy. It is because I feel that the activities of the Committee have not yet advanced to the point at which I could have made any detailed reference to their work, although, now that I think of it, I regret that I omitted to include some reference to it in my Budget speech. But it is a fact—and I think the members of that Committee will agree—that we have taken up matters and endeavoured to thrash them out to the utmost extent that

was possible. For instance, on the question of corruption, I invited the Committee to speak on the matter in the freest possible manner and to make any suggestions which they liked. I told them that I had an absolutely open mind, that I could not pretend that I was unaware of what was going on in the country. I laid before them a description of the steps that Government were taking; I produced before them as witnesses the officers of the departments which are dealing with the matter, and I invited the Committee to make suggestions—whatever suggestions it could—for the line that Government should pursue in dealing with this matter at any level. I cannot say that the Committee were able to think of much more than Government had thought of, or at any rate they were not able to agree to any practical course of action which Government should follow other than that which they had followed. They did make certain suggestions, but the problem is of course one of appalling difficulty; and when members get round the table and really discuss this, speaking as man to man and not in a public forum, then they do realise how extremely difficult it is to get on the track of this particular evil.

There are other matters which have been taken up in the Committee, and a certain amount of material has been put before the Committee which we have not yet discussed; but I did indicate to the Committee that I was prepared, as far as possible, to assist them to investigate any line which they thought they would like to pursue, anything in which they felt that they desired further information than they would get in the ordinary course. I offered to ignore, as far as possible, the distinction between voted and non-voted expenditure and, if it were possible without infringing security rules, to produce before them witnesses who can explain what had happened, even in certain spheres of defence expenditure.

Sir Yamin Khan also asked how Government will meet the maturities of these large war flotations. He seemed to think that that would involve enormous future taxation. Well, that is not the case. The scale of public borrowings does not tend to contract in the case of any country. As it grows you get a larger and larger security market. You get a larger scale of operations and in the year in which these maturities fall due, the mere fact that that money has to be put out in the market again means that so much money is available and the usual thing that happens is that there is a conversion loan. In other words long term loans tend to be carried on.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: That will merely postpone the evil day.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: To talk of postponing the evil day is to talk as though to incur national debt is necessarily an evil. It is not entirely an evil. It performs a very useful purpose. The whole question is whether the interest charge on the budget is excessively burdensome. You have to be prepared to incur a national debt for a purpose which is either vital to your survival or which will so improve your national income that you will in future be in a position to serve that additional debt. That is the modern way of producing what is called an expansionist economy, of trying to ensure full employment. You have to be prepared to face up to an increase of national debt if you want to neutralize the factors militating against full employment.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Where will the interest come from?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It comes from taxation. But as I said if the expenditure which resulted in the debt results in an increase in the national income then the capacity of the country is thereby increased. It is true that there is an increase of taxation but it does not mean that when the maturities fall due in those particular years, the amounts have to be met by taxation.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: That will remain unproductive debt.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is undoubtedly unproductive. At the same time it has been found that war expenditure has certain compensating effects. It does seem at any rate to have taught countries how to deal with the evil of unemployment and it is usual, following in the wake of enormous war expenditure, that at that time people get down to asking how they can

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maintain the benefits, the good effects of war expenditure, without the horrible necessity of waging war. That is what is at the root of the Beveridge Plan and various other plans. They realise that the effect on the domestic economy in terms of employment and maintenance of national income is good. What they want to find out is how to secure those results without having to slay millions of men. I believe that they are finding the answer and that will apply to India as it does elsewhere.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): That is, exploit the colonies!

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I was surprised that Sir Cowasjee Jehangir should regard as a humdrum budget a budget in which I consider certainly on the taxation side certain revolutionary changes have been made. But they may not have struck him particularly: yet those same changes when announced in the United Kingdom at any rate produced a very widespread effect. He asked me certain questions about the depreciation allowance. I think perhaps I had better deal with that matter when I come to the Income-tax Bill.

I have endeavoured; I am afraid not very comprehensively, to deal with some of the main points that were raised in the course of this debate. I said at an earlier stage that the duties of a Finance Member in the time of war are not very happy ones and I cannot pretend that it has been a pleasure to have to undertake these enormous adjustments which are necessary in order to adjust the economy of the country to the shocks of war. It would have been far more exhilarating and stimulating if my six years had been a period of peace, when I could have had a hand in developing and uplifting this country. It would have been far more satisfactory to me to have done something for the cultivator and the countryside in which I spent the first two or three years of my service, to which I still look back as the happiest period of my time in India. But unfortunately that was not to be. My lot was cast, as I said once before, in less happy days, and the only thing I claim—it is a modest claim—is that in making these enormous adjustments I have endeavoured to preserve the economy of this country to the maximum extent. I have endeavoured to leave it as well off as it possibly could be having regard to the tremendous shocks which world events were inflicting upon it.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 8th March, 1945.

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.

MEMBERS SWORN:

Sirdar Jogendra Singh, M.L.A. (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
Mr. Ram Nath, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official); and
Sir John Francis Sheehy, C.S.I., I.C.S., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official):

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

SUPPLY OF BRASS SHEETS BY GOVERNMENT

805. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

- whether Government have issued a communique to supply brass sheets at the rate of 25 tons at a time;
- how many applications have been received for such supply;
- whether Government are giving only 70 tons a month to the whole of the Madras Presidency;
- whether they are given only to two manufacturing companies, and whether both of them are owned by the same firm Jevanlal, Limited, Calcutta; and
- whether Mr. Hemchand K. Shai, the managing agent of the firm of Jevanlal, is a member of the consumers' panel constituted by the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The Government of India issued a press note in December, 1943, stating that a limited quantity of brass sheets would be distributed each month among manufacturers for conversion into domestic utensils for civilian consumption. No specific quantity was mentioned in the press note.

(b) About a thousand.

(c) Yes.

(d) First part. Yes.

Second part. As far as Government are aware only one of them is owned by M/s. Jeewanlal (1929) Ltd., Calcutta.

(e) There is no Consumers' Panel. If the reference is to the Consumers Council the answer is in the negative.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know, Sir, whether Messrs. Jeewanlal Ltd. is a Canadian company?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is functioning in India but as to what its origin is I do not know. I understand that there is some Canadian connection.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What sort of connection does the Honourable Member mean?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not know but I know that the company was started in India and then there was some Canadian amalgamation or something like that but I am not sure.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that there must be many other purely Indian concerns which must have applied for brass sheets, may I know why the Government have chosen a Canadian company?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It was not selected because it happened to be a Canadian company. It was one of the companies which was doing business along with others before.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: If Indian companies have also been carrying on the trade, may I know why they have been left out?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: They have been given.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In Madras?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: 70 tons have been given to the whole of the Madras Presidency.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How much of this goes to the Canadian company?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I want notice of that.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if brass sheets are distributed to all the Provinces?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, Sir.

Sardar Sant Singh: What is the quota for the Punjab?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, the Honourable Member has no reason to ask for more notice. My supplementary question is contained in the question itself. Sir, it is very improper of the Honourable Member to ask for more notice.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should leave that to me.

SUPPLY OF BRASS SHEETS BY GOVERNMENT

806. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) how many tons of brass sheets are being supplied by Government to the brass-metal manufacturing industry;

(b) whether Government are aware that a major portion of this industry is worked as cottage industry in Madras and other Provinces; and

(c) if so, what arrangements have been made by Government to supply brass sheets to the cottage industries?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No brass sheets have been released by the Government to the brass metal manufacturing industry. The reference is presumably to the brass utensils manufacturing industry which has been supplied brass sheets since June 1944 at the rate of approximately 400 tons per month.

(b) Yes, particularly in Madras.

(c) Having regard to the necessity of controlling prices of the finished utensils it was considered that release of sheets to handworkers could only be made if there were a reasonable guarantee that the minimum conditions relating to manufacture and distribution will be complied with. Accordingly monthly allotments of roughly 65 tons of brass sheets are already being made to two Provincial Governments, viz.: U. P. and Bengal, for distribution among the cottage industry in their respective areas. Enquiries have been made from Provincial Governments regarding the possibility of large releases to hand made Utensils manufacturers.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the quotas allotted to the United Provinces and Bengal?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have not got separate figures for these two but I think it is about half and half.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I want the number of tons.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: For both it is 65 tons. 32 tons for U. P. and the rest for Bengal.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Per year or per month?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Per month.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the conditions which the Government want to be fulfilled?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as production is concerned, the manufactured products should be sold at a controlled price, which will be reasonable in comparison with the price of the brass sheets themselves. Our objective was to see that cheap brass utensils are available and therefore whether Provincial Governments have undertaken the responsibility of seeing that

these utensils are properly and reasonably priced we have given brass sheets to the Provinces. As I have said, the other Provinces have been written to and their replies are awaited.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How much of brass sheets are asked for by these and the other Provinces and how much are they given?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have got only 400 tons for the whole of India.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know the quota given to the Punjab?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I want notice of that.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Was there any demand from the Central Provinces and Bihar?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I want notice of that question.

SHORTAGE OF YARNS FOR HANDLOOMS

807. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) whether weavers are experiencing acute shortage of yarns all over India and specially in Bihar;

(b) the percentage of handlooms now remaining idle in consequence of the above shortage; and

(c) the steps taken to increase production and distribution to avoid unemployment?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) There is shortage all over India, but it is mainly in the fine counts over 40's. It is correct that the shortage is particularly acute in Bihar.

(b) We have no definite statistics. The overall shortage as against the requirements estimated by the Fact Finding Committee is, however, only about five per cent. But since this shortage is concentrated almost entirely on fine counts a very much higher percentage of handlooms will be idle in areas primarily devoted to weaving from fine yarn, while in areas primarily dependent on coarse yarn there should not be any handlooms idle at all.

(c) A new yarn distribution scheme has been introduced. Under this scheme yarn is divided into four categories: 1's to 10's; 11's to 20's; 21's to 40's and over 40's. In each category each Province or State is given the percentage of its requirements which supplies permit; and the Textile Commissioner will decide which mills or dealers shall provide this percentage. The Provincial or State Government concerned will then decide which dealers shall do the buying for its area and will also control the detailed distribution within its own jurisdiction. This scheme should be in full working order within the next two or three weeks and it is hoped that it will largely remedy the situation as it should provide a cure for what have hitherto been the major defect of maldistribution and the widespread black marketing by dealers, particularly in the producing centres.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the shortage is due to maldistribution or to the fact that less yarn is being produced?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I have explained, a very large quantity of fine yarn which formerly used to be imported into this country is no longer available. On the other hand, whatever fine yarn is produced in the country is largely used by the mills for the production of textiles, with the result that whereas we have got a fair quantity of the coarser yarns, we have not as much as is necessary for the handlooms in the fine yarn section.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if Government have any information as to the percentage or total number of workers who have been thrown out of employment?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have made inquiries from different provinces in view of the persistent reports which I got as regards idleness amongst handloom weavers in different areas.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: The conditions of weavers of Barhanpur were brought to the notice of the Honourable Member. Has anything been done for these weavers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: They have been brought to my notice just as conditions in my own town which deals in fine yarn have been, but my difficulty is I have not as much fine yarn as is required for all these places.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask if Government will consider the question of giving compensation for unemployed weavers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I will ask the Honourable Member for Labour to reply. 0

HARASSMENT OF HAJ PILGRIMS AT KARACHI

808. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) whether he has read the news item published in the *Dawn*, dated the 11th February, 1945, under the heading "Hajies harassed at Karachi";

(b) whether (i) pilgrims were subjected to ill treatment, (ii) arrangements made for them were unsatisfactory and (iii) passage were sacrificed for cargo shipments; and

(c) whether he has ordered an enquiry, and if so, with what result; and if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Yes.

(b) (i) No.

(ii) No. A considerable number of pilgrims, for whom passages had not been reserved, arrived at the port direct. Ideal arrangements could not be provided for them and exaggerated complaints have been made by some of them.

(iii) No. On the other hand one ship had to leave with less than 100 passengers in the first sailing. Additional accommodation was also provided for 400 extra pilgrims who had arrived without booking their passage for the second sailing.

(c) Enquiry is being made into specific complaints received and suitable action will be taken.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member aware that at a meeting of Indian pilgrims held in Mecca a resolution was passed demanding that the Government of India should hold an inquiry into the complaints of pilgrims, and that they should take action against the Haj Officer or the Executive Officer of the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I am not aware of it.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the fact that this resolution has been published in the newspapers has the Honourable Member taken any action to find out whether the complaints were true or otherwise?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: If there are specific complaints I will always make inquiries.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member not aware that the complaint is quite specific that cargo was taken on, and that pilgrims who had come long distances to perform Haj were not allowed to go on board.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: The Honourable Member is not correct when he says that. I have already answered that cargo was not taken, and that on the other hand there were less pilgrims than the number allowed for the first sailing.

HAJ EXPENSES COLLECTED IN KARACHI

809. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) whether Haj expenses were collected in Karachi at Rs. 1-11-0 per *rial*;

(b) whether the rate of exchange was one *rial* per rupee; and

(c) whether excess charged will be refunded to the pilgrims concerned?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a), (b) and (c). Attention is invited to the replies to parts (c) and (d) of question No. 669.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know whether it is clear that an excess amount was charged and whether it has been refunded?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have already replied the other day that we are pressing for a refund.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know why such excess was charged from these unfortunate pilgrims?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: It was charged by Saudi Arabia, not by us.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: What protection did Government give to Indian pilgrims against exactions by outside authorities?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: We are pressing for a refund.

LABOUR OFFICERS' TRAINING IN BRITAIN

810. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) whether Labour Officers are being sent to the United Kingdom for training;

(b) the object and course of training; and

(c) how many are proposed to be sent and the expenditure involved in this scheme?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes,

(b) The object is to have experienced and suitably trained staff to tackle problems of labour administration, e.g., industrial relations including the settlement of labour disputes, factory inspection, and labour welfare, wage regulation and inspection, employment exchanges, demobilisation and resettlement, which are of immediate importance to India. The course will cover mainly all the subjects enumerated above and will be conducted partly at the headquarters of the Ministry of Labour and partly in other centres in the United Kingdom. It will last for a period of about six to eight months.

(c) The intention is to send three batches of 20 officers each, each batch including 12 officers of the Central Government and eight of the Provincial Governments and States. Financial sanction has been accorded to the sending of 12 Central Government officers with the first batch of trainees and this will cost the Central Government about a lakh of rupees. The Provincial Governments and States will bear the expenditure in connection with their nominees.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member say how he proposes to make the selections?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: With regard to the selections of nominees of Provinces and States, the matter rests with them. With regard to the selection of officers from Centre it rests with the Central Government of India. If the point of my Honourable friend is whether communal proportions will be recognised in making the selections, I want to tell him that I do propose to apply that principle.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will preference be given to those who are better qualified so far as educational qualifications are concerned.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It will be one of the qualifications.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member whether these officers will be selected by the heads of the particular Departments or by some Committee.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: They are selected by the different Departments.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Are they officers already in Government service?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, they will be officers already in service.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask if Government will include women, as welfare of women workers is very important.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes.

BURMA EVACUEES AND REFUGEES

811. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state how many Burma evacuees were servants of the Burma Government before they came to India?

- (b) How many of them have been absorbed, and in which Departments?
- (c) How many Burma evacuees who were not servants of Burma Government have been absorbed in Government service since they came?
- (d) What is the total amount of money Government have spent on refugees from Burma into India?
- (e) How many people have come to India from other parts of the world, excluding Burma, during the war as refugees?
- (f) What steps have Government taken in order to collect income-tax from such refugees?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) 33,508.

(b) A statement giving such information as is readily available is laid on the table.

(c) Up-to-date information is not available and its collection will involve an amount of labour and time not commensurate with its value. The Honourable Member is, however, referred to Question No. 6 asked by Sardar Mangal Singh on the 7th February, 1944 in reply to which I laid on the table, in the last November Session, a statement giving the number of evacuees of all classes employed in Government service upto the end of January 1944. The total number of evacuees so employed was 23,300. I have had information that upto August 1944, 5,443 more evacuees were also employed.

(d) Exact figures of actual expenditure on evacuees, from Burma are not available separately. The total expenditure on all evacuees, the majority of whom are from Burma, is expected to be Rs. 7½ crores by the end of the year 1944-45.

(e) Approximately 13,700.

(f) Same steps as are taken under the provisions of the Income-tax Act in respect of other assesseees.

Statement showing the approximate number of Burma Government servants taken into Government service in India

Department of the Government of India.

1. Posts and Telegraphs Department	11
2. Accounts Offices	99
3. Department of Supply	25
4. Labour Department	174
5. Income-tax	5
6. Emigration	2

7. E. H. and L. Department.

(Medical, Agricultural, Forests, etc. Services)

8. Indian Meteorological Department	44
9. Department of Industries and Civil Supplies	32
10. Railway Department	10
	3

Railways.

11. East Indian Railway	40
12. Bengal Assam Railway	70
13. G. I. P. Railway	18
14. North Western Railway	1

Provincial Governments and Administration.

15. Punjab	127
16. Madras	121
17. United Provinces	44
18. Central Provinces	4
19. Baluchistan	7

Total 837

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that there is serious discontent amongst the Indian officers of Government in many Departments that these refugees who have come from outside and who were Government servants in Burma, have been taken and that they have been superseded?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I am not aware of that.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government make inquiries, particularly with regard to high posts to which refugees from Burma and elsewhere have been appointed to the detriment of their own loyal servants?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I will make inquiries if he will put down a question.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Is it also a fact that many of the people who have been taken are very old-over sixty years of age?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I want notice.

ADULT LITERACY

812. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the attitude of the Government of India with regard to adult literacy?

(b) What specific steps have Government taken or recommended to be taken by Provincial Governments?

(c) What contribution have the Government of India made in this direction?

(d) What efforts have the Government of India made with regard to the increase of adult literacy amongst their own employees in Posts and Telegraphs, in Railways and other Departments?

(e) What steps have been taken to increase the literacy amongst the chap-rasis and chowkidars employed by the Government of India at the Centre?

(f) What books, charts, or special publications, if any, have been devised by the Education Department during the last ten years towards this object?

(g) When was the subject of adult literacy discussed in the Board of Education during the last ten years, and with what result?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a), (b), (c) and (g). At the request of the Government of India the Central Advisory Board of Education in December 1938 appointed a Committee to consider the question of adult education both generally and with special reference to the removal of illiteracy. The recommendations of the Committee as adopted by the Board have been brought to the notice of Universities, Provincial Governments and Local Authorities for guidance and necessary action. Since 1940 the Central Bureau of Education has been collecting, from Universities, Provincial Governments and Local authorities reports on developments in adult education year to year for consideration by the Central Advisory Board of Education. In their recommendations on post-war educational development (1944) the Board have also formulated a comprehensive scheme of adult education, including adult literacy, spread over 20 years to meet the entire requirement of the country, in this behalf.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(e) (i) The Library of the Central Bureau of Education maintains a special section, with suitable literature and films, to promote literacy and education among the inferior servants of the Government of India, in New Delhi and Simla.

(ii) It is proposed subject to the vote of the Legislature to sanction a grant of Rs. 1,000 in 1945-46 to the New Delhi Social Service League, whose services in the promotion of literacy amongst inferior servants of the Central Government have, in recent years, been commendable.

(f) Literature and Charts, to meet the requirements of adult literacy, are being prepared and published by Provincial Governments and voluntary organisations interested in the problem. The Central Advisory Board of Education, through their expert committees appointed to consider the questions of Adult Education (1938) and Text Books (1944) have made useful suggestions for the preparation of such literature and charts.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I inquire whether Government of India in the Education Department are making any effort to offer a good model as an employer to the rest of the country by eliminating illiteracy amongst their own employees?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The answer to that will be placed on the table under (d).

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government satisfied that their grant of one thousand rupees for anti-illiteracy campaign in their centrally administered areas is satisfactory or honourable?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It does not cover the whole of the centrally administered areas: it is for the promotion of literacy among inferior servants of the Central Government in Delhi.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government write to the Provincial Governments to make special efforts to eliminate illiteracy amongst Government employees of all kinds, in order that other employers may take the hint and proceed likewise?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We commended the recommendation of the Committee of 1938-39 to Universities, Provincial Governments and local authorities for their guidance.

DIFFICULTIES IN RETURN PASSAGE OF OVERSEAS INDIANS FROM EAST AFRICA, KENYA ETC.

813. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state whether any representation has been received by Government, or they have seen any complaints in the press about the hardship caused to Indians from East Africa, Kenya and other foreign parts, who are unable to return?

(b) Has it been pointed out that some of them might lose their citizenship or other rights which they have acquired in these countries, if they were not permitted to go back soon?

(c) How many applications were received by Government and how many were granted?

(d) What have the Government of India done to secure additional passages for these persons?

(e) What sort of difficulty have Government experienced in their efforts to ease the situation?

(f) Has a representation been made to the corresponding authorities outside India to extend the period or to condone the delay in the return of such persons so as not to affect their rights?

(g) If so, what were the representations, to whom were they made and with what results?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (e) to (g). For information regarding countries outside the Commonwealth the question should be addressed to the External Affairs Department. I have had reports and representations that certain Indians domiciled in South Africa and East Africa who came to India on short visits have been experiencing difficulties in obtaining return passages. The position with regard to Indians from South Africa is as follows:

Indians domiciled in South Africa have to obtain certificates of identity from the Union Government for paying temporary visits to India. These certificates remain in force generally for three years but can be extended for a maximum period of ten years. Holders of these certificates failing to return to the Union within the prescribed period lose their Union domicile. When the shipping position became difficult in 1940 the Union Government granted extension in individual cases in which proof of inability to return owing to shipping difficulties was furnished. In 1942, however, the Union Government decided that no extension would be granted to those who had left the Union after the 1st May, 1942. It is understood that many Indians who left the Union after 1st May, 1942 have not been able to secure their return passage so far. To enable them to return before the expiry of their certificates the Government of India have arranged several hundred priority passages for sailings in February and March. Action has also been taken for securing extra shipping accommodation. Renewed representations have also been made to the Union Government for extending the periods of the certificates. The Union Government have since agreed to grant extension on condition that the Government of India certify in each

case that a passage had been booked and that shipping accommodation was not available.

2. As regards East Africa the position is that non-natives, unless they are normal residents of the country and have not been away for more than two years, are required to obtain permits from the East African Government concerned before entering its territory. Such permits are issued only to persons who propose to take up some approved occupation connected with the war effort. On representations made by the Government of India the East African Governments have stated that entry permits will not be refused to applicants who are *bona fide* residents of the countries and have been absent even for more than two years. If these assurances are implemented Indians normally resident in the East African territories are not threatened with any loss of rights of citizenship. Applications for priority passages from Indians desiring to return to East Africa are considered on merits.

3. Information about the exact number of such applications received and disposed of is not readily available but will be collected if the Honourable Member so desires.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that certain classes are suffering much, may I inquire whether the Honourable Member will issue a Press Note giving those particular classes the information which he has now given?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I will consider that.

REGISTERED TRADE UNIONS

814. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state how many registered Trade Unions there are in India and what the total membership is?

(b) What is the total number of persons employed in industrial concerns excluding State concerns?

(c) On what basis have Government recognized Trade Unions for State employees such as Posts, Telegraphs, Railways, etc.?

(d) What channel have Government provided for representation of subordinate services in the Civil Departments of the Government of India of their legitimate grievances, particularly with regard to dearness caused by the war?

(e) What assistance or contribution or grant, direct or indirect, has been given to labour Unions in India by the Government of India during the last five years and for what purposes?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) On the 31st March, 1942, there were 747 registered unions and the membership of 455 unions out of these (which submitted returns) was 5,73,520. I regret later information is not available.

(b) According to the latest available reports the average daily number of persons employed during 1943 in private factories subject to the Factories Act, 1934, was about 21 lakhs and that in mines subject to the Mines Act, 1923, about 3½ lakhs. In the Assam tea plantations the average number of workers on the books was a little over 6 lakhs during 1942-43.

(c) A copy of the Rules regulating recognition of unions of industrial employees of the Central Government is laid on the table.

(d) Members of Subordinate Services in Civil Departments can represent their grievances either orally or in writing to the Heads of Departments or similarly placed officers or can approach such authorities or Government through recognised unions, staff councils or works committees, where they exist. It is also open to any aggrieved Government servant to make representations to the Head of his Department or the Government of India in accordance with the instructions laid down in Home Department Notification No. 106/38, dated the 24th August, 1938, a copy of which is laid on the table.

(e) The Railway Department grant to railway employees who are union officials certain facilities in regard to casual leave and free passes for railway journeys for attending meetings of the union. No other direct assistance is granted to labour unions as such by the Government of India.

Rules for the recognition of associations of industrial employees (including railway employees), of the Government of India

1. Government is prepared to accord official recognition to associations of its industrial employees. The grant and continuance of recognition rests in the discretion of Government, but recognition when granted will not be withdrawn without due cause and without giving an opportunity to the association to show cause against such withdrawal.

2. Notwithstanding anything contained in the rules relating to the submission of petitions and memorials by Government servants, representations from recognised associations whether made orally by deputation or presented in writing, may be received by Government officers, subject to the observance of rule 6 and to such further restrictions as may be imposed by a department of Government in respect of representations which raise no question of common interest to the class represented by the association.

3. Recognition will not ordinarily be granted or continued to any association unless it complies with the following conditions :—

- (i) it must consist of a distinct class of Government employees;
- (ii) all Government employees of the same class must be eligible for membership;
- (iii) it must be registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act.

4. Government may require the regular submission of copies of the rules of any recognized association, of its annual accounts and of its list of members.

5. No recognized association shall maintain a political fund except with the general or special sanction of Government, and subject to such conditions as Government may impose.

6. Government may specify the channel through which representations from recognised associations shall be submitted and the authority by whom deputations may be received.

7. The officer who is empowered to grant leave to a Government employee will, so far as is possible, grant casual leave to an employee who is a representative of a recognized association to attend duly constituted meetings of the association. The grant of such leave will be subject to the exigencies of the service, of which the officer in question shall be the sole judge.

8. Government may delegate any of its powers under the preceding rules to any authority subordinate to it.

9. These rules supersede all previous rules in respect of all associations to which they are applicable.

HOME DEPARTMENT
NOTIFICATION
ESTABLISHMENTS

Simla, the 24th August 1939

No. 106/38.—The following instructions for the submission, receipt and transmission of petitions to the Governor General in Council are published for general information in supersession of the instructions published with the Government of India, Home Department, Notification No. F. 6/7/33-II-Public, dated the 19th June 1933, in so far as they relate to petitions from persons who are, or have been, in the Civil Service of the Crown in India :—

PART I

Preliminary.

1. *Definitions.*—In these instructions :—

- (1) "Provincial Government" includes the authorities mentioned in the Schedule; and
- (2) "Petition" includes memorials, letters and applications of the nature of petitions.

2. *Scope of Instructions.*—(1) Save as hereinafter provided, these instructions shall apply, so far as may be, to all petitions addressed to the Governor General in Council, by persons who are, or have been, in the Civil Service of the Crown in India other than those employed under the Crown Representative in respect of matters arising out of such employment or in respect of the termination of such employment.

(2) They shall apply only in so far as they are not inconsistent with the conditions of Royal Indian Navy, Army, or Royal Air Force Service to petitions of the nature referred to in sub-instruction (1) from persons who are or have been in such service in respect of matters arising therefrom.

(3) They shall not affect any rules or orders made by the Governor General in Council in respect of representations submitted by recognised associations of Government servants.

PART II

Form and manner of submission of petitions

3. *Form of petition.*—(1) A petition may be either in typescript or in print.

(2) Every petition shall be authenticated by the signature of the petitioner, and submitted by the petitioner in his own behalf.

(3) Every petition, and the documents accompanying it, shall be in English.

4. *Contents of petition.*—Every petition shall—

- (a) contain all material statements and arguments relied upon by the petitioner;
- (b) be complete in itself;
- (c) if any recorded order of a public authority is complained against, be accompanied by a copy of the orders and by a copy of any order in the case passed by a subordinate authority; and
- (d) end with a specific prayer.

5. *Method of submission.*—(1) Every petition shall be submitted through—

- (a) the Provincial Government mentioned in the Schedule in respect of the petitioner; or
 - (b) if no Provincial Government is mentioned in the Schedule in respect of the petitioner, the Provincial Government of the province in which the petitioner is or has last been residing; or employed,
- and shall be accompanied by a letter requesting the Provincial Government to transmit the petition to the Governor General in Council.

(2) If there is no Provincial Government such as referred to in sub-instruction (1), the petition shall be submitted to the Governor General in Council direct.

6. (1) Every petition shall be submitted to the authority provided in instruction 5 through the head of the office or department to which the petitioner belongs or belonged.

(2) The head of an office or department, on receipt of any petition submitted through him in accordance with sub-instruction (1), shall forward the petition, by means of the usual official channel, to the authority provided in instruction 5.

PART III

Withholding of petitions by the Provincial Government

7. *Circumstances in which petitions may be withheld.*—The Provincial Government may, at discretion, withhold a petition when—

(1) the petitioner has not complied in full with the provisions of Part II of these instructions;

(2) the petition is illegible or unintelligible or contains language which is, in the opinion of the Provincial Government, disloyal, disrespectful or improper;

(3) a previous petition from the petitioner on the same subject has been disposed of by the Secretary of State for India or the Governor General in Council, and the petition, in the opinion of the Provincial Government, discloses no new facts or circumstances which afford grounds for a reconsideration of the subject;

(4) the petition is a representation against a decision which is declared to be final by any law or statutory rule;

(5) the petition is—

(a) an application for employment in Government service not made in pursuance of any rule or announcement regarding applications for such employment; or

(b) a request for exemption from the provisions of any law or rule prescribing the qualifications to be possessed by persons in the service of Government or by persons engaging in any profession or employment;

(6) the petition relates to a subject on which the Provincial Government is competent to pass orders, and no application for redress has been made by the petitioner to the Provincial Government;

(7) the petition is a representation against an order communicated to the petitioner more than six months before the submission of the petition, and no satisfactory explanation of the delay is given;

(8) the petition is a representation against a failure to exercise a discretion vested in the Provincial Government :

Provided that no petition submitted by an officer appointed by the Secretary of State in Council or the Secretary of State or a Commissioned Officer on the Active List of the Royal Indian Navy, or an officer holding the King's Commission on the Active List of the Regular Army or the Royal Air Force or an officer appointed substantively to a reserved post, or an officer appointed by the Governor General in Council to a Central Service, shall be withheld;

(9) the petition is a representation against the discharge of a person—

(a) appointed on probation, during such probation;

(b) appointed, otherwise than under contract, to hold a temporary appointment, on the expiration of the period of such appointment; or

(c) engaged under contract, in accordance with the terms of such contract.

(10) the petition is a representation against an order—

(a) from which the petitioner has exercised, or possesses, a right of appeal under—

(i) rules or orders regulating his conditions of service; or

(ii) the terms of his contract of service;

(b) passed by any authority in the exercise of appellate or revisional powers conferred by any rule, order or contract such as is referred to in sub-clause (a); or

(c) from which, not being an order of punishment passed by the Governor General in Council on an officer appointed by the Governor General in Council, an appeal is expressly barred by any rule, order or contract such as is referred to in sub-clause (a);

(11) the petition is a representation relating to—

(a) the application of—

(i) rules or orders made by the Secretary of State for India in Council or the Secretary of State for India; or

(ii) the terms of the contract of service of the petitioner; or

(b) an order of the Provincial Government refusing to grant or to recommend—

(i) a special pension;

(ii) a compassionate pension; or

(iii) Any pecuniary or other concession to which the petitioner is not entitled under any law or statutory rule :

Provided that no petition submitted by an officer appointed by the Secretary of State in Council or the Secretary of State or a Commissioned Officer on the Active List of the Royal Indian Navy or an officer holding the King's Commission on the Active List of the Regular Army or the Royal Air Force or an officer appointed substantively to a reserved post, or an officer appointed by the Governor General in Council to a Central Service, shall be withheld;

(12) the petition is submitted, otherwise than in accordance with any rule, order or contract such as is referred to in sub-clause (a) of clause (10), with regard to the prospective claim of the petitioner to pension; or

(13) the petition is a representation against the withholding of a petition by an authority competent to do so.

8. *Petitioner to be informed when petition is withheld.*—The Provincial Government shall, when a petition is withheld under instruction 7, inform the petitioner of the withholding and the reason therefor.

9. *List of petitions withheld.*—The Provincial Government shall send a quarterly return to the Governor General in Council specifying all petitions from officers under the rule-making control of that authority or an authority subordinate thereto, withheld under instruction 7 by the Provincial Government, and the reasons for withholding them.

PART IV

Transmission of petitions by the Provincial Government

10. *Procedure for transmission.*—The Provincial Government shall transmit to the Governor General in Council all petitions not withheld under instruction 7, together with a concise statement of facts material thereto and, unless there are special reasons to the contrary, an expression of the opinion of the Provincial Government thereon.

SCHEDULE

List of authorities included in the term "Provincial Government"

[See Instruction 1 (1)]

1. Chief Commissioners.
2. The Commander-in-Chief in India and Army, District and Independent Brigade Commanders.

NOTE.—In the case of petitioners who are ex-soldiers and have served under more than one Army, District or Independent Brigade Commander, the Provincial Government for the purposes of these instructions shall be the Army, District or Independent Brigade Commander who from his knowledge of the petitioner or of the subject-matter of the petition is best able to make recommendations on the petition.

3. The Air Officer Commanding, Royal Air Force in India.
4. The Flag Officer Commanding, Royal Indian Navy.
5. Heads of Departments who are directly under the Government of India.
6. In respect of persons serving under the Railway Board—
 - (a) as regards non-pensionable non-gazetted staff :—
 - (i) General Managers,
 - (ii) Chief Engineers,
 - (iii) Chief Operating and Transportation Superintendents,
 - (iv) Chief Traffic and Commercial Managers,
 - (v) Locomotive and Carriage, and Wagon Superintendents,
 - (vi) Chief Mechanical Engineers,
 - (vii) Superintendents of Mechanical Workshops,
 - (viii) Financial Advisers and Chief Accounts Officers,
 - (ix) Divisional Superintendents,
 - (x) Controller of Railway Accounts.
 - (b) as regards other staff :—
 The Railway Board.

E. CONRAN-SMITH,

Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 106/38-Ests.

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By order,

P. A. MENON,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

PROPAGANDA MATERIAL GIVEN TO HYDARI MISSION AND TO BUSINESSMEN MISSION TO AUSTRALIA

815. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state what propaganda material has been given to (i) the Hydari Mission, and (ii) the mission of businessmen which has gone to Australia?

(b) Why are not these papers supplied to members of the Legislature?

(c) Have Government received any representation from the Government of Australia or from the Australian High Commissioner in India on the subject of trade between Australia and India?

(d) If so, do they propose to circulate a copy of it to Members of the Legislature?

(e) Have Government considered in what field Australia offers competition to India?

(f) Have Government considered that the wheat import duty was directed principally against Australia?

(g) Have Government made any plan or programme with regard to the future trade organization of India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) None.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There has not arisen any occasion so far necessitating such a review.

(f) The duty was imposed to safeguard the interests of Indian agriculturists and to preserve the Indian market for Indian wheat.

(g) Formulation of any programme or plan in this matter is closely related to the post-war economic conditions of the world which it is too early yet to envisage.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know what is the deputation which has gone to Australia expected to do?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: They have gone with a view to establish industrial contact, to see the country and its development and the way in which the country has developed.

Mr. Manu Subedar: After their report has been received by Government, is there any intention to negotiate a trade treaty with Australia?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not expect any formal report of that character.

Mr. Hooseinbhooy A. Lalljee: May I know whether the Hydari Mission is carrying on its work under the directions of the Commerce Department?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That hardly arises out of this question.

Mr. Hooseinbhooy A. Lalljee: The Commerce Member is replying to this question.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as the Hydari mission is concerned, it has been repeatedly answered in this House as to the reasons for which it has gone; and naturally though one Department is particularly responsible for coordinating the different needs of the different Departments, it is that Department which is responsible to see that these things are done, in which the Supply, War, Finance, Commerce, Industry and other Departments are participants.

Mr. Hooseinbhooy A. Lalljee: That is exactly what I want to know—who directs the mission?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: There is no question of direction; it is a question of discussion at the other end with a view to relieve the economic load on India in the next few months and the coming year.

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

UTILIZATION OF NON-ARABLE WASTE LANDS

†816. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state what steps he has taken to utilise all waste lands not fit for cultivation, in the whole of India in general and in Bengal in particular? Will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay on the table any scheme for utilisation of waste lands in the villages?

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

(b) What is the total area of extra lands in each Province brought under cultivation under the "Grow More Food" campaign scheme during 1943-44, and what kind and quantity of food has been produced to add to the normal production?

(c) What has been the total cost of production of the extra food Province by Province?

(d) What steps have been taken for plantation of Cinchona, Belladonna, Nux Vomica to make it possible for India to secure quinine and Belladonna for her own consumption without requiring imports from abroad?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A statement is placed on the table showing the loans and grants given to each province for land clearance and improvement. It may be presumed that the 10.35 million acres of extra land cultivated in British India was obtained by bringing fallow and cultivable waste under cultivation. In addition the Central Government have suggested to the Provinces to grow 'minor forests' for village timber, fuel and fodder on waste land not capable of bearing food or cash crops. As regards the utilisation of cultivable waste, the Government of India have asked the Provinces to institute a survey to collect precise information about in position to extent of such lands and to find out what prevents them from being cultivated and what action is needed to bring them under cultivation. They have also promised financial assistance for the purpose. The Government of Madras submitted a scheme to undertake such a survey for which financial assistance has been sanctioned. A similar proposal from the Government of Orissa has recently been received and is under examination. Most of the schemes for improvement of irrigation, drainage and bunding are schemes for the utilisation of waste lands or the better utilisation of lands which are more or less derelict (*i.e.*, inadequately cultivated).

(b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) The cost of production is not known. If the Honourable Member is referring to the grants given by the Central Government to each province, the information is given in my reply to starred question No. 685 of the Honourable Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam on 5th March 1945.

(d) Quinine production has been increased from about 70,000 lbs. to over 90,000 lbs. a year. In addition approximately 2,500 acres have been close-planted under a short term production scheme. Arrangements have been made for the planting of an additional area of 1,390 acres in 1945 and a further area of 1,000 acres in 1946. A scheme for vegetative reproduction on a large scale is being undertaken in order to improve the outturn from existing plantations.

As regards Belladonna and Nux Vomica, India is already in a position to meet her requirements without imports.

A statement showing the loans and grants given during 1943-44 and 1944-45 to Provinces and Indian States for land clearance and improvements

Name of the Province or Indian State	1943-44		1944-45	
	Loan	Grant	Loan	Grant
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Bihar				5,76,970
2. Bombay	3,00,000	1,00,000		15,00,000
3. C. P. and Berar	2,00,000	1,00,000	1,48,970	47,985
4. Coorg		41,250		
5. Madras			16,25,000	2,02,466
6. Orissa	3,76,500	89,900	4,45,500	44,000
7. Punjab		3,00,000		6,00,000
8. U. P.				1,01,000
9. Baroda State		30,000 (C. F.)		52,000 (C. F.)
Total	8,76,500	6,61,150	22,19,470	31,24,421

NOTE.—C. F. denotes Cotton Fund.

Statement showing increase in area and production of principal food grains in various provinces during 1943-44 over the average of three years 1936-37 to 1938-39

Provinces	Extra Area (Thousand acres)	Extra Cereal Production (Thousand tons)
Ajmer-Merwara	60	17
Assam	Nil	307
Bengal	4,771	3,068
Bihar	361	535
Bombay	Nil	54
C. P. and Berar	630	188
Coorg	3	14
Delhi	7	8
Madras	491	212
N.-W. F. P.	Nil	Nil
Orissa	27	Nil
Punjab	2,007	651
Sind	623	273
U. P.	1,652	134

RESEARCH WORK AT NUTRITION RESEARCH LABORATORIES, COONOR

817. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) what the foods of human beings as well as of cattle are on which nutrition research work has been carried on at the Nutrition Research Laboratories, Coonoor; and

(b) if the research workers have to go to distant towns where hospitals are situated to try their researches on human beings as there is no decent hospital for men at Coonoor; if so, whether this Research Centre will be shifted to some other town where all these facilities exist; what the special reason is for keeping the research centre at Coonoor?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Between 300 and 400 items of human food have been analysed in the Nutrition Research Laboratories, Coonoor. A list of the foods analysed and the results of most of the analyses are contained in Health Bulletin No. 23 entitled "The Nutrition Value of Indian Foods and the Planning of Satisfactory Diets", a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. I shall be glad to supply a copy to the Honourable Member if he so desires. Cattle foods are not analysed at these Laboratories.

(b) The staff of the Coonoor Laboratories have been carrying out clinical research in Madras and other centres in India. Coonoor is suitable for many forms of nutrition research, but local clinical facilities for research are inadequate. The question of the future location of the Central Nutrition Research Institute will be considered in connection with post-war development plans after receipt of the Report of the Health Survey and Development Committee.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Member aware that the necessity for research has been emphasized in the bulletins issued from this and other Departments? Is the Government taking that recommendation into consideration or does Government consider that no harm is likely to happen and that the country can wait till the post-war development?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, Sir. We can certainly await the recommendations of the Bhoire Committee.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Member aware that in the Aykroyd Report the necessity for immediate intensive propaganda for research work has been emphasized?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am quite aware of that.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What is the Government doing to carry out that recommendation?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Bhore Committee will give us guidance as to how it is to be carried out.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has any effort been made to start such research laboratories anywhere else in India?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Not by the Central Government at present.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has any province such a proposal?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That information should be elicited by questions in the local Legislatures.

SCARCITY OF NUTRITION WORKERS

818. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if his attention has been drawn to paragraph (6) at page 9—'Scarcity of Nutrition Workers' of Notes on Food and Nutrition Policy in India by W. R. Aykroyd, C.B.E., M.D.Sc., publisher to Government of India, Department of Food? What steps do Government propose to take to get over it, and when?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes. The question of the training of nutrition workers is being considered by the Health Survey and Development Committee. It will be examined by the Government of India after receipt of the Report of the Committee.

MONEY REQUIRED FOR REPAIRS OF KHEDEDIA FORT MONUMENTS

819. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: With reference to my starred question No. 38, put on the 9th February, 1945, about Khededia fort and his answers and supplementaries thereto, will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) how much money would be required to carry out the special repairs mentioned by him in part (b) of his reply; and

(b) when he expects to get the necessary funds?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The information has been called for and a reply will be furnished to the House when it is received.

+820.*

CLOSING OF BENGAL COTTON MILLS DUE TO COAL SHORTAGE

821. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to refer to his answer to my starred question No. 173 on the 14th February, 1945, and state for how many days the Cotton Mills in Bengal remained closed due to coal shortage during the period referred to therein, and what the total loss of production of these Mills in January was?

(b) With reference to the Honourable Member's statement that the total loss of production in India during January was in the neighbourhood of 23.7 million yards of cloth, and will, to that extent, reduce supplies of cloth to civil population, will the Honourable Member be pleased to refer to the original question on this point and state whether any proportion of this shortage will reduce the quota for export outside India, and, if not, is such quota deemed to be an inflexible figure regardless of the position of total production in India at any time?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Six cotton mills of Bengal remained closed due to coal shortage during January 1945 for varying periods. The exact number of days for which each of them remained closed is not known but the information is being collected. The total loss of production is estimated at about 2.38 million yards.

(b) There has been no reduction in the export quota as a result of this shortage so far. But the export quota is not an inflexible figure. It is reviewed every six months and all relevant factors such as any rise or fall in the all India production, minimum essential requirements of overseas countries, etc., are duly taken into account and I can assure the Honourable Member that it will be taken into account.

+This question has been postponed to be answered on the 26th March, 1945.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I take it that the question is yet open as to how far the export quota will be reduced in order to compensate for the shortage of production?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have said that figures are only available for the month of January when the situation arose. When the next export quota will be considered, this is one of the factors which will be considered along with others.

DISAPPROVAL OF COTTON TEXTILES EXPORT POLICY

822. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) With reference to the reply given by the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies to my starred question No. 176 on the 14th February, 1945, to the effect that the export trade welcomes the facilities for exporting the allotted quantity of textiles and the Textile Board has been kept fully informed about it, will the Honourable Member please state whether representatives of the Indian Cotton Textiles Industry do not generally disapprove of the export policy in this behalf?

(b) Is it a fact that at a meeting of the Panel of the Indian Cotton Textile Industry (Standard Cloth) held on the 31st January, 1943, prominent representatives of the industry, such as Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Sir Shri Ram and Sir Ness Wadia, adversely criticised the export policy of the Government holding that the home market was more important for the industry than the export market and that most of the countries where exports of cotton textiles were being made at the instance of Government, would not remain customers of Indian concerns after the war was over? Is it a fact that representatives of the Indian Cotton Textile Industry and others present at a conference held in Bombay under the Chairmanship of Sir Akbar Hydari on the 1st and 2nd June, 1943, were of the opinion that export of cotton textiles could be permitted only after the internal demand of India had been fully satisfied?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No.

(b) It is correct that in January 1943 Sir Shri Ram, Sir Ness Wadia, and Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai criticised Government's export policy for the reasons given. They were however in a minority in a meeting of 27. We have no detailed records of what was said at the meeting of 1st and 2nd June 1943; it is possible, however, that some of the invitees to the meeting may have expressed the views suggested by the Honourable member.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Was this issue specially raised at any meeting of the Control Board and votes taken?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As far as I have seen the proceedings, this question came in connection with other questions which were discussed but I am not quite certain whether that specific issue was raised.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to direct the officer concerned to see to it that this issue is raised specifically for consideration at the next meeting of the Control Board and find out the views of the majority of that body?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I will consider that matter. This question will have to be discussed in connection not only with the shortage position but with the position which might arise so far as the foreign supply is concerned. All these matters will have to be considered as soon as possible.

DISAPPROVAL OF COTTON TEXTILES EXPORT POLICY

823. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state if it is not a fact that the question of exporting textiles to most of the foreign countries to which they are now being exported, is really a political question and that the present policy has not the support of the industry itself?

(b) As regards the support of the export trade, who are the firms that benefit by the export trade in cotton textiles at present, and what was approximately the extent of the export trade in Indian cotton textiles which they handled before the war, as compared with the trade that they are approximately handling at present?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No.

(b) It is not possible to prepare a list of firms which benefit from the export trade in Cotton Textiles as such a list must comprise not only those who actually receive export licences on the basis of exports handled by them in the prescribed basic period but also others such as mills and wholesale dealers from whom the licence holders make their purchases. It is not also easy to collect information regarding the volume of export trade in textiles handled by such firms before the war.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of having one flat rate for all provinces? I suppose the needs of everybody will be much the same. Will the Honourable Member consider the question?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Only yesterday I received a deputation on behalf of the exporters of textiles who raised the same point. I propose to consider this matter as soon as possible.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to part (a) of the question, is it not a fact that at the meeting of the Indian Cotton Textile Panel, prominent owners of Indian textile mills expressed themselves to the effect that this question of export quotas really was a political question and that they did not think it would benefit the industry?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not aware of that and I do not at all agree that it is a political question. If we think of the post-war world, we have to think of the export market which India will have to get and I do not expect that India will remain in a static position, only looking to her deeds and not expanding her export market. It is a question which is discussed only in its economic aspect and no other, except questions which have arisen directly out of war considerations.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I draw my Honourable friend's attention to the proceedings of the Indian Textile Panel of the 31st January 1943 where at pages 4, 5 and 6, the Honourable Member will find expressions of opinion to the effect I have already quoted?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am aware of that but as I said we discussed on economic and industrial grounds and since 1943, the volume has been reduced.

PER HEAD CLOTH QUOTA FOR BENGAL

824. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to refer to my starred question No. 175 and the answer given by him on the 14th February, 1945, and state on what materials the estimate that the pre-war annual consumption of textiles was in the neighbourhood of 10 yards per head in the case of Bengal, is based?

(b) Is it a fact that this calculation was challenged on behalf of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, the Indian Chamber of Commerce, the Marwari Chamber of Commerce, the Marwari Association and the Bengal Millowners' Association, of Calcutta, in a joint communication, dated the 29th November, 1944, to the address of the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies? Has any reply been sent to this communication dealing with this as well as other points raised therein? If so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of that reply?

(c) Is it a fact that a communication was sent on behalf of the Government of Bengal as well, on this subject to the Honourable Member's Department? If so, what was the purport of the said communication, and what reply has been sent thereto?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The estimates were made by adding to local production figures for rail and sea imports and exports from the area, provided by the Provincial Textile Controller, Bombay.

(b) Yes. A copy of the reply sent to the Chambers is placed on the table.

(c) Yes. The purport of the communications received from the Government of Bengal was that the allocation of quota for Bengal on the basis of

10 yards *per capita* of the population was not justified on the figures of consumption. In reply, the Textile Commissioner stated that he had already undertaken to re-examine the position provided he was supplied with accurate and verifiable statistics of the consumption of cloth in each consuming area and he has taken steps accordingly.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is that re-examination going to take place very early?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, Sir.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Who should supply him with the information?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The Provincial Governments.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware that similar discontent prevails in the Madras Presidency where the estimate *per capita* of cotton cloth is not adequate and is an underestimate?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not aware of it but there is inadequacy everywhere and all factors are taken into consideration.

DISCRIMINATION IN FIXING PROVINCIAL TEXTILE QUOTAS

825. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state if it is a fact that for purposes of allocation of the quota for Bengal, the population of that Province has been taken to be 61 million while the general estimate of the present population of Bengal is 65 million, having regard to the influx of refugees and evacuees from Burma, as well as military, semi-military and auxiliary personnel due to war conditions, including a large number of persons belonging to the other Provinces who now find increased employment in Bengal?

(b) Is it a fact that at one stage of negotiations, the Textile Commissioner, during his visit to Calcutta, verbally informed representatives of Chambers of Commerce that the Government of India had fixed provincial quotas on a uniform basis of 12 yards of cloth per head per year and that no discrimination was going to be made in the matter between Province and Province? If so, what are the reasons for a departure from this proposed flat allocation of provincial quotas?

(c) What action has been taken for the purpose of preventing cotton goods being exported from Bengal to other Provinces, and being smuggled to China over the land route *via* Tibet, and how far have the preventive measures proved a success?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) For purposes of allocation of quota the population of Bengal was taken at roughly 61 millions on the basis of 1941 census. Government have no reliable estimates of the present population of that province.

(b) The Textile Commissioner did, when he was in Calcutta in August last, state publicly that Bengal along with the rest of India would be getting 12 yards *per capita*. It was, however, found from statistics collected by the Central and certain Provincial Governments that the *per capita* consumption prior to the war was high in provinces like the Punjab and Bombay while provinces like Madras and Bengal consumed far less. The quotas were, therefore, revised on the basis of the *per capita* consumption prior to the war and thus Bengal was allotted 10 yards per head per annum. Government have, however, undertaken to re-examine the whole question of quotas on receipt of authoritative figures of pre-war consumption from all Provinces and States.

(c) Government have undertaken to see that the pre-determined quotas of cloth are made available month by month to the various deficit zones, such as Bengal. It is for the Provincial and State control authorities to regulate the movement of cloth which has arrived in their zones. It is, therefore, for the Government of Bengal to see that the cloth delivered within the Province is not exported from Bengal to China over the land route *via* Tibet.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether in fixing the *per capita* quota, the handloom production in each Province was taken into account?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, Sir.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that there is a danger of the quota given to a particular Province being unequally distributed between the well-to-do classes and the poorer classes, will the Honourable Member consider the question of introducing rationing in as many areas in the country as he can do it?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have answered that, that I will bring it to the notice of the Provinces concerned.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India will take the initiative in the matter of rationing as they did in the matter of food grains?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Our hands are for the time being so full with looking into between the different Provinces and the States that it is no use my saying I will look into it. I will not be able to look into it, I have not got the staff to do it. I certainly propose to bring this matter to the notice of the provincial authorities.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to part (c), do I understand my Honourable friend to say that preventive measures are the concern of the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We send cloth to the Provinces and the distribution and the conservation within the Provinces is a matter for the Provinces themselves.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is there any embargo on the exportation of cotton textiles from Bengal to Tibet?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is the Provincial Governments' concern.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I think it is a matter for the Government of India.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Our concern is to take steps that cloth goes to the provinces. If there is to be an embargo, that has to be placed by the Provincial Government concerned from out of its quota. In other words, if I send 20 yards to Bengal it is desirable for Bengal to get 20 yards, but if by some means or other even those 20 yards go out of the province then it is for the province concerned to take steps.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Is it not the function of the Government of India to see that smuggling should be stopped?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I wish I could do it, but the land frontier of India is a figure which my Honourable friend might study in geography.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member's hands are too full, may I know whether he made representations that the several Departments which he is at present controlling and for which he has no staff should be handed over to some other Honourable Member and that he should be left free for doing the work for which he is paid?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My Honourable friend does not know that almost every Department is overburdened.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know whether he made representations to the Secretary of State?

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

ORDER CONFINING SUPPLY OF GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED CLOTH TO CERTAIN GOVERNMENT SERVANTS IN AJMER

826. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please refer to his reply to starred question No. 631 on the 20th November, 1944, and state what action he took in respect of the order of the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer that Government controlled cloth and woollen blankets were to be supplied only to Government servants drawing over Rs. 100 per month and income-tax payers, and what steps, if any, he has taken to prevent the issue of such orders in future?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The order in question has since been withdrawn by the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara. In future the sale of woollen cloth will be regulated by permits which will be issued to consumers irrespective of whether they are income-tax payers or Government servants, or not. No question of a recurrence therefore arises.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Has the Honourable Member found out all the circumstances in which the order was originally passed and has he reprimanded the Chief Commissioner for it?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have brought the matter to his notice on studying the facts of the case.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the fact that the people excluded had to endure hardships, has anybody been punished for passing such an order?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If I can punish everybody for every offence, I would have been a happy person.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Such orders are causing untold hardship to poorer classes. In my own Province only the very favoured class was getting woollen cloth and the other people had to suffer in cold without any woollen clothing.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We took some steps, but in the administration of the Act, if some order or other is not properly understood at the early stages, then I cannot see how it is a matter in which punishment should be given.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: It is a case of deliberate favouritism and not misunderstanding.

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

PROCEDURE RE MERCY PETITIONS

827. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) the procedure that is followed in the matter of petitions of mercy from prisoners condemned to death; and

(b) at what stage, if any, these petitions reach the Honourable Member and what the exact procedure he adopts is, in disposing of them?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) and (b). *Governors' Provinces:* The authority at the Centre empowered to deal with petitions from persons sentenced to death in Governors' Provinces is the Governor-General in his discretion. The Governor-General obtains such advice as he thinks necessary.

Chief Commissioners' Provinces: Petitions from Chief Commissioners' Provinces lie to the Governor General in Council and the Governor General in his discretion. Those meant for the Governor General in Council are disposed of in the ordinary course of business. As regards petitions to the Governor-General in his discretion the position is the same as in respect of Governors' Provinces.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if these applications are disposed of in the Secretariat of the Governor General or by the Law Department?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Governor General Public.

DISCOURAGEMENT AS REGARDS USE OF FINE YARN TO MADRAS HANDLOOM WEAVERS

828. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) if it is not a fact that the Textile Commissioner, Madras, has inaugurated a campaign of discouraging handloom weavers from using fine yarn for weaving cloth of higher counts;

(b) if he is not aware of the fact that the weaving of cloths of finer counts gives the largest scope for the display of the special artistic and individual skill and specialisation of handloom weavers;

(c) if this Madras campaign is allowed to go on, whether one of the most important special privileges of the handloom weavers, which have helped the handloom to survive mill competition, will be lost;

(d) if it is not a fact that a very large number of weavers of so many areas have been living on the weaving of specialized types of cloth woven out of fine

yarn and that they have been largely unemployed for many months at a time owing to the failure of Government to supply them with yarn of higher counts; and

(e) whether Government propose to abandon this campaign and to obtain, if necessary, supplies of yarn of finer counts from Bombay, etc., and thus help Madras weavers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No. There is no campaign to discourage weavers from using fine yarn, but the Textile Commissioner, Madras, is not in a position to provide as much fine yarn as is required, since much of this yarn before the war was imported and this supply is now cut off.

(b) I am aware of this fact.

(c) Every effort to make the maximum amount of fine yarn available to Madras handloom weavers is being made. Prices have been adjusted so as to encourage the mills to produce more finer counts and attempts are being made to import five million lbs. of fine yarn from the United States.

(d) It is a fact that a large number of weavers live on the weaving of specialised cloth from fine yarn. There has been some unemployment owing to shortage of fine yarn, but Government understand that the amount of unemployment has not been great.

(e) Please see my answers to (a) and (c).

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that a much greater percentage of fine yarn is being allotted to mills to the detriment of handloom weavers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My Honourable friend totally misunderstands the position. The mills produce yarn and use it for their own purposes and it is only the balance that is sent to the market and they are continuing to do so. We cannot take it away if we have to supply textiles to different Provinces.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that there are some spinning mills which concentrate on spinning yarn of finer counts and which can be expected to place their yarn at the disposal of handloom weavers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My Honourable friend can rest assured that such a simple proposition is quite well known to us.

DISPARITIES IN PRICES OF GROUND NUTS, GROUND NUT KERNEL, ETC.

829. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Member for Food be pleased to state:

(a) if it is not a fact—

(i) that great disparities prevail in the prices of groundnuts, groundnut kernel and oil and cake in the different markets of the country;

(ii) that such disparities are independent of the differing costs of transport damage of the produce in transit; and

(iii) that such disparities are caused mostly by the un-co-ordinated and non-planned fixation of prices both in the supply and consumption centres; and

(b) whether Government propose to re-examine the whole basis on which such prices are fixed, and margins for various profits of middlemen are allowed, with a view to bring about a smaller inequality in the ranges of prices allowed to be paid to the producers and to be charged to the consumers, after making allowances for transport and such other incidental expenses?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). I am aware that disparities in the prices of groundnuts and groundnut by-products exist. The Honourable Member will realise that several Departments of Government are interested in the matter, and the whole question of securing improved co-ordination is now being actually examined.

PER HEAD CLOTH QUOTA FOR SIND

830. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. Patel, Controller of Supplies, Sind Government in a recent speech stated that the Central Government had sanctioned a quota of twelve yards of cloth per head per annum in Sind? If so, on what basis is this fixed?

(b) What is the quota fixed for other Provinces?

(c) Have the climatic conditions been taken into consideration in fixing the quota? If not, why not?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take to increase the quota in Sind? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Government have not seen any version of the speech in question but it is a fact that the quota for Sind has been fixed at 12 yards per head per annum based on the estimated pre-war consumption of that Province.

(b) Honourable Member's attention is invited to my answer to part (b) of Mr. Neogy's question No. 175 asked on 13th February 1945.

(c) Yes.

(d) The whole question of quotas is under consideration.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is the quota fixed by the Controller of Civil Supplies of the province or by the Textile Commissioner?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am afraid I shall have to repeat all the answers that I have been giving here during the last six months.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I want to know if it is done by the Controller.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have said repeatedly that it is done by the Textile Commissioner himself.

REFUSAL OF PERMISSION TO REPUBLICATION OF WEEKLY AZAD

831. ***Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state, with reference to his letter No. 301-PC (238)144 of the 22nd December, 1944, to the Manager, Azadi Press, Bareilly, the reasons for not granting permission to resume the publication of the *Weekly Azadi*?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Under clause 10(a) of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, no newspaper or journal can be published which was not being regularly published in the period immediately preceding the 7th November, 1942. No reasons have been advanced which would justify an exception being made in this case.

Sardar Sant Singh: Have any newspapers been allowed to be published after that date?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, some have been.

Sardar Sant Singh: On what grounds have these exceptions been made?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Each case was considered on its own merits.

Sardar Sant Singh: What were the merits which entitled a fresh newspaper to be published?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is very difficult for me to answer it off-hand, but I have said in this House that this question is considered along with the need and necessity for a new paper in that area. For instance, I can give one illustration which comes before me. Trade Marks and Patents wanted to have a journal of its own and as there was no such thing we had to give it. Again, there might be a specialised trade which had no journal of its own; permission would be given.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Are Government guided in this matter by the opinion of the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The opinion of the Provincial Governments is taken into consideration.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is the Press Advisory Committee also consulted?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That has nothing to do with this matter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: If the Provincial Government is in favour of starting a newspaper like this, what is the attitude of this Government? Do they use their discretion?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not prepared to answer a hypothetical question.

MUSLIM OFFICERS IN OFFICES OF REGIONAL FOOD COMMISSIONER, ETC.

832. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the total number of Gazetted posts in the offices of the Regional Food Commissioner and Sugar Controller of India, and the number of Muslims therein?

(b) Is it a fact that there is not a single Muslim officer holding the posts of Regional Food Commissioner, Deputy Regional Food Commissioner or of officers dealing with sugar control in India? If so, why?

(c) Were any of these posts advertised, and were any steps taken to recruit suitable Muslims in these posts? If not, why not?

(d) Do Government now propose to appoint suitable Muslims on these posts?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) A statement giving the necessary information is laid on the table.

(b) Yes. One of the posts of Regional Food Commissioner was originally held by a Muslim but the post was later abolished.

A Muslim officer has been selected for the post of Deputy Regional Food Commissioner, Bombay, and he is expected to take up his duties on the 13th March, 1945.

(c) None of the posts of Regional Food Commissioner nor any connected with sugar control was advertised. The posts of Deputy Regional Food Commissioner for the Bombay and North West Regions were, however, advertised. Applications were also invited from the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Muslim Chamber of Commerce for the posts of Deputy and Assistant Regional Food Commissioners. The claims of every candidate were carefully considered and the best were selected. There were very few Muslim candidates.

(d) I cannot undertake to recruit to these posts on a communal basis, but I will certainly appoint Muslim Officers to any vacancies for which suitable Muslim candidates are forthcoming.

Name	Statement.	
	Number of posts.	Number of Muslims
(1) Office of the Regional Food Commissioners.	21	2
(2) Office of the Sugar Controller for India.	8	Nil

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: How many Regional Food Commissioners are there in India?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Five, I think.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: And the Honourable Member says that out of these five there is not even one Muslim?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There is no Muslim.

Seth Yusoof Abdoola Haroon: Why was not the post of Deputy Regional Commissioner advertised?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I said it was advertised.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Was the gentleman appointed as Regional Commissioner in Bombay a colliery manager in Calcutta who knew nothing either about food or about Bombay?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I shall require notice; he was appointed before my time.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Does the Honourable Member propose to give to this House the qualifications of all these five Regional Food Commissioners and the basis of their selection in preference to others?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes, if my Honourable friend will table a question.

Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt: With reference to the question asked about the Regional Commissioner of Bombay, has he not proved an extremely effective and efficient officer?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes, Sir.

Mr. M. Ghasuddin: What are the different communities to which these five Regional Commissioners belong?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I shall require notice of that.

MUSLIM CONTRACTORS IN FOOD DEPARTMENT

833. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the total number of contractors working in the Food Department and the number of Muslim contractors on the 1st January, 1945?

(b) What is the total value of contracts placed by the Food Department on the 1st January 1945, and the value of contracts placed with Muslim contractors?

(c) Do Government propose to safeguard the interests of Muslim contractors in matters of contracts placed by the Food Department?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) About 500 contractors are on the list of the Food Department. It is not practicable to state how many of them are Muslims because contracting firms have not been classified community-wise. The names of the firms are no guide to the religion of the proprietors and upto date information regarding the partners in particular firms is not maintained.

(b) No contracts were placed on the 1st January, 1945.

(c) In placing contracts no distinction or discrimination is made between Muslim and Non-Muslim firms. Contracts are now being placed, as far as possible, after inviting tenders.

Seth Yusoof Abdoola Haroon: Is it a fact that the names of the contractors and their partners are asked when a contract is given?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Not always; if the firm is well known it is not necessary. It is only when we do not know the credentials of the firm that we ask them for the names of the partners.

Seth Yusoof Abdoola Haroon: If the firm is well known the names of the partners are also well known to the Department?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Not necessarily. For example, I do not know who the partners of my Honourable friend's firm are.

Seth Yusoof Abdoola Haroon: I think I did supply the names.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: In view of the widespread complaint that Muslims do not get sufficient contracts, will the Honourable Member see that in future Muslim firms and Muslim contractors are at least given sufficient scope to apply for these contracts?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I wish to assure my Honourable friend that I will personally look into this as I do not want that there should be a complaint among Mussulmans that they have not been fairly treated by the Department.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICER ON SPECIAL DUTY (ADMINISTRATION) IN FOOD DEPARTMENT

834. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if an officer on special duty for administration has recently been appointed in the Food Department, and what his duties are?

(b) What are his qualifications and what is his age? Is he a retired person? If so, what was his pay at the time of retirement and what is his present pay?

(c) Was it not possible to appoint a member of the existing staff on the job?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes, since November 1944. His duties are similar to those of an Under Secretary in charge of the Administration Branch of the Food Department. He holds the substantive post of an Assistant Secretary in the Department and is on deputation as Deputy Secretary to the Famine Inquiry Commission. In addition to his duties with the Commission he was appointed as Officer on Special Duty in the Food Department without any extra remuneration to suggest steps to be taken for improving office efficiency generally.

(b) His age is 58, and he is a retired Officer of the Government of India. His present pay as Deputy Secretary in the Famine Inquiry Commission is Rs. 1,300 per month.

(c) The Officer in question was a member of the existing staff in the Food Department prior to his deputation to the Famine Inquiry Commission and he will be reverting to the Department on completion of the Commission's work.

Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon: Does he draw any other allowances?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: This salary is inclusive of the pension.

SUPERIOR SECRETARIAT STAFF OF THE FAMINE ENQUIRY COMMISSION

835. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state whether the Superior Secretariat Staff of the Famine Enquiry Commission consists of a Secretary, a Joint Secretary and a Deputy Secretary? What are the qualifications of the incumbents and what are their duties?

(b) Is it a fact that the post of the Joint Secretary has recently been created? If so, what was the special justification for the creation of this post?

(c) Is it a fact that the Deputy Secretary is not working on the drafting of the Commission's report and is only in charge of general supervision and administration of the staff of the Commission?

(d) What is the number of staff of the Famine Enquiry Commission in the grades of (i) Superintendents, (ii) Assistants, and (iii) Clerks? How many of them are Muslims and how many of them are Hindus specially Bengalis?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (c). Yes. The Secretary is an officer of the Indian Civil Service. The Joint Secretary was an Under Secretary in the Department of Commerce, and the Deputy Secretary was an Under Secretary, Department of Food, at the time of their appointment. The Secretary and the Joint Secretary perform the usual Secretariat functions in respect of the work of a Commission. The Deputy Secretary assists the Secretary in controlling the establishment and funds and is specially in charge of making arrangements for the tours of the Commission.

(b) No. This post was created about a month after the assembling of the Commission.

(d) (i) Superintendents—2, (ii) Assistants—22, and (iii) III Division Clerks—12. Total—36.

No Muslim at present. 32 are Hindus, of whom 2 are Bengalees.

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Was there no qualified Muslim available to be appointed in this Department?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Well, Sir, this is not a department of the Food Department. Most of the appointments have been made by the Commission themselves when they were in Calcutta, and they had to find their staff quickly. They got hold of the best men they could get. It is a purely temporary thing.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Did the Honourable Member draw the attention of the Commission to observe the communal ratio?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, and I do not propose to do so.

Mr. M. Ghasuddin: Was the recruitment made in a manner that the officer-in-charge went out and caught the first men he could get?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I was not there to witness it.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

MUSLIM OFFICERS OF CERTAIN GRADES IN FOOD DEPARTMENT

836. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the number of officers in the following grades in the Food Department and the number of Muslims in each of these grades:

(i) Secretaries, (ii) Joint Secretaries, (iii) Deputy Secretaries, (iv) Officers on Special Duty, (v) Advisers and Special Officers, (vi) Under Secretaries, and (vii) Assistant Secretaries?

(b) What is the method followed for the recruitment and promotion to the abovementioned posts, and who are the appointing or promoting authorities? Have ever any steps been taken to appoint suitable Muslims to these posts? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) Appointments and promotions to the posts of Under Secretary and above in the Secretariat are made on the recommendations of the Selection Board of the Government of India and with the approval of His Excellency the Governor General. Selection to the post of Assistant Secretary is made by the Secretary with my approval on the recommendation of the Staff Selection Committee of the Department.

The posts of Advisers, Special Officers and Officers on Special Duty, are technical and appointments thereto are made by the Secretary with my approval except in the case of officers on loan from His Majesty's Government for whom the approval of His Excellency the Governor General is required.

The claims of Muslim Officers have always been taken into account.

Statement			Total Number	Muslims
Serial Number	Post			
(i)	Secretary		1	Nil
(ii)	Joint Secretary		2	Nil
(iii)	Deputy Secretary		4	Nil
(iv)	Officers on Special Duty		2	Nil
(v)	Advisers and Special Officers		12	1
(vi)	Under Secretaries		4	1
(vii)	Assistant Secretaries		4	Nil

FOOD DEPARTMENT SELECTION COMMITTEE

837. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state whether there is a Selection Committee in the Food Department? How does it function and which of the officers constitute this Committee? How many of them are Muslims?

(b) In case there is no Muslim on this Committee, what are the reasons for that? Does the Honourable Member propose to see that a suitable number of Muslim officers is appointed on this Committee?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Appointments and promotion to certain classes of Gazetted posts in Divisions II and III of the Food Department are referred to a Selection Committee. Their duty is to make recommendations to the Secretary and to the Honourable Member. They pass no final orders. The committee consists of the following Officers:

Chairman: Joint Secretary, D. F. III.

Members: 1. Deputy Secretary (General) D. F. I.

2. Chief Director of Purchase, D. F. III.

Secretary: Assistant Secretary for Divisions I and II.

A senior Officer of the Section concerned in each case is also co-opted as a Member. None of the permanent Members of the Selection Committee is at present a Muslim.

(b) Members of the Committee hold office by virtue of the post which they hold in the Department. It is not proposed to constitute the committee on a communal basis.

MUSLIM ADMINISTRATION OFFICERS IN FOOD DEPARTMENT

838. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the number and rank of the officers in charge of administrations in various Branches of the Food Department? How many of them are Muslims? If none, why have they been excluded from this Branch of work?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (1) Mr. K. L. Panjabi, I.C.S., Joint Secretary.

(2) Mr. N. T. Mone, I.C.S., Deputy Secretary.

(3) Mr. J. M. Lobo-Prabhu, I.C.S., Deputy Secretary.

(4) Mr. S. R. Maini, P.C.S., Under Secretary.

- (5) Rai Bahadur D. N. Maitra, Officer on Special Duty.
 (6) Mr. N. C. Mukherji, Assistant Secretary.
 (7) Mr. A. E. DaCosta, Assistant Secretary.
 (8) Mr. T. S. Krishnamurthy, Assistant Secretary.
 (9) Mr. S. K. Sen, M.A., Assistant Secretary.

It so happens that none of these officers is a Muslim. There is no question of any one being specially excluded.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS OF MUSLIMS IN FOOD DEPARTMENT

839. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the number of appointments made to the Gazetted and non-Gazetted posts in the Food Department, and the number and proportion of Muslims therein?

(b) What is the number of promotions in the Gazetted and non-Gazetted posts and the number and proportion of Muslims therein?

(c) Is it a fact that Muslim representation in the services of the Food Department is below the prescribed percentage? If so, why, and what steps do Government propose to take to bring up the percentage of Muslims to the prescribed extent?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) The claims of the Muslims are kept constantly in view and as is evident from the statement their representation approximates closely to the required standard.

Statement showing number of appointments and promotions in the Gazetted and non-Gazetted staff in the Food Department and the proportion of Muslims therein—since the date the present Honourable Member took over charge

	Number of appointments made since 11th August 1943	Number of Muslims and their percentage	Number of promotions since 11th August 1943	Number of Muslims and their percentage	Remarks
Gazetted	137	36 or 26.2 per cent.	41	10 or 24.3 per cent.	
Non-Gazetted (a)	552 (b)	123 or 22.2 per cent.	134	29 or 21.6 per cent.	

(a) This excludes appointments and promotions to non-gazetted posts in outstation office in regard to which the collection of details will involve time and labour which will not be commensurate with the results.

(b) 35 Muslims refused to accept appointments which were offered to them during this period.

PURCHASES OF WHEAT FOR GOVERNMENT BY MESSRS. OWEN ROBERTS

840. *Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if it is a fact that Messrs. Owen Roberts were asked by Government to make heavy purchases of wheat in the year 1943? If so, how much of wheat was purchased and of what value?

(b) Is it a fact that large stocks of the purchased wheat, despatched to Delhi were unloaded in the Railway yard and in an open place and a considerable portion of the wheat was damaged by rain? If so, what amount of wheat so damaged was declared unfit for human consumption and consequently destroyed and what was its value? Was this amount written off?

(c) Did Government make enquiries about this damage? If not, why not? Are Government prepared to make enquiries now?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) During 1943 M/s. Owen Roberts & Co. Ltd., Government Grain Purchasing Agents purchased for the Food Department about 4,40,000 tons of wheat of an approximate value of Rs. 12 crores.

(b) The arrivals of wheat at the Delhi Flour Mills in June 1943 were in excess of available storage capacity in the Mills. To avoid detaining railway

wagons, bags containing about 2,700 tons wheat had to be temporarily stocked in the open railway land near the Mills Siding. Out of this quantity, 162 maunds of wheat valued at Rs. 1,766 were damaged by heavy rain and had to be destroyed as unfit for human consumption. This sum was written off.

(c) After careful enquiry Government were satisfied that in the circumstances this loss was unavoidable and that no individual was to blame.

PURCHASES OF DAL, ETC., FOR GOVERNMENT BY MESSRS. OWEN ROBERTS

841. *Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if it is a fact that about 5,000 bags of dal moong and urd purchased by Messrs. Owen Roberts in 1943-44 were found unfit for human consumption and were ordered to be buried?

(b) If so, was this quantity of dal purchased on account of Government? If so, under what order and of what date? Did Government before ordering the damaged dal to be buried get that examined by some experts, and who declared it unfit for human consumption?

(c) Are Government aware that 5,000 bags of dal were actually buried? If so, where was it buried, and what were the expenses for digging the pits and getting the dal buried?

(d) What was the amount of loss thus incurred by Government? Was an enquiry made by Government? If so, what was the result? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (c). The facts are not quite as stated by the Honourable Member. Out of a stock of over 36,000 bags of moong and urd dal purchased by M/s. Owen Roberts & Co. Ltd., Lahore during the year 1943-44, 1,273 bags were rendered unfit for human consumption through damage by rain and were buried near the Military Grain Depot, Lahore. No expenditure on digging the pits was incurred as Grain Depot labour was employed for the purpose.

(b) Yes this quantity formed part of the stocks at the Military Grain Depot purchased by agents on various dates on behalf of Government. The damaged dal was examined by a Military expert, namely, the Assistant Inspector of Food-stuffs, who declared it unfit for human consumption.

(d) The value of the dal buried was Rs. 32,838-11-0. Investigation regarding liability for this loss is still proceeding.

COMPENSATION GIVEN TO MESSRS. MODERN INDUSTRIES

842. *Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if the Food Department has given a compensation to Messrs. Modern Industries of about 1½ lakh? What is this compensation for and who is responsible for this loss to Government?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Food Department have paid Rs. 1,40,000 in full settlement of the claim of M/s. Modern Industries of Sahibabad on account of alleged improper rejection by the Inspectorate of Food-stuffs (Q. M. G.'s Branch) of dehydrated potatoes manufactured by the firm and alleged breach of contract on part of Government. The responsibility of the officers concerned is under examination.

GHEE SUPPLIED BY GOVERNMENT PURCHASING AGENTS IN MADRAS

843. *Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if it is a fact that ghee supplied by the Ghee Supply Company, Government Ghee Purchasing Agents in Madras, has been found unfit for consumption by the troops? If so, what is the amount of such ghee and what is its value?

(b) Who has paid for this ghee, and who will be responsible for the loss—Government or the contractor?

(c) If Government are to be responsible for the loss, why? Has an enquiry been made in the matter? If so, what is the result?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a), (b) and (c). The answer to the first part is in the negative. The rest does not arise. Government have made a provisional payment for quantities received from its agents. Final

payment will be made according to the quantity accepted after processing. The question of loss does not arise.

RISE IN PRICE OF BASMATI RICE IN NEW DELHI

844. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) whether the price of *Basmati* rice charged to 'concession' ration card holders has been raised from about Rs. 15 per maund to Rs. 21 per maund from this week, in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons in full for raising the price of a necessary staple article;

(c) whether the price of *Begmi* has been reduced by only one rupee per maund with effect from the same date; and, if so, the reason therefor;

(d) the amount of profits made on both these varieties of rice, if any, or the loss incurred during the last six months;

(e) whether the staff employed at the time the scheme was started, is still being maintained at the same strength or at a reduced strength and the cost of the same as on the 1st January, 1945;

(f) whether, in view of newspaper reports that large stocks of rice are being held up in the Punjab, he proposes to see his way to reduce the prices of good qualities of rice to all ration card holders to pre-war level or a little above that; and

(g) if the stocks of *Begmi* rice in New Delhi and Delhi are fairly heavy whether he will take early steps to send the same to places where rice is sorely needed, like places in South India?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) to (d) and (f). Supplies of *Basmati* rice which is consumed by the wealthier classes in Delhi were unequal to the demand. It was decided to sell two qualities and encourage the offtake of *Begmi* rice by the poorer classes by a reduction in price of Rs. 1-3-0 per maund. The prices of rationed grains are so calculated as to ensure no profit and no loss to Government, and are revised from time to time as necessary. The enhanced *Basmati* price balances the reduced *Begmi* price having regard to the relative quantities of each sort available for sale.

(e) The staff originally sanctioned was 1,508. 700 temporarily engaged for writing ration cards were discharged on the introduction of rationing. The present establishment is 824. The cost of staff upto the end of January 1945 has been estimated at Rs. 7,80,000. The figures as on 1st January 1945 are not available.

(g) The stocks of rice in New Delhi and Delhi are no more than what is necessary to maintain the ration. No question of export from Delhi arises.

IMPORT OF MOTOR CARS

845. *Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state if there is any truth in the report which has been published in papers that a large number of motor cars are going to be imported into this country in the near future?

(b) If the reply be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please inform the House the exact number of cars and the probable date by which they would reach the Indian Port?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: This question relates to the War Transport Department and will be replied by my Honourable colleague the War Transport Member.

THROWING AWAY OF MILK BY MILKMEN IN BOMBAY

846. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to the news that in Bombay large quantity of milk was thrown on the ground round about the Secretariat Buildings;

(b) what steps, if any, are proposed to be taken for conserving milk and regulating its supply in that city and elsewhere as a necessary article of food; and

(c) whether Government have evolved a scheme for ensuring proper availability of milk and augmenting its supply in cities and in rural areas as part of the "Grow More Food" campaign?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes.

(b) Several measures have already been taken. Slaughter of milch cattle has been banned. Subsidy is given to export dry cattle to breeding areas. Dry cattle and dairy farms have been established. Export of milk outside Bombay City and suburbs is banned. A scheme is being prepared to take care of cows between lactation periods to prevent slaughter by the owners. Use of milk in ice cream is banned. Use of whole milk or of tinned milk in dry or liquid form or of cream or curd in articles other than tea, coffee, curds, *ghee* and butter is banned for distribution at a public place or for sale. Closure of restaurants and tea shops by 11 P.M. has been made compulsory to save food including milk. Distribution of milk and milk products to more than 49 persons at or in connection with any function has been prohibited.

A scheme prohibiting the use of whole milk by hotels, restaurants and tea stops has been introduced, supplying to them skimmed milk powder under permits, with a view to release whole fresh milk for distribution among priority consumers.

A scheme for distribution of subsidised whole fresh milk to children and to expectant and nursing mothers on ration cards has been introduced.

Elsewhere also many provinces and states have either adopted or propose to adopt some or all of the above measures and including conservation of cattle feeds, abolition of octroi and other taxes on milk, and prohibition of the use of milk for industrial purposes.

(c) The Government of India have appointed officers to assist the Provinces in initiating schemes of milk supply to towns. The Central Government have also promised Provincial Governments financial assistance for approved schemes.

Meanwhile the following are some of the steps taken. The slaughter of pregnant cows and cows in milk has been prohibited particularly all over India. The prices of cattle feeds and concentrates have been controlled in certain Provinces in order to make them available to the owners of milch cattle at reasonable rates. Financial assistance in the form of interest-free loans has been given in one province to co-operative milk societies, and assistance in other forms has been given for the starting of dairies elsewhere.

847*-849* [Cancelled.]

CLOTH SHORTAGE IN BIHAR

850. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies aware that there is a great shortage of cloth in the Province of Bihar? If so, what step he has taken or proposes to take to meet the situation?

(b) What is the quota of cloth for Bihar?

(c) Has the full quota of cloth in (b) been supplied till the end of the year 1944? If so, why is there the shortage referred to in (a) above, and, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) It is true that there is a considerable shortage of cloth in Bihar. Bihar has been allotted a quota of 10 yards per head and in the eight months ending January 1945 Bihar has actually been supplied at the rate of about 8½ yards per head. Attempts are now being made to make up the backlog and *ad hoc* allotments over and above the quota of some 5,000 bales have been given since the New Year. Not all of this, however, has yet been despatched owing to transport difficulties. This 5,000 bales represents slightly over a quarter of the backlog.

(b) The quota is 10 yards per head per annum or approximately 20,200 bales per month,—2,400, mostly handloom, from local production and 17,800 from outside the Province.

(c) Statistics are available from June 1944 only. During the seven months June/December 1944 Bihar had 187 million yards of cloth available for consumption against its requirements of 212 million yards for the same period,

i.e., a shortage of about 12 per cent. This will be reduced to a negligible quantity by the *ad hoc* allotments mentioned in clause (a) above and also by accelerated despatches from January 1945 onwards.

The shortage is due, beyond the general causes making for shortage all over the country such as limited production and increased demand, to difficulties of internal distribution, smuggling over the land border and to extensive hoarding by merchants. Recent raids have revealed very considerable stocks in mofussil centres.

MUSLIM TRAINEES UNDER BEVIN TRAINING SCHEME

851. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

- the total number of persons sent abroad for training as Technicians under Bevin Training Scheme and the number of Muslim trainees;
- the number of persons appointed as Assistant Labour Welfare Officers during 1944 and 1945 together with their academic and technical qualifications, if any, and the salaries allowed to them; and
- the number of Assistant Labour Welfare Officers sanctioned in the current Budget and the number of such already appointed and the number of Muslims so appointed?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) 713, of whom 136 were Muslims. (b) Two; one is an M.A., M.Litt., specialised in Industrial economics and women labour in India on a pay of Rs. 450 p.m. and the other a B.A., Bar-at-Law on pay of Rs. 400 p.m.

(c) Eight posts of Assistant Labour Welfare Officers were sanctioned in 1942/43, and the sanction has been continued in the current Budget also. Of the eight Assistant Labour Welfare Officers two were Muslims. One of the two recently died.

SELECTIONS FOR HIGHER TRAINING ABROAD IN AGRICULTURE, ETC.

852. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

- the number of persons to be sent abroad for higher training in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, and Scientific Research;
- whether quotas of Muslims with requisite qualifications have been fixed, if so, to what extent?
- the final date of selection of candidates; and
- the approximate date of sailings?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a), (c) and (d). The matter is under consideration.

(b) Strict adherence to prescribed communal proportions cannot be guaranteed in respect of each subject but every effort will be made to ensure that all minority communities are adequately represented under the scheme so far as the centrally sponsored students are concerned. The desirability of ensuring that the facilities now being offered are made available to members of minority communities has also been brought to the notice of all Provincial Governments.

HYDARI MISSION

853. *Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state if there is any truth in the rumour about the Hydari Mission's work in England with regard to the import of large number of Motor Cars from England?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to inform the House as to the exact work of the Hydari Mission? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The Government of India hope to obtain a limited number of light British cars for the use of essential users sometime during the current year and that the possibility of obtaining some more cars from the United Kingdom or the U.S.A. in 1945 and 1946 is being explored by the Hydari Mission.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given on the 26th of March 1945 to Mr. Manu Subedar's Question No. 717.

SUBSIDIES FOR PRODUCTION OF MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

854. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) what subsidy, if any, has been given to the agriculturists and non-agriculturists or dairies to increase production of milk and milk products in the last twelve months; and

(b) if the subsidy was given then in what form and to what provinces and how much it was given?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No such subsidies have been given by the Central Government.

(b) Does not arise.

PARTS OF INDIA EXPERIENCING CLOTH SHORTAGE

855. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state the parts of India where there is a shortage of cloth? If so, what steps are being taken to improve the cloth situation in those parts?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Nowhere in India does the supply of cloth completely meet demand. Shortages are worst in the areas most remote from the great producing centres, particularly in Eastern India.

It is not possible to supply all the cloth which is required because our grower imports are no longer available and although production has been increased by some 1,300 million yards per annum the increase is required for Defence needs and exports. Meanwhile, demand has gone up very greatly as the increase in prices and the many military works have put more money into people's pockets.

Production, however, as already stated, has been increased by 1,300 million yards per annum through the efforts of the Industry itself, and through the assistance which Government has given in controlling the prices and distribution of mill stores, dyes, chemicals, coal and machinery and assisting in their procurement. In addition, recently Government has introduced a scheme to ensure that the cloth which is available shall be divided fairly between the different areas of India. Quotas have been allotted for each Province on the basis of a certain yardage per head and all movement of cloth the whole way from the mill to the retailer will now take place under supervision of either the Textile Commissioner or the Provincial or State Government concerned so as to ensure that each area gets the quota intended for it. There is already reason to think that although some of the remoter districts are still not getting their full share each major area is now getting supplies according to its quota. The last case of a Province behind on quota was Bihar and efforts are being made by special allotments to bring it up-to-date.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Member for Information and Broadcasting): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Information and Broadcasting."

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, five non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Information and Broadcasting."

There is an amendment.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surma Valley cum Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): I do not move it.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Formerly the Department used to publish administrative reports from which we came to know something about the Department's working, but now no such report is published. Now there is a Committee attached to that Department but no proceedings of that Committee are published. I hope the Honourable Member will see that the proceedings of the Committee and the administration report of the Department are published and copies are supplied to members.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I should be very pleased to furnish the report to the House.

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, five non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Information and Broadcasting."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EMIGRATION.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare (Member for Commonwealth Relations): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eight non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee on Emigration during 1945-46."

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, eight non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee on Emigration during 1945-46."

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): I want to know from the Honourable Member how many meetings of this Committee were held last year and whether any reports of the proceedings of those meetings were published, placed in the library or on the table of this House or circulated to Members.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surma Valley *cum* Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): I have an amendment to move. Sir, I move:

"That for the word 'eight' the word 'twelve' be substituted."

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

"That for the word 'eight' the word 'twelve' be substituted."

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): With reference to this amendment I request the Government to see their way to accept it in view of the fact that the Emigration Department has extra work added to its normal duties in connection with evacuees and that work is expanding and it is becoming more and more difficult. There are many points affecting the evacuees which have to be represented to the Honourable Member and it will be useful since the Honourable Member is not agreeable to have a separate committee for the Evacuees Department that he should agree to have the committee expanded so that this Assembly may be able to send those people who are interested in the evacuee question to represent matters to the Honourable Member. Therefore I support this amendment and request the Government to accept it.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): I do not like the practice of Honourable Members of the Government of India moving motions for the appointment of a committee without any speech. I would like these Members to treat these occasions as occasions for giving an account of the stewardship of the Department to the Legislature. In any case, Sir,

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That would not be in order.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: if the Legislature appoints a committee I have no doubt you would consider it to be in order if the Honourable Member gave an account to the Legislature of the work done by the Committee. Sir, I would like.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Are not these proceedings confidential?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: When we appoint a committee we do not appoint it on the condition that the proceedings are confidential.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): But they are.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: It is not said in the Resolution.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member will find it in the Notification.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: But on this occasion I would like to ask the Honourable Member one or two questions before I agree to the appointment of a committee. I want to know from the Honourable Member what he has done about giving effect to the desires of this Legislature for imposing economic sanctions on South Africa. If, Sir, the Honourable Member is not giving out anything.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not arise.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: There is another question. Very recently this House expressed itself against sending a High Commissioner to South Africa. I want to know, Sir, what steps the Honourable Member has taken.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can enquire about that on another occasion. That does not arise now.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: My point is this, Sir. If I have to agree to the appointment of a Committee, I must know that the Department and the Committee are doing any useful work. If the Honourable Member concerned does not satisfy me I am entitled to vote against this motion.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* north Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): As far as I understand the proceedings of these Standing Committees may be confidential but their decisions are not confidential. They are printed and circulated. What many of us want are the decisions of the Committee. In the case of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways the proceedings are circulated. The Standing Finance Committee proceedings are also circulated. The Public Accounts Committee is a statutory committee and its proceedings are also circulated. But as far as the other committees are concerned, I do not think we have received any reports and as far as the Emigration Committee is concerned.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I believe under the new arrangement they will be circulated to all the Members.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Till now nothing has been done. What we want is that just as the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting has promised, the proceedings of these committees must be circulated.

Point No. 2 is the name of the Committee. Am I to understand from the word "Emigration" that the purview of the Committee will be circumscribed to what is implied by the word? Or will it apply to all matters pertaining to the Department of Commonwealth Relations? I hope this word is an old word that is still used and that it really means that the Committee will consider all the matters which pertain to the Department, such as Indians overseas, evacuees and other matters. I hope my Honourable friend will put all these matters pertaining to his Department before this Committee and will have a report of the committee circulated to the Members of this House.

Sir F. E. James (Madras: European): Sir, there are two points that have been raised, which are of some importance. The first is the title and functions of this Committee. They were laid down by a resolution of the Government of India a good many years ago and I did recently prepare a memorandum for the Honourable Member's predecessor suggesting that the time had come for a revision of the title and functions of this Committee, because it considers a large number of problems that are not strictly related to emigration. As a matter of fact during the evacuation of Burma the Committee held several meetings to discuss the question of the evacuation. Therefore the title of the Committee is at present rather a misnomer. That is the first point and I shall be very glad if the Honourable Member in charge of the Department would consider that suggestion.

The second point is whether the proceedings of the Committee should be confidential or not. On more than one occasion in the past two or three years members of the Committee have been placed in a rather difficult position because of the fact that the proceedings of the meetings have been held to be confidential. Therefore we had not been able to share those proceedings with Honourable Members in the House, who have elected us to this Committee. It is true that the Committee has to consider a number of confidential documents, and it is also true that much of the information placed before the committee, particularly just now, is bound to be of a confidential nature. At

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the same time, I think it is due to the House that some record of the proceedings of the Committee, such record as could be made available to the Members of the House, should be made available, because there is no subject upon which Members of the House feel more deeply than our relations with the other members and units of the Commonwealth, and it is that problem that this Committee is dealing with from time to time. I therefore would suggest to the Honourable Member that he should look into this matter also. I personally feel rather strongly that there ought to be some record of our proceedings from time to time, which can be made available to our colleagues in the House.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Sir, I myself feel that our attitude with regard to this Committee should be revised. So far as I am aware the Committee's function is rather advisory and the proceedings are confidential. But I assure the House that I would circulate to Honourable Members a short account, barring confidential matters, of what has transpired in the meetings of the Committee and the conclusions arrived at.

I have been asked also as to how many meetings of this Committee were held in the previous year. Subject to correction, I think at least about three or four meetings were held and the meeting on Burma was a very long drawn out meeting, which was held both at Simla as well as in Delhi spread over a period of about ten days, I mean sitting days. They have considered the whole matter about Burma and given us valuable guidance. Of course the members of the Committee know full well what the proceedings of the Committee were, though the House does not. So far we have not supplied to the Members of the House but I propose to supply hereafter such information as we can, barring, of course, confidential information and also the conclusions arrived at.

I have also been pressed for increasing the number which the Assembly should elect for the Standing Emigration Committee. Although by the return of our Congress friends to the Assembly the elected part of the House has been augmented in effect, I still think that this Committee should consist of 12 members, eight from this House and four from the other, and that should be adequate enough to consider the questions placed before it. I think that these committees should not be made too unwieldy and if the members are increased, I do not think it is likely to add to the value of the Committee. Yet, as this question of emigration is going to assume more and more importance, I would agree to the number to be elected by this House being ten instead of twelve and I hope the Mover of the amendment would be agreeable to this compromise.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Sir, I agree.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Question is: "That for the word 'eight' the word 'ten' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

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, five non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee on Emigration during 1945-46."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL DEFENCE BRANCH OF DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. C. M. Trivedi (Secretary, War Department): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Civil Defence Branch of the Defence Department is concerned, during the financial year 1945-46."

As the House is aware, this Committee consists of 8 members, 5 from this House and 3 from the other House. During the last year it met twice, once in October 1944, and for the second time in February 1945. On the first occasion four members attended the meeting. The second meeting was graced by

the presence of 2 out of 8 members, but none the less I find that the Committee has done quite a lot of work during these two meetings. Here I have got a brief account of what the Committee has done: I understand that the members of the Committee were supplied with comprehensive notes covering all aspects of Civil Defence including Civil Defence Policy, Air Raid Protection, etc. They also considered in the light of Civil Defence policy the question of reduction of Civil Defence Training Colleges and Schools, Store Depots, Medical Stores, reduction of expenditure on Civil Defence at the Centre and in the Provinces. I further understand that individual members of the Committee raised certain questions in regard to their own provinces. These questions have been taken up with the Provincial Governments concerned, and suitable action has been taken. Fortunately the threat of air raids is receding, and I hope that civil defence may no longer be necessary. Personally I express the hope that this may be the last time on which I shall bring forward a motion like this.

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, five non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Civil Defence Branch of the Defence Department is concerned, during the financial year 1945-46."

Mr. C. P. Lawson (Bengal: European): Sir, from the account that we have heard from the Honourable War Secretary, I am in some doubt as to whether there is any advantage in forming this Standing Committee at all. The Department is clearly a contracting Department rather than an expanding one, and I do not know what advice the Department really requires regarding its contraction. Surely it should be a fairly simple matter to close down a Department which is really not necessary now except in a limited sense in one or two provinces. Amongst the various subjects which come under the consideration of the Defence Department, I can, in fact, think of none which is really of less importance to us than Civil Defence at the moment. There are matters of demobilisation, requisitioning, claims, and so on, which come under the Defence Department, but which receive no attention at all in the matter of Standing Committees, whereas we are asked to appoint a Standing Committee for a Department which we hope will shortly become obsolete. Sir, I would like the Honourable Member to tell us just what useful purpose he expects this Standing Committee to serve. If by any chance he has it in his mind to enlarge the scope of this committee at a later date in order to embrace some subjects which are not strictly Civil Defence, that is another matter, and we might consider it, but I think, Sir, we must know about this before we can vote regarding the appointment of this Standing Committee.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): Mr. President, I beg to dissent from the views expressed by my Honourable friend, Mr. Lawson. His speech seems to me to be a curious device of opposing Government in order to support it. We have been, for the last year and more, asking for a greater scrutiny and examination of the activities of this Department in respect of every detail. In fact last Session a large part of the budget debate centred round how the Defence Department is spending its monies and how its policies are being regulated. All sorts of agreements are being entered into in the United Kingdom in regard to war time expenditure, and there are other questions, and it therefore strikes me as a rather very clever move of Mr. Lawson. I would rather go to the length of asking the Honourable Member who made the motion, if he would assure this House that there will be more frequent meetings of this Committee than of others, that he will enable the Committee to meet every month to act not only as a Pre-audit Committee, but also as a concurring Committee as regards the manner in which large sums of money are being expended. Sir, it is a very optimistic hope that this Department is going to be liquidated or even contracted, having regard to the fact that operations against Japan are perhaps just starting. Not only that, but even with regard to the normal defence of the country we have certainly got to follow quite a different policy from what we have been following before.

[Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetty]

the war. Our defences have got to be strengthened as if it were an independent country although British Government will not yet give independence to us, and it will be necessary to make the country as self-sufficient as possible so far as defence is concerned in the years to come. Having regard to all these things, I consider that this Committee is more important than many other Committees with which we are now concerned. I would, therefore, request the Honourable Member who made this motion to assure this House that this will not be a formal, conventional Committee, and that he will take this Committee into confidence with regard to every detail that is being looked into by the Department itself. We may assure on our side fullest co-operation so far as the legitimate prosecution of the war is concerned, provided it is not at the expense of the Indian agriculturist or Indian economy.

Sir F. E. James (Madras: European): I think there is some misunderstanding on the part of my friend, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetty, as to the point of view advanced by Mr. Lawson. As to the policy of the Defence Department, we are at some disadvantage in this House because that Department as such does not consider it worth while to be represented in the House. I sympathise with my Honourable friend, Mr. Trivedi, who really represents the offensive spirit of the Government of India, and not its defensive spirit, as it must be very difficult at one and the same time to be both offensive and defensive. My Honourable friend, Mr. Lawson, said that there should be a Committee of the House to advise the Defence Department generally. We are now asked to agree to the appointment of a Committee to advise this Department in a limited sense, a very limited and diminishing sense, namely, Civil Defence. There are other matters dealt with by the Defence Department which are of profound importance and in which this House properly takes particular interest—Mr. Lawson mentioned the question of demobilisation; that is one matter on which the Defence Department should welcome the advice of the representatives of this House. I hope my Honourable friend, the representative of the War Department, speaking for the Defence Department, will withdraw this motion, and agree to substitute for it at a later date a motion asking this House to elect a Committee to advise the Defence Department as a whole.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I may inform this House that a Select Committee was appointed some time ago to go into the question of the departmental committees, and in this Select Committee it has been decided that there would be a committee for the department of Defence, apart from the Defence Council and the Defence Consultative Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has not the report of the Select Committee been circulated?

Sir George Spence (Secretary, Legislative Department): It has.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: The report was presented to the House but I am afraid it has not yet been circulated; if the report had been circulated, this misunderstanding would not have arisen. I hope the Honourable the Secretary to this department will make this point perfectly clear.

Sir George Spence: May I explain what the position is, because it so happens that I am better acquainted with the particular point raised by Mr. Lawson than my Honourable friend Mr. Trivedi. The position is that certain rules are to be issued in pursuance of the recent report of the Select Committee on Mr. Essak Sait's proposed standing order; the report of the Select Committee had annexed to it a draft of the rules to be issued to give effect to the recommendations of the Select Committee. These rules will actually be published in next Saturday's Gazette. Under these rules it is obligatory on the Defence Department to constitute, at their option, either a standing committee to advise on activities of the Defence Department as a whole, or two committees to cover between them all the subjects handled by the Department. I made it my business to point this out to the Defence Department

and ascertain what their intentions were. Their intentions are to supplement this committee with another committee to advise on subjects handled in the Defence Department other than civil defence, and for the information of the Honourable Mr. Lawson, I may say that the Honourable Member in the Defence Department took the view that though the activities in the civil defence sphere were, as Mr. Lawson said, diminishing, there was none the less enough left to justify a separate committee for one more year, after which the omnibus defence department committee will mop up the whole thing.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): I just want to make it clear to this Honourable House that in conformity with our policy with regard to all war departments not to undertake any responsibility until we have complete control, our Party, the Muslim League Party, will not participate in the election or put up candidates.

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, five non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Civil Defence Branch of the Defence Department is concerned, during the financial year 1945-46."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYS

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, eleven members to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for the year commencing 1st April, 1945."

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, eleven members to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for the year commencing 1st April, 1945."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, six non-official members to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways for the year commencing 1st April, 1945."

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, six non-official members to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways for the year commencing 1st April, 1945."

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I want to make one or two remarks on the proceedings of the meetings of the Central Advisory Council for Railways. I feel that this Council is not utilised by the Government of India as much as they ought to. The Indian railways are a very big public concern. It involves expenditure of very large amounts of money—hundreds of crores; and it also involves the convenience of large numbers of people in this country regarding their travelling; and I find that this committee has met during the year only twice. Considering the importance and the number of problems which the Indian railways have to deal with, I feel that this committee is not properly and sufficiently utilised by the Government of India. From the reports I find that in every meeting they considered only one or two questions, and in the whole of the year only five or six questions are discussed; and I am not satisfied that the committee is doing enough work. I also feel that the

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

members of this committee should insist that more meetings of the committee should be held by the Honourable Member and also they should suggest questions for discussion, because during the discussion of the Railway Budget we find that we have hundreds of cut motions to be discussed: unfortunately they are not discussed. If they could not be discussed in the Legislative Assembly they could be discussed in the Central Advisory Council. If the Honourable Member does not know what agenda to place before the Central Advisory Council, I shall suggest to him to go over our cut motions and pick out at least a good many of them and discuss those subjects in this Council. Let me tell you this: when the question of the separation of the railway finance from the general finance was discussed many many years ago, one of the reasons why I myself got reconciled to the separation was, in the first place, the Legislature would get six days for the discussion of the Railway Budget. Unfortunately there too the Government is not treating the Legislature fairly. Instead of giving six days, as was recommended by the committee which sat to consider the question of separation, the Government have begun to give us a smaller number of days...

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadian Urban): This year they gave us six days.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Six days including the presentation of the Budget. In any case if the House is satisfied, I have no objection. Personally I am not satisfied. I maintain my right to differ from the legislature itself.

My second point is this: the second reason why I got reconciled to the fact of separation of railway finance from general finance was that at that time the Government of India agreed to the establishment of this Central Advisory Council. I am a believer in the State management of industry; but at the same time I would like that when the State manages an industry, the State should manage it in consultation with the representatives of the people and I felt that if a properly constituted Central Advisory Council was established for Railways, that Advisory Council will be a committee of this Legislature, sitting for a number of days, examining the hundreds of problems which are involved in the management of the Indian Railways and they will place their report before the Legislature. There is no doubt that a small report has been published, although it has not been placed before the Legislature but I am not satisfied with it. I do not feel that the people of this country as represented in this Legislature can maintain sufficient control over the Railways if only two meetings are held in a year. I say that the number of meetings should be larger. I also feel that the number of subjects to be discussed in the Central Advisory Council should also be larger. The Honourable Member himself should do it, if he feels his responsibility to the people of this country and if he does not do it, I would like the Members of the Legislature who are members of this Committee to insist upon a larger number of meetings being held and to insist upon all the subjects in which they are interested as representatives of the people being discussed in the Advisory Council and if I find that the members of this Committee also do not insist upon having a larger number of meetings and more subjects discussed, then I would like this Legislature to give a mandate to its representatives to insist upon a larger number of meetings being held and also insist upon important questions regarding railway administration being discussed in this Central Advisory Council. Then only those of us who believe in the State management of industries will be satisfied and their purpose will be served. Otherwise State management of industry will be a curse instead of a blessing.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): While I generally support the demand made by my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi that the Central Advisory Council should be consulted in a larger number of issues than at present, I desire to remind the Honourable Member in charge that the very idea of the Central Advisory Council was mooted first of all in the Acworth Committee's report. The constitution of the committee as envisaged in the

Acworth Committee was fundamentally different from the constitution which has been given to it. As a matter of fact, the Advisory Council was not expected to be a committee of the Legislature at all under the Acworth Committee's recommendations, but the Government had certainly their own reasons for departing from the recommendations of that Committee in this matter. Apart from that, I should like my Honourable friend to look up the recommendations of the Acworth Committee report in regard to the functions which they contemplated to be discharged by this committee; and if he goes through that part of the recommendations of the Acworth Committee he will find that the committee's functions as they are now being discharged are not at all comparable to the functions that were contemplated by the Acworth Committee. Apart from the composition, the type of work which the Committee was expected to do was very much different from the type of work that is being placed before the committee; and I would earnestly request my Honourable friend to reconsider the position and try to utilise this committee more often and in regard to a larger variety of matters of public interest than has hitherto been done.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadian Rural): I associate myself with the two speakers about the object and constitution of the advisory committee. I would draw the attention of the Honourable Member not only to the report of the Acworth Committee but also to the discussions in the committee that was appointed to consider the Convention of 1924. The constitution is entirely different from what we contemplated and also the object is different. The discussions have now degenerated into discussions of contracts of food, whether they should be given to one contractor for the whole line or there should be one contractor for a group of railways. It is only trivial things like this which are discussed there. I thought that the Advisory Committee ought to be consulted primarily about fundamental issues such as the condition of lines, State-management of lines and so on. I thought that such important questions should come before this committee. Now, take the Rail-Road competition. I thought that the Advisory Committee was the proper body to go into a question like this, for instance, rail-road co-ordination. They go to the Finance Committee directly and ignore altogether the Advisory Committee on this fundamental issue. There is the important question of rates and fares. All these important questions of policy should be laid before the advisory committee in the first instance and then they should go to the Finance Committee for considering the financial side. I think the constitution and the objects of the Advisory Committee should be changed and they should be brought into line with the idea with which this committee was originally initiated.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadian Rural): I worked on this Advisory Committee and I would not therefore agree that important questions are not brought before this Committee though I wish that many more important questions would come up. For instance, when there are any stations to be closed, that question comes up. These questions do arise in the advisory committees of the provinces but they are not taken so much notice of as in the Central Advisory Committee. Also the scrapping of some lines, the use of the rails elsewhere, the use of the wagons elsewhere on account of the war and similar questions should also be brought before the advisory committee. Sometimes they do come up but sufficient time is not available for discussion, because these committees are called at the close of the Assembly when everybody is in a hurry to go to his home. I must say that this Committee is very much attended when there is an election of members to the advisory committees. We see all the members coming up at that time and take great interest. I say that more meetings should be called and more time should be given for discussion. I would even go so far as to say that I have always remained on the Provincial Advisory Committee and I say that many questions arise there. These questions do not come up before the Central Advisory Council because they only tell us that this is the policy, but that policy whether it should be changed or not, or whether that policy is a good one or not, such questions do not come up before the Central Advisory Council.

[Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.]

What I mean to say is this, if any such questions arise there, the Railway Department which sends the agenda for the Central Advisory Council do not bring those questions that have been debated there over which there is contest. Such questions, ordinarily in other Committees, are sent by way of propositions or resolutions. I myself sometimes sent some resolutions, but they have not come up before the Central Advisory Council. They are perhaps disposed of in the office or perhaps there was not time enough to bring them up before the Council. Therefore, I would request the Honourable Members to send in their resolutions beforehand and then there will be time enough for calling this Council and there will be enough material to call this Council oftener to consider more questions. I would make another suggestion and it is this. Since questions relating to all railways are considered and advice given by this Central Advisory Council, I suggest that this Council should be a moving one and it should hold its sittings at various places

Sir F. E. James (Madras-European): Have special trains.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Standing Finance Committee for Railways do go about from place to place and consider matters on the spot in consultation with the different railways concerned. Here, only some officers of the Railway Board attend the meetings of the Central Advisory Council, because it is a stationary body meeting only in Delhi at the far end of the Assembly Session. I suggest it should go about in the Provinces where there are different systems of railways and decide questions after consulting the railways concerned.

In conclusion, I would once more urge that more attention is really required to be paid over matters to be brought up there. If only one or two matters are brought up there and they are finished, then the members of the Central Advisory Council go home happy in the thought that they have done something useful. But I suggest there should be more sittings, and also more important work and greater volume of work transacted there.

Mr. Huseinbhoj A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I have only to say a few words. The House is aware that the entire railway system in India now belongs to the State and as such the present position is quite different. Many a time we have been told that the railways are to be treated as commercial concern. My Honourable friend the Member for War Transport will agree that if railways are to be treated as commercial concern and to be worked on commercial lines, then he should have a Board of Directors holding meetings once a month according to the needs of the situation and the whole administration is to be put in their charge. If this Central Advisory Council and other Committees are to be treated like that, because the whole earnings are now public funds, then he should change the whole policy that has been pursued for so many years.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I do not think I need deal with Mr. Joshi's point about the number of days which were given for debate. I think the House is now getting as many days for the general debate and for cut motions as ever before in spite of the fact that we are in the midst of war and that there is very great pressure upon Government in the transportation sphere.

As regards the question of the work of this Central Advisory Council, I seem to recall my Honourable friend, Sir Frederick James, commenting two years ago that the Committee took little interest, as my Honourable friend Mr. Lalchand Navalrai says, in anything but elections to Local Advisory Committees that they took little interest in other things and that he therefore recommended that the Committee should be abolished. Well, Sir, opinions seem to have swung round a bit and it is suggested that we should transact more work in the Committee. When that suggestion was made, I went into the position and we have tried since that date to put more work before the Committee. I have discussed a number of subjects, such as passenger congestion and the steps to be taken to deal with it—that has been discussed on two or three occasions—corruption,

the number of classes which should be made available in the post-war period and so on. I do not remember that we have discussed catering contractors lately, but that was a subject of frequent discussion in the past. My Honourable friend suggested that more financial matters should be placed before the Committee, but I would point out that we have the Standing Finance Committee for Railways which covers finance

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I did not say more financial matters.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: My Honourable friend said that there was great expenditure of money which this Committee ought to investigate which I took to mean the same thing. Now, it is suggested that this Committee should have more frequent meetings. Well, Sir, one of the subjects which we have been discussing is the prevention of congestion of passenger traffic. If we are to meet as my Honourable friend suggests at more frequent intervals, it would simply add to the congestion of travel to and from Delhi.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friends Mr. Neogy and Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad suggested that I should look up the original Acworth Report and see what is recommended there. I will do so, although I think the decision to set up this Central Advisory Council was made after full consideration of that report. Nevertheless, I will look into that again. My Honourable friend Mr. Lalchand Navalrai suggested that the Central Advisory Council should deal with all sorts of questions, such as, closing of a station, removal of, I understood, lights—I do not know what lights he referred to—anyway these are eminently things which should be and must be dealt with on the Local Advisory Committees. We, in the Centre, are not in a position to know what the effect of the abolition of a station would be and that is why the Local Advisory Committees have been established. The corollary to what he suggests that this Committee should sit more or less permanently,—I understand he also wants this Committee to travel all over India presumably in saloons with restaurant cars attached,—the general corollary of that is obviously the abolition of the Local Advisory Committees, but I am not sure however that is entirely what he wishes for. My Honourable friend Mr. Joshi suggested that he was in favour of State management. Then he went on to say that he thought that the whole of the cut motions which were put down on the order paper before the House, should be discussed by this Committee. Well, Sir, if that is to be done, then this Committee would be sitting throughout the year and the Railway Department would not be able to do its work. I suggest that if you have State management, you must allow a little time for the State to get on with the management.

Now, Sir, having dealt with the various points raised by my Honourable friends, I should like to say in conclusion that it is the policy, as has been demonstrated by action in the last year or two, to put more subjects down on the agenda for the Central Advisory Council and to make it a more useful body in the advisory sphere. I will attempt to intensify that policy.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if Members will be allowed to send in their own resolutions for discussion?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think on one occasion, if not more, I have thrown the meeting open for general discussion but I do not think anything very useful resulted and with all due respect to the Honourable Member, some of the suggestions which have been sent in for discussion were not really suitable for the Central Advisory Council, but more suitable perhaps for the Local Advisory Committees.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Only those which have to be revised or corrected. Why should they not be sent up?

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, six non-official Members to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways for the year commencing 1st April, 1945."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and for holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following Committees, namely:

	Date for nomination	Date for election
1. Standing Committee for the Department of Information and Broadcasting	9th March	13th March.
2. Standing Committee on Emigration	9th March	13th March.
3. Standing Committee for the Civil Defence Branch of the Defence Department	10th March	14th March.
4. Standing Finance Committee for Railways	10th March	14th March.
5. The Central Advisory Council for Railways	10th March	15th March.

The nominations for all the five Committees will be received in the Notice Office up to 12 Noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose. The elections which will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, New Delhi, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

THE MINES MATERNITY BENEFIT (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN CENTRAL OILSEEDS COMMITTEE BILL

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the creation of a fund to be expended by a Committee specially constituted for the improvement and development of the cultivation and marketing of oilseeds and of the production and marketing of oilseed products.

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the creation of a fund to be expended by a Committee specially constituted for the improvement and development of the cultivation and marketing of oilseeds and of the production and marketing of oilseed products."

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, is this Bill the same as was introduced last Session on which a debate took place and a circulation motion was carried?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No, Sir; that Bill was for rice which is not commonly accounted an oilseed.

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the creation of a fund to be expended by a Committee specially constituted for the improvement and development of the cultivation and marketing of oilseeds and of the production and marketing of oilseed products."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Sir, I introduce the Bill

THE INCOME-TAX AND EXCESS PROFITS TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, and the Excess Profits Tax Act, 1940, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, Mr. Sami Vencatachellam Chetty, Mr. Sri Prakasa, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar,

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Sir John Sheehy and the Mover, with instructions to report by Monday, the 19th March, 1945, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Sir, the provisions of the Bill fall, broadly speaking, into two categories,—those designed to give relief to the taxpayer and those designed to close certain loopholes in the Act and to strengthen the hands of the department. Of the relief provisions I will deal first with the proposal to introduce for the first time into the Indian income-tax system the principle of differentiation for income-tax purposes between incomes that are earned by personal exertion and incomes that are not so earned. The Royal Commission on the United Kingdom Income-tax reported as follows in 1920 on this question:

"We are satisfied that some such discrimination is desirable and just. Although recognition of the principle was a long time in coming, the demand for it is practically as old as the Act itself. We have not had much evidence advanced against the principle of differentiation, and we are convinced that to do away with the advantage which since 1907, has been granted within certain limits to incomes earned by personal exertion would be a distinctly retrograde step and would ignore the deeply rooted conviction which undoubtedly exists in the public mind that there is a real difference in taxable ability between the two classes of income in question."

In this country the question of introducing the principle of differentiation was considered by the Taxation Inquiry Committee of 1924-25. The Committee thought that the application of the idea to Indian conditions was somewhat premature at the time as the amount of unearned income liable to tax was then relatively small. The Income-tax Inquiry Committee of 1936 came to that conclusion also. It is not, however, the case at the present time that the amount of taxable unearned income is relatively small. On the contrary, it does constitute a substantial proportion of the total quantum of taxable income. There is therefore no good reason for postponing any longer the introduction into the Indian system of the principle of differentiation.

The scale of relief proposed is contained in the Finance Bill and is a deduction of 1/10th of earned income subject to a maximum deduction of Rs. 2,000. As there appears to be some misunderstanding as to how the relief will be given, I might give one or two examples. Thus on an earned income of Rs. 10,000 the relief will be 1/10th, or Rs. 1,000, and tax will be payable on Rs. 9,000 at the rate applicable to that figure.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): What happens to the first free Rs. 1,500? Does that go out of Rs. 9,000?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That continues to be exempt as before.

On an earned income of Rs. 30,000 the deduction will be the maximum, namely, Rs. 2,000, and the tax will be payable on Rs. 28,000. But as the concession does not apply to super-tax, super-tax will be payable on Rs. 5,000, i.e., the excess over Rs. 25,000.

The next relief proposed (clause 3) is a special initial depreciation allowance in respect of new buildings erected and new plant and machinery installed after the 31st day of March 1945. My Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir seemed yesterday to be under the impression that that formed part of the annual Finance Bill and not part of the Income-tax Bill which is a more or less permanent measure. The fact is that this change is proposed in section 10 of the Indian Income-tax Act and will remain on the Statute book until it is repealed, if ever. It therefore becomes a permanent feature, until repealed, of the Indian income-tax system, although the concession, of course, once it has been enjoyed in respect of any particular asset, will have been exhausted. As I explained in my Budget Speech, the figures I have in mind in regard to these allowances are 20 per cent. for plant and machinery and 10 per cent. for buildings. These are the rates proposed in the United Kingdom in the speech made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer last year. My information is that those are still the rates proposed in the United Kingdom although I have seen suggestions in the press that some change had taken place in that respect.

The written-down value will not be affected by these deductions. They will not be allowed for excess profits tax as this would involve discrimination in favour of those who were fortunate enough to obtain new plant and machinery

[Sir Jeremy Raisman.]

earlier than their rivals. I may point out here that in the United Kingdom it is not intended to introduce this concession until the excess profits tax has been repealed, and so they are not faced with this particular problem. But it appeared to me that provided we excluded the operation of excess profits tax from the matter it would be possible to introduce the concession here with immediate effect. It is not the case as has been represented in certain quarters that the effect of that is that excess profits tax is actually charged on the value of this concession.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Will you explain that further?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I think I can explain that at this moment if the Honourable Member wishes; otherwise it would be more suitable to explain it in my reply to the debate. What I propose is to give this concession for income-tax and super-tax purposes, i.e., if you like it may be treated as being set off against the assessment on the standard income. The excess profits tax works in such various, and haphazard ways that it would be impossible so to adjust this concession as to produce an equitable result as between different assesseees. But if you concentrate on the ordinary assessment to income-tax and super-tax then you see that the value of the concession is the same to all assesseees whether or not they pay excess profits tax.

In the year in which these special allowances are given, the usual rates of depreciation will also be allowed—that is to say, that if the normal rate of depreciation is 10 per cent. of a particular asset then in the first year in which the asset has been in operation, the depreciation allowable will be 30 per cent. of the cost of the asset.

I ought however to make it clear that the grant of these allowances will only hasten the writing off of the assets, but will not naturally increase the overall allowance because the maximum that can be allowed in respect of any asset is 100 per cent. of its cost. Even so the allowance should, as I said in my Budget Speech, provide encouragement for the early re-equipment of industry.

The next relief is contained in clause 3(b) which provides for the allowance of all expenditure, whether of a revenue or capital nature incurred on scientific research related to the business. Revenue expenditure will be allowed as it is incurred and also sums paid to recognised scientific bodies and institutions. Capital expenditure will be allowed in five consecutive yearly instalments.

There is one other relief provision, namely, clause 9 which, in the case of trusts where the individual shares of the beneficiaries are indeterminate or unknown and where they have no other income, proposes to reduce the rate of tax from the maximum rate to the rate applicable to the total income of the trust. This provision will relieve hardship in cases, for example, of trusts for the maintenance of widows and children where the total income is small.

Coming now to the other category of provisions, I would first mention clause 7, which proposes to delete from section 34 the words “in consequence of definite information which has come into his possession”. Clause 13 seeks to make a consequential change in the Excess Profits Tax Act. The Notes on clauses contain an explanation of the reason for this amendment and I need not repeat it. But as opinions have already been expressed to the effect that the amendment will result in harassment of honest assesseees, I should like to state that I think such fears are groundless and that the amended section, which will correspond with the United Kingdom law, will afford sufficient protection to the assessee. And any over-zealous officer who tries to proceed without the necessary preliminary discovery will find the appellate authorities taking a poor view of his efforts.

The next provision to which I would refer is clause 8, which seeks to empower the Income-tax Officer to visit premises, make enquiries, call for accounts and stamp them. This clause is somewhat similar to a clause which was adopted by the Select Committee on the 1939 Income-tax Amendment Bill but rejected

by this House. It is six years since that Bill was passed and there has been ample time to judge the extent of the disability under which the Income-tax Department suffers through lack of such powers. The consensus of opinion among those who have to administer the Act is that they are gravely handicapped through inability to visit premises, make enquiries and call for accounts on the spot. I hope therefore that the House will agree to give us those powers which are more than ever necessary now when evasion is more widespread than ever.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Does this clause apply to business premises or only premises?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Let him finish his speech.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I will deal with that later on.

In some of the Provinces no difficulty has been experienced in conferring similar or even more extensive powers on minor officials administering taxes such as sales taxes. Nor does there appear to have been any outcry about harassment in those Provinces such as seems inevitable when any attempt is made to strengthen the hands of the Income-tax Department.

The last provision to which I would refer is clause 5(b), which seeks to close a loophole which the Legislature never intended to leave open. This House has by enacting section 16(3) agreed in certain circumstances to include in an assessee's income, income from assets which he has transferred to his wife or minor child. It could not possibly have been the intention not to include such income when the income only but not the assets was transferred. Recent decisions have however shown that in such a case the income transferred to the wife or child cannot be included in the father or husband's income. The amendment seeks to remedy this defect.

I trust, Sir, I have sufficiently explained what this Bill proposes to do. It is in my opinion a Bill which should be examined by a Select Committee and I hope that the House will accept my motion. Sir, I move:

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

“That the Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, and the Excess Profits Tax Act, 1940, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty, Mr. Sri Prakasa, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Sir John Sheehy and the Mover, with instructions to report by Monday, the 19th March, 1945, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five.”

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): Sir, I have heard and known that the good done by a person is forgotten by the beneficiaries and the evil that he sometimes chanced to do is very much remembered. But, I have not heard of a person who deliberately makes an attempt to suppress the good that he might have done and impress upon the general public the evil that he has done and is going to do. I am afraid that my Honourable friend Sir Jeremy Raisman belongs to this later category. We are not unmindful of his attempts to do certain good acts by the Indian public but if passes one's comprehension why at the end of his office, he should deliberately threaten the Indian public with parting kicks: This Bill is a mixture of kisses and kicks.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Love consists of both.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: There are no doubt a few more kisses than kicks in this Bill but the kisses are not of an ardent type. They seem to be more in the nature of evidences for a proper divorce action that may be taken hereafter and the kicks that he has proposed in this Bill are effective and violent. Taking into account the kisses which he had offered, namely, a certain amount of reduction for personal exertions, depreciation for machinery and

[Mr. Sami Vencatachela Chetty]

buildings that may be constructed after the 31st March, 1945, I should think, if it was the intention of the Honourable the Finance Member to give these benefits, that they should be clarified with a greater and more adequate explanation than is found in the definitions given in this Bill and that he would do his best to remove in the Select Committee the misunderstandings that would arise as to the benefits that would accrue from these provisions.

Coming to the latter portion of the Bill which consists of kicks, the Honourable the Finance Member himself has reminded the House how six or seven years ago we rejected a provision to the effect that power should be given to the Income-tax Officers, for access or entry into the premises of any person and to seize and impound the accounts. Invariably it is the custom, whenever a provision is introduced to strengthen the fetters over the general public in India, to quote the example of law in Great Britain. I would desire to ask the Honourable the Finance Member to point out the corresponding provision in the English Act, which enables the officers of the Income-tax Department to have entry at any time into any part of the premises, to seize accounts and to reopen the finally closed assessments. I have just looked into the provisions of the Income-tax Act of Great Britain and I do not find any parallel to these provisions. With regard to the entry itself I came across a famous though old passage defining the impenetrability into a private house of any person by anybody.

"The poorest man may in his cottage defy all the forces of the Crown. It may be frail, its roof may shake, wind may blow through it, the rain may enter (*I would add, the snakes may enter*) but the King of England cannot enter. All his forces dare not cross the threshold of the ruined tenement."

That was the conception of the sanctity of the private house of a man in England. It is persisting up to this day, whatever might have been the vicissitudes through which England might have passed.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Whose writing was that?

Mr. Sami Vencatachela Chetty: That seems to be the saying of Sir Robert Walpole but I cannot immediately trace the author. The name of the book is Prime Ministers of Great Britain by Bingham?

I know, Sir, in dealing with India and other subject countries the law has got to be different. In every act you will see the difference in the application of a particular law to India as against free countries. We are not only paying for the subjection we are undergoing in various other fields but even in the treatment between man and man and between the individual and the governmental authority, there is a deliberate attempt to show that we are inferior beings and that we must be treated accordingly. That is the sting which anybody has got to rebel against. What case have you to ask for this extra power in this legislation to enable you to enter the private premises of any person on the plea that you have got to look into his accounts and frame a law on that conception. After having had the experience of such a kind of provision being rejected by all sides of this House six years ago how dare you to bring a similar provision? Is it because you think that we are divided and that you will be able to carry it through our differences and our divisions? So far as this provision is concerned you may take it that all Parties will combine and resist the attempt to give you any power to enter the premises of an assessee without notice.

Now, Sir, reopening of assessments even on grounds which were taken into consideration at the time of the original assessment seems to me to reveal a mind that suspects its own officers. One officer makes an assessment, Commissioners are there to hear and examine the appeal, and the assessment is closed and then the old officer is succeeded by another man whom it is proposed to invest with authority to reopen the assessment and assess in his own way on those very grounds which had been considered at the time of the original assessment itself. I think it is a well-known principle in the Courts of Justice that if certain points have been taken for consideration at a particular stage in the trial of a suit and disposed of, it will not be possible for

anybody to reopen the question on the very points which have been disposed of originally. There must be some finality in these matters.

Apart from the liberty or license you give to every succeeding officer to reopen an assessment and even to injure the reputation of the person whom he has succeeded, what is the position of the assessee in this matter? Is he always to be in suspense as to what is going to happen to him not only during the period of the assessment concerned, but even after? That is, I think, a provision like the hanging sword of Damocles, to which every decent man ought to object. Sir, if even on these grounds the Honourable the Finance Member does not see his way to modify his views with regard to these two particular objectionable features, I am afraid the future of this Bill is doomed.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Mr. Deputy President, the Mover of the Bill has set himself the task of offering a gift and at the same time taking away from us certain rights. I only hope that the gift is not contingent on our willing surrender of these rights. I have heard with great attention, which is due to anything that falls from the mouth of my Honourable friend, his explanation of the gift. It has been represented by the industry that while they are appreciative of anything coming in the shape of encouragement or subsidy in regard to setting up new buildings or replacing worn-out plants, they feel that the concessions shown have not been substantial, at any rate not such as to persuade those people who are unwilling to spend money and replace their worn-out plants, to make a change in their attitude. Sir, Government have been subsidising payments made by the industry to their employees during the last four years. The Excess Profits Tax which has benefited the country's exchequer has also benefited the employees, as employers who have been getting subsidies from the Government indirectly, of course, as a consequence of the levy of E. P. T. have increased the remuneration to their employees. No such incentive is provided by the concession that has been given in this Bill. It has been said by people who are in the know, and who represent the industrialists, that this concession, without a similar concession in regard to Excess Profits Tax, is practically of very little value. It may be, Sir, like looking a gift horse in the mouth, but if the intention of Government is to encourage industrialists to replace their plants and erect new buildings, if it is their intention to subsidise these people to some extent as against increased costs both in the erection of buildings and in the matter of replacement of plants this concession does not go far enough. Where is the magic in beginning this concession from the 1st of April 1945? This is a single gift given only in one calendar year. Why should not this concession be extended in regard to replacement of machinery and erection of new buildings during the years 42, 43 and 44 under conditions which probably as compared to what may exist after 1st April 1945, were equally costly and difficult indeed. I do not know if the Honourable the Finance Member has given due weight to the representations which were made by the industry in this matter. I do hope that between now and the conclusion of the Select Committee's meetings, he will be able to consider this matter further and come to a decision as to proposals to make this gift somewhat more valuable and something more solid and that he will place these proposals before the Select Committee.

In regard to the other matter, namely, the differentiation between earned incomes and unearned incomes, we have to congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member for having taken this step. He has explained to us why this step was not taken earlier due, in the main, to the fact that the Taxation Enquiry Committee of 1924 as well as the Income-tax Enquiry Committee of 1936 considered that the time was not opportune to introduce this change in the tax structure. But at the same time, Sir, I would like to urge on the Honourable the Finance Member the fact that the concession could have been a little more generous. In fact if he should copy the system obtaining in his own country, I think he would have been a little more liberal.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is exactly the same.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I thought it was 1/5th.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It used to be 1/5th, but not now.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not aware of the amendment. I must however put the blame for my mistake on the records obtainable in the Library of the legislature which appears to be quite out of date. Nevertheless I think the Honourable the Finance Member will do well to consider making this concession a little more generous, and in this connection I would like to say that along with this concession to earned incomes, the Honourable Member should consider the question of raising the limit of exemption in the matter of income-tax assessment. If he had done it along with this differentiation between earned and unearned incomes I think the public and the country would then have probably more to feel grateful to him for, than for anything else he has done all these six years.

I now come to the most contentious portion of this Bill; and I am afraid that my Honourable friend has not really set himself out to take the House into his confidence in asking us to go behind the House's own decisions and to accept the position which it refused to accept six years back. My Honourable friend who spoke before me was fully aware of the position, and I was surprised that he did not make it plain to those who were not in the House at that time. It has been suggested in the notes on clauses that clauses 7 and 13 have found a place here in this amending Bill because of two recent cases which have been decided, in which the Government have lost a large amount of revenue. I would have liked the Honourable Member to have told us what the details of those cases are, what are the principles involved, how it happened that the judges of the High courts felt that the Government should be deprived of their legitimate revenue. If really we are out here in this amending Bill to circumvent every decision of a High Court, I am afraid that that is not the primary or legitimate business of the Legislature. The Legislature makes laws which are reasonable, where the safety of the citizen is adequately safeguarded, and the revenue position of the Government is also equally safeguarded. A balance is struck between these opposing interests; and with the law in that position, if there is one case somewhere in which a decision goes against the department, does that mean that the whole principle must be withdrawn or reversed and there must be a change in the legislation so affected? It is not the first time, within the short time of my experience of this House that we have had Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches coming forward with an amending Bill seeking to circumvent the decision of a High court. I would ask my Honourable friend if the same thing can be done with equal impunity in his own country. After all, if these laws are fundamentally defective, they are laws which were given to us by Britain, if the jurisprudence is defective, it is because it is a copy of British jurisprudence; if the law of evidence is rather defective, it is based on the British law of evidence. It is the gift of Britain to India. But the Honourable Member wants to twist it in such a manner that it will suit his purposes. It has been suggested that in so far as these two sections are concerned, the law in England is different from the law that exists in this country, and we should only be bringing the law in tune with the law in Britain by this amendment. I do not know if my Honourable friend will get up and say that the safety for the citizen in this country is normally even one-tenth as secure as the safety for the citizen in Britain. Will steps be taken to amend the laws of this country to equate it with the position that obtains in Britain?

Along with this comes clause 8 which proposes an addition to section 38, giving power to an income-tax officer to enter premises and to call for and inspect a person's accounts and stamp those accounts after inspection. I see one slight difference between this clause and the clause as it was found in the 1938 Amending Bill. There, as amended by the Select Committee, an income-tax officer may, if so authorised by the Commissioner in writing, enter such premises. Here it says "if so authorised by the Inspecting Assistant Commissioner in writing". Apparently the status of the inspecting assistant commissioner has since been raised during these six years. The question really is one in which I think the House will be very much interested.

Before taking the House back to what happened in 1938, I would like to join issue with my Honourable friend in regard to one particular point which he quoted in support of his contentions. He said the department have experienced difficulties because of the want of this particular provision, viz., the proposed addition to section 38; and he also said that public opinion in this country has really improved as regards fears concerning such matters as are covered by this proposed amendment since 1938. He suggested that the Sales Tax Acts passed in the provinces have an analogous provision. I join issue with him on that matter, because I happened to be a member of a legislature of a province which happened to be the first to pass a Sales Tax Act. I happened to be in the select committee; while the Sales Tax Bill was in progress; it is true that the Provincial Government had suggested the inclusion of a similar clause in the Bill at the time or rather it found place in the Bill as it came before the Select Committee; and it is true that the bureaucracy behind the responsible Government urged that this was a very necessary clause in order to safeguard the revenue position. But the Government being a popular Government could not very well resist the pressure brought to bear by public opinion, and the clause was deleted, I believe, in the Select Committee stage itself. Anyway I will admit that that clause has been restored now in the Madras Sales Tax Act. Probably the Honourable Member has got a recent copy of that enactment from Madras, unless it be that he is basing his view on a similar enactment of another province.

Mr. Sami Vencatachellam Chetty: It was published for eliciting public opinion.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I think it was brought in by a Governor's Act. Section 93 rule prevails in Madras; at any rate the Governor there is an autocrat, equivalent to Hitler, or Mussolini or whosoever one would liken him to.

An Honourable Member: Churchill?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not know if that would be correct, much as we dislike Churchill he is responsible to a House of Commons; and it has happened in Madras that this provision was restored by a Governor's Act. The very idea that a provision in a revenue collecting measure, which has been resisted by the popular representatives, which a popular Government has accepted as being reasonable, is being restored by an autocratic Government is an additional argument why this House should not allow the Honourable the Finance Member to get away with this particular provision. On these two sets of clauses I have something more to say.

I have been watching the position of income-tax revenue of this Government for the last three years; I had the good fortune or misfortune of hearing quite a lot of things that happen in this country; and I am firmly of opinion that this Government is perhaps collecting just 50 per cent. of what is its due; and I do endorse what my Honourable friend Sir Henry Richardson said the other day, that the honest man bears the burden of the evasion of the dishonest ones. I will ask the Honourable Member, is it because that he has not been armed with powers under sections 34 and 38 that the present state of things exist in his department? He has not told us that it was so. He has not told us that the Government have lost a large amount of revenue, something like 50 per cent of its dues merely because we have not armed him with the powers contemplated in section 34 and section 38. The real difficulty is not due to this fact. The well-to-do man, the rich man, the man who has a pull socially, who is in a position to meet commissioners and assistant commissioners, who has access to high placed people, whom he could meet when they arrive at stations with garlands and at parties which he throws in their honour, can get away with anything he wants. I quite concede that the department is unable to take action against these people or put them in a criminal court because the laws of the country do not permit them to do so; and invariably in such cases the department resorts to compounding with these people in regard to their dues, and anything which they compound is always to the benefit of the assessee who has been continually cheating the department. Will the Honourable

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Member say that there is no such thing in his department? I do not say anything about corruption: corruption probably exists in that department like in any other department; but I do say that those who are responsible, those who are occupying responsible positions—do make distinctions between the rich and the poor, between the powerful and the powerless; and the powerless have to pay often times without demur, often times cannot go beyond the assistant commissioner; they may go to the tribunal in a few cases, but the powerful people evade taxes and keep the Government away from their legitimate dues for four, five, six, seven, eight and even nine years; and if the Honourable Member would only give us a list of the assessments which are still pending from 1940 and 1941, he would only prove my case. My Honourable friend has not suggested that, suppose we arm him with the

3 P.M. powers that he wants under section 34 and 38—that he expects to collect at least 50 per cent. of that revenue which the Government have been cheated of. No such suggestion has been made. But while offering a gift, while offering something to the industrialists of this country, while offering something to the middle class man of this country, he brings two proposals one of which has been categorically voted upon and voted down in this House. The other one is a proposal which I see was eliminated from the 1938 Bill by an amendment moved by Sir John Sheehy (Mr. J. F. Sheehy as he then was). You will find it on page 4058 of the Assembly Proceedings dated the 7th December 1938. Sir John Sheehy said:

"Sir, I move:

"That for part (a) of sub-clause (1) of clause 39 of the Bill, the following be substituted."

I do not know why Sir John Sheehy should turn now a somersault and come before us and say 'I am eating back my own words. Do let me support my Honourable Member to bring forward a Bill with a provision by which I shall be eating back my very words. I do not know what transformation has come upon Sir John Sheehy. In fact, I hope that before we terminate the proceedings today we shall have from the mouth of Sir John Sheehy the reasons why he has made a change.

Sir John Sheehy (Government of India: Nominated Official): Which amendment was that? Will you read out the amendment?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: The amendment was this:

"(a) for the words 'for any reason' the words 'in consequence of information which has come into his possession the Income-tax Officer discovers that' shall be substituted."

That is the wording in the report of the Assembly proceedings.

Sir John Sheehy: I think the answer is that it was an agreed amendment at the time, because we could not get our way.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I did not suggest that my Honourable friend moved it *suo motu*. Undoubtedly he was a party to the agreement and I don't suppose he strained his conscience in coming to that agreement. I am sure he would not have done it.

The next question which engages our attention is in regard to what happened in 1938 to a provision analogous to what is found in clause 8. I think it would have been more appropriate from the mouth of my Honourable friend Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty who did move for the deletion of a very similar sub-clause—the only difference being the importation of the words 'if so authorised by the Inspecting Assistant Commissioner in writing' instead of the Commissioner in the 1938 Bill. It was opposed by Sir James Grigg and the House decided by 64 votes to 45 that Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty was right and that his amendment should be supported.

Sir, I would like Sir John Sheehy, before he replies or rather he adds to the information of this House, to look into the proceedings and look into those words of Sir James Grigg in regard to section 34 of the Act. He said:

"Sir, perhaps I might say two words in support of this amendment. It was put in because a great many fears were expressed that under the clause, as worded, even after it left the Select Committee: a fishing inquiry without any sort of information whatever was

possible for the Income-tax Officer. That was certainly not the intention of the income-tax administration and we put this in order to make it clear and, indeed, in order to stop the Income-tax Officer from making purely fishing inquiries with no basis at all. I understand, Sir, that it would reassure Honourable Members opposite even more if instead of the vague word 'information' we put in 'definite information'.

I want the House to note that the improvement from 'information' to 'definite information' was a suggestion from Sir James Grigg.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That shows that we had an open mind but we have had bitter experience.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: My Honourable friend is a great logician. I should like to say something about his great logical faculties. I should like to tell the House how he would be able to put this House clearly in a dilemma. I know my Honourable friend's mind is very agile. If it does not suit him to reply to a query, my Honourable friend sometimes comes forth and says 'Well, there is no common ground between. So, I am not able to answer you'. It might be that on another occasion my Honourable friend would say 'I can convince you but you won't be convinced. So, I will not make an attempt to do so. Now, he says the change is sought to be made because of his bitter experience. He says, 'Having been so generous and so keen to preserve the rights of the assessee all these years, we now give up that doubtful task and we want to eat back our words and to go back to the position which existed in the Amending Bill of 1938, when it was a Bill and not an Act' because of bitter experience which has now closed what was in 1938 an open mind. It is for the House to judge if he is right.

There is no use of harping on a thing which has been threshed out threadbare even though in my absence in this House. The fears of the assessee are always there but at the same time I agree that the other set of facts do exist and I think that they exist because my Honourable friend did not have the time to devote his attention to the problem and my Honourable friend Sir John Sheehy was not able to exercise that amount of determination to twist the tail of those officers who will not do their job and hence the country is poorer and hence it is that there is a black market in this country and hence it is that if you go to Bombay you see money flows in the streets. You have merely to go to Bombay to see how money flows there, how every third man that you see there is a millionaire. How did he make his millions?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Don't be too sure about that.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: The point really is this. There are instances within our knowledge where assessee, who two or three years ago were in great difficulties and owed large amounts of money to banks, have all now become very rich men. They make big gifts, get titles, are prominent in society and give tea parties which are attended by gubernatorial functionaries. How does all this happen? It might happen because there exists a second set of account books because there exist banks in the backwoods to which funds have been transferred. Would the amendment of Section 34 and Section 38 cover that position? If a merchant in Bombay removes his books to Jaipur, would inspection by the Honourable Member's officers help the position in any way? If the Department has informers and if the Department knows before the books are actually removed, there may be ways and means of getting at them, but more often than not that position does not exist. Some time back in Bombay I was told that if a person goes to a race course and he is lucky to win Rs. 15,000 or Rs. 20,000 on booked bets when he gets paid by cheque on a bank he can easily get that money augmented by another Rs. 10,000 because there are people in Bombay willing to pay a premium of fifty per cent. on the value of a cheque of this type endorsed to them. Money earned in this way by gambling in the race course need not be accounted for in the matter of income-tax. I was told that prizes earned in connection with prize bonds bring offers from people to purchase cheques covering such prizes at figures much higher than the amount of the cheque itself. All this might be hearsay but there is always some truth underlying it. I am sorry my Honourable friend Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar is not here—I am glad he has

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now come back—I often speak from hearsay, but it happens to be very often to be genuine fact. Of course, opinion expressed in this matter is largely hearsay.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: What happens there? Please tell the House.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not here for providing amusement for my Honourable friend, and therefore Mr. Deputy President, I shall proceed. It is not a matter for amusement, it is a matter in which fears are really genuine, even if you put it as merely a matter of personal right of the individual. If today granting the Act is to be amended, and the Government can do it by an ordinance from His Excellency the Viceroy, we would have no more say about it. If they do it, well, it would be circumstanced by one fact that notwithstanding that the ordinance would have application for some time to come until this House or its successor decides what ought to be the period during which the effect of that ordinance would be in force, it would necessarily be temporary. It is nothing new. The Government have amended various Acts passed by this Legislature by means of ordinances, only this House is not allowed to take any notice of it and we have not even been asked about our opinions in the matter. If that is to be the manner by which the change needed is brought about, then we will have no say. But is it right to ask the elected Members of this House to accept a position that it is to be placed permanently on the Statute book even if it be a provision urgently needed at the moment merely because for one reason that the Department is not efficient enough and secondly that there is a temporary circumstance which they want to tide over, and they want to enact these provisions which really impinge on civil liberty permanently?

Sir, before concluding, I would say that I am singularly unconvinced by the arguments put forward by my Honourable friend the Mover that because of the fact that he feels that some Provincial Governments have passed the sales tax measures, that there are analogous provisions in those measures and therefore the provisions should be brought into this tax as well. I would give him a tip, if he wants it. If he looks into the Madras Public Health Act, he will find therein right of entry is provided for officers of the Public Health Department. If you provide for entry in the matter of public health, it does not mean that you should provide for matters in public finance also. The two things are not on all fours. So, citing the fact that there is something which has been done in Provinces, particularly in a Province like mine where autocratic rule is the order of the day, I think, does not give any support to my Honourable friend. On the other hand it detracts from any merit which the Honourable Member's argument in support of this new amendment might have carried with it.

Sir, my position is very difficult because as I said he has brought in a Bill which we have to accept because it is good perhaps, but there is something else in it which we have to resist. I do hope that this House will resist the reintroduction of these two clauses which will cause a lot of hardship to people unless it be that between now and the time when the Select Committee reports, my Honourable friend would have furnished fresh and more convincing reasons to show that we are in the wrong and that we should therefore accept his proposals.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Sir, I do not want to deal with the very technical and commercial aspects of the Bill, but I want to look at the Bill from the ordinary layman's point of view. Sir, you remember that when I interrupted the Honourable the Finance Member I was asking him for an explanation as to whether 'premises' in clause 8 meant any premises or only business premises.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: It includes water closet as well.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I want to draw the attention of the House to the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill. It says under clauses 8 and 10:

"The Income-tax Officer is hampered, especially in these days of high taxation and black markets, by lack of any power to visit business premises and to call for and inspect accounts."

I want to draw the attention of the House to this that it definitely says 'business premises'. Now when we look into clause 8(2) it says:

"The Income-tax Officer may visit the premises of any person"

Now, Sir, from 'business premises' it has come to mere 'premises' in this very paper containing the Bill and the Statement of Objects and Reasons. In other words, the Income-tax officer can go and visit any premises. Sir, those who know the history of this question at the time of the last Income-tax Bill will remember that one of the main reasons for dropping this clause was that the House felt and rightly felt that giving so much power to an Income-tax officer to visit premises and to visit houses in this country between any hours in the day will only give an opportunity for him to harass ignorant women and children in this country. I do not see any reason for changing my opinion now when the same set of conditions prevail even today, if anything in a worse form. However, Sir, even in a beneficial measure like rationing, the experience of the country has been bitter. Whereas popular opinion has been for rationing, the experience of the methods and the manner in which that measure was administered has been very bitter so far as the population is concerned. I do not want to give instances which actually happened in Bombay City. Under the pretext of rationing, I have known Rationing officers going into houses at ten of the clock in the morning and leaving the house at ten of the clock at night. The houses were all of well-to-do people belonging to my constituency and they grumbled to me about it. Actually the Rationing officer went there at ten of the clock in the morning and left at ten in the night. What do you think the Rationing Officer asked the inmates of the house. He asked them to open the iron safe where women's ornaments are kept to see if any grains were hoarded there or not. These are not exceptional experiences of people. Apart from the merits of the measure as to whether you get the amount of money from the tax which you are going to gather and with which I do not interest myself at the present time, I do say that the method and the manner of collecting the tax as suggested by this clause is most objectionable and, therefore, I hope the Honourable the Finance Member will see his way to drop this clause altogether. Sir, I would not be prepared to give this authority even to my own Government, if at any time the Government comes in, I mean the Congress Government, I would not give it this power because it is not right that any administrative official should be empowered with such powers. After all, the people in a country, except in times of emergency, perhaps there may be exceptions, but I say ordinarily, even in times of emergency, the people in a country are not meant merely to pay taxes and that they have no other rights. They have obligations, I admit, but side by side, they have rights and it is the duty of the authorities concerned to see that when they are exercising their rights of taxing, the rights of the public as well are respected. I hope that the Finance Member will agree, I hope the House will agree to the elimination of this clause *in toto*. I hope the House will never accept it. If that is not possible—and I do not see why it should not be possible—it will have to be restricted only to business premises. The Income-tax officer should not be allowed to visit private houses or premises and ask to see the accounts. That is not right from the point of view of the dignity and respect of the Indian nation as a whole. There is such a thing as the sanctity of private residences and homes and the authorities should not trample on that.

My second point with regard to this Bill is this. I do not know what their idea of research was when they drafted this Bill. I find they talk in large terms but display a narrow mind. What is it that they are giving the relief in respect of research for? They have mentioned research conducted in that particular business. If the textile industry tomorrow wanted to spend on medical research or research which help in the improvement of human society in general, like the Rockefeller donations or some such thing, then naturally, so far as I can read it, they will not get any relief with regard to this kind of research.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Under the existing Income-tax Act bequests of an educational or charitable nature may qualify for exemption.

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Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: If the Honourable Member will accept my suggestion under any other name I have not the least objection. But what we find is that when an Act is passed the aims and objects of the framers of the law are not taken into account by the judges who decide these cases and they follow the strict letter of the law, however absurd it may be. In the circumstances and with the experience that we have it is our duty to see that if a measure is liable to be misinterpreted and to lead to unnecessary harassment, it is better that the measure should be eliminated and dropped altogether than put on the Statute book in an ambiguous form. That is why I have suggested the elimination of clause 8 altogether. Similarly, with regard to this research also I suggest that one kind of research is not useful only for that particular line, in which case it does not deserve to be called research. Indeed, if you look to the history of the industrial prosperity of the western nations you will find that research is not worked in particular industries. It is true that with capitalism whatever research was made in any line was used by the capitalists for the prosperity of that particular branch. All the same it does not mean that you should restrict whatever relief you are going to give to any particular kind of research. And if your industries and taxpayers have made a lot of money, I for one would be very happy if a good deal of the money should be diverted into channels of research which will be of use not only to one particular nation but to all the nations. Therefore if the Finance Member can see his way to give relief in a general way for general research, it will be much more advantageous for my country. I happen to be a member of the Bombay University. I have represented the University in different capacities and I can tell you that the growing need of the country, before the war, during the war and after the war is research,—medical and industrial research, chemical research and research in every form. There is no university which can do any research. In particular, the Bombay University is crying for funds for research, and I know of no rich university which can afford any money for research, even in human fields. Therefore if the Finance Member can stretch and extend this so that the money given to research will be a regular relief from taxation it will be not only good for the taxpayer who can afford to pay but he will be doing something good for the whole country and eventually for the whole of humanity.

Beyond these particular points, as I said, I do not want to go into the technicalities of this Bill because there are many others who are perhaps more competent to deal with the slab system and all that. But I must say again that this clause 8 is a very dangerous provision, and instead of putting very much into the coffers of Government by way of taxation will add very greatly to the harassment of the public. I therefore urge on the House and on those of my colleagues who will go into the Select Committee to see that this clause is completely dropped and that no power is given to any official to visit any premises. If such unlimited powers are given, there will be no distinction between this Government and tyranny.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I have not much to say generally on the Bill at present. I find that the Finance Member has succeeded directly or indirectly in getting the most powerful elements in this House to agree to serve on the Select Committee. I am sure he has made sure that these gentlemen are willing to serve on the Select Committee. Therefore so far as we on this side are concerned, we may take it that the Bill is going into Select Committee unless the Leaders of these Parties are still open-minded in this matter.

Sir, I will make an appeal to these Leaders with reference to clause 8 which refers not only to income-tax but attempts to take away the liberties of the people and interferes with their individual privacy. The Finance Member after having some rights vested in the police in several Acts wants also the rights to enter into any premises at any time, even private premises where there may be purdah women or where there are small places set aside for prayers, as in most Hindu and Muslim houses, where strangers cannot be allowed. If the Finance Member after having been in this country for 30

years does not realise that, I am sorry for him. This kind of thing makes us think that no consideration is given when an I.C.S. wants to attain his objective. Does the Honourable the Finance Member admit the charges that my friend Sir Henry Richardson and other gentlemen have levied that his income-tax Department is corrupt because they have insinuated that he is losing large revenues? Every year the Honourable the Finance Member in his budget speech refers to the good work of his staff who he says has worked honestly and sincerely. Even the Home Member when he visits districts to attend police prize distributions speaks of the police force which is the only force which is honourable and honest and so on. Many a time the Opposition try to show that in the interests of the masses they are most anxious to get out from the rich every pie they can. True, we must appeal to the masses but let them come forward and tell the masses that their Houses will now be searched and then I will see the results. We fought the Government and all the multi-millionaires. We sent the police after them. Since 1938 I have been pained to watch the attitude of the Opposition but thank God that within the last five years they have realized the situation and have watched the liberties of the people trampled upon.

Sir, I should have thought that a man like the Honourable the Finance Member, who is supposed to be a great financier, should have understood the meaning of credit. He has brought more than half a dozen Bills into this House so that no attempts should be made by a shareholder or anyone against a bank or a corporation as that would affect his credit. They are protecting the banks lest the shareholders or somebody should make insinuation against the working of the bank in a manner that would take away the credit of the bank. We now find in the Secretariat offices, North and South Blocks, that clerks have been taken to watch the entrance of anyone to these Blocks. Do the authorities fear that otherwise information might leak out? Go to any Government department and you find the same thing. For the matter of that go to the recently created Food Department, more rightly some say starvation department. Everywhere you find big boards—'Establishment', 'Accounts', 'No Admission'! Isn't it so?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman. I am making no admission about it!

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: So far as Indian business men are concerned that is the position. But these things will never trouble my European friends whether they are creditor nation or not. The superiority complex is there and no Indian dare go there: "Bara sahib ka hukam kaha hai? Chala jao!" I would like my friend, the Honourable the Finance Member, to try visiting some of the European homes where there are often bull dogs and when he finds specially the board "Not at home" he will soon ask his driver to drive him back. We must protect ourselves and we are not doing that. Don't you realise that you have also a purdah system, but under this new Act anyone will be able to come in. Often Government tells us that we do not want to touch your religious sentiments. But when they want to do something then there is no such thing like religion, there is no sentiment, there is no common sense. I warn the Honourable the Finance Member seriously that if he sends one of his Sub-Inspectors to the house of a Mussalman he will see that there will be a right royal fight, even if he sends an American military man.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: But I may send him to the shop of a Hindu. Why go to houses of Mussalmans?

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: If you send a Muslm to a Hindu shop, be prepared for a Hindu-Muslim riot. You may laugh but in 1928 and again in 1931 we had riots and within a space of five months Bombay lost nearly 4,000 people. It was due to improper entry in the mohallahs. Can you say what advantage is this to a business man from whom you want to collect this money? Can you, in a big business office, allow your Income-tax officer to get in, ask for books, look into books and put down seals and stamps? What will be the firm's credit? How can the business man carry on his business? It is absolutely impossible. I do wish that you go and see how business is

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being done in Mandvi and Kalbadevi. I do acknowledge that when account books are sent to the Income-tax Office they tell their men that they are confidential. On the one hand you have got these rules, you take pretty good care to see that the assessee's books of accounts are not divulged to anybody but here you want him to make an exhibition. Does it not happen many times out of sheer vindictiveness that one or other officer may enter an office and there ends the whole show. The man is doing lakhs worth of business and there comes the Income-tax Officer and asks for the account books. What happens? A holiday. I mean the business is closed. What else can happen, ultimately the business is closed down. This has often happened. This is not a matter which people who are not in the business realise but this is a fact. Furthermore I fail to see for what reason you are going to put down business people like this God alone knows. It is not, I feel certain, for the purpose of getting more income-tax but it is because you want to give some more power to the Income-tax Officers, for what real objective God alone knows.

The question that is now before us is; are we going to allow under any pretext entry into our houses or business place to any Government officials without permission? That is the first point. And secondly, can our business tolerate an outsider to go into business premises and make an exhibition of force and will it not injure the interests both of the community as businessmen and as private individuals? I say it is high time that we do realise this and unless the Honourable the Finance Member agrees to drop this section we ought not to agree to refer this Bill to the Select Committee.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Certain clauses of the Bill have attracted the notice of many Honourable Members and I should not like to labour long on those clauses. But I would like to refer to some other clauses. I first refer to the question of earned income, which is really a welcome change that is long overdue and now that we have it, it is good. But in that I wish to say an amendment is necessary. If it is earned income it must be earned by the person himself. I find in the definition in clause (c):

"which is chargeable under the head 'Other sources' if it is immediately derived from personal exertion or represents a pension or superannuation or other allowance given to the assessee in respect of his past services or the past services of any deceased person."

If it is given owing to the past services of a deceased person, it would certainly not be an earned income. When I look at the English Act, it is made more specific there and is more acceptable. It says:

"Compensation for loss of office given in respect of the past services of the individual or of the husband or parent of the individual."

That, Sir, is more exact and more acceptable than a general clause saying "the past services of any deceased person".

The second point which I would like to mention about earned income is this. They have fixed Rs. 2,000 and 10 per cent. of income as the upper and lower limits of exemption to be made. My plea is that in the case of lower incomes instead of fixing 10 per cent., a definite sum may be fixed below which it would be unfair to go. In cases of lower incomes 10 per cent. will be too poor a sum. I would suggest that some figure may be arrived at. It should be in figures apart from the percentage.

Now I come to the second question, that is about the additional depreciation allowed for plants and machinery. I have not been able to understand how they have arrived at the date 31st March, 1945. It is certainly not a proper date, because the rise of prices does not commence from the 31st March, 1945. Prices have been much higher in the previous years than they would possibly be in the coming years. There have been times in the past when there have been absolutely no controls and prices had been soaring very high. I have some experience with some of the textile mills in Coimbatore. Where 6000 spindles normally would cost two lakhs, people have to spend six lakhs and for buildings I know that the prices are nearly 300 per cent. The reason that

is given to us is that the figure in England is 20 per cent. May I ask whether the prices in England have really soared up as high as prices in India? As far as I know and it is open to the Finance Member to correct me and give me the figures, prices in England have never gone to such high percentages as in India.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Have not the prices of the products which the mills have sold also gone up proportionately or more than proportionately?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I entirely agree that the prices of the mill products have gone up but you are taking away everything in 'Excess Profits Tax. Anything above the standard profits, the whole thing is taken away by the Excess Profits Tax.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): 60 per cent.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Not now. You are in very old times, Mr. Joshi. I agree that they have had a large amount of profit but you are taxing them heavily enough over that profit. When you want to give them a depreciation allowance, give them a proper one and that is all that I plead for.

And then what I suggest is that it will be a small relief if the date is fixed at 31st March, 1944. You may say that the accounts for the previous year have been submitted but the assessments have not been made for the year 1943-44 and this concession may be given from the year beginning with the 1st April 1944 instead of 1945.

Another point which I would like to impress upon the Finance Member is this, viz., the point that was made the other day by a Member of this House, that unless some guarantee is given that this relief will be given for some years the benefit that will accrue to the Income-tax assessee from this provision will be precious little. That will not be an encouragement for people to expand their industries or to order for new plant and machinery etc. So I would suggest to the Honourable Member, though he may not make a provision in the Finance Bill to that effect, to give us a promise forthwith that this provision will be kept for another five years at least. Unless that promise is forthcoming this benefit which he promises to give will have precious little effect.

The third thing that I would like to take up is the matter of contributions to research. It is really a welcome change. We should give credit to the Honourable the Finance Member for the imagination he has shown in treating this expenditure as allowable expenditure. But in this there is something funny. There is one difference between the British Act and the provision made in the present Bill. In the British Act the authority to approve this expenditure is mentioned but the Government of India want to retain this power to approve expenditure. I find in section 31 of the British Finance Act of 1940.

"The authority to approve this expenditure is 'the appropriate Research Council or Committee, which' means the Committee of the Privy Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the Medical Research Council established under the Committee of the Privy Council for Medical Research, or the Agricultural Research Council established under the Committee of the Privy Council for Agricultural Research, according as may be appropriate in relation to the activities in question."

They are the acknowledged authorities on the subjects. But what do we find in this Bill? On page 2 under clause (xiii) we find:

"Provided that such association, university, college, or institution, is for the time being approved for the purposes of this clause by the prescribed authority."

Suppose I want to contribute to the Hindu University, the Income-tax Department or Sir Jeremy Raisman may not approve of that expenditure. Suppose, Sir, a rich industrialist wants to donate Rs. 40,000 to the Aligarh University. Unless Sir Jeremy Raisman is also pleased to sanction it, he cannot give this amount. The retention of this power by Government is wrong in principle, because it will depend on the vagaries of the Finance Member whether the amount can be given or not. So, Sir, knowing as we

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do the predilections of the Government, and knowing, as we know, how most innocent measures of legislation have been used to discriminate between man and man and body and body, we think it is a danger to vest this Government with this power. I find the same thing in clause (g) which says the Central Board of Revenue shall refer the question to the prescribed authority whose decision shall be final. I shall be glad if the Select Committee will go into the matter, and instead of vesting this power in Government, as it is provided in the Bill, or in the Board of Revenue, vest it in a body which is the acknowledged authority on these subject of Research.

I do not want very much to say about what my other friends have already spoken on, but I want to say only this much. I must say that the Honourable the Finance Member will come with the thundering argument that we are not against black markets and black-marketing. I may say we are against black markets and black-marketing. They are successful in this country not only because of the rapacity of merchants, but also because of the corruption, particularly in the lower grades, of Government servants. There have been cases of black marketing which have been brought to the notice of authorities, but where no action has been taken, and for a very good reason, namely, that a share of the black-market money goes to the officers.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: That is a bad reason.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I say that black marketing must be and should be abolished, but the way to abolish it is to remove corruption in the ranks of Government itself. We know if these powers are vested in any of these officers, it is the poorest people that will be ground down, and not the very rich, and certainly not the European class who have in their hands a very large share of the business of the country. Black marketing is not confined to any colour of the skin, it is prevalent in all skins. So, Sir, if these clauses are introduced, they will be the biggest engines of oppression. The Finance Member refers to the provisions of the Sales Tax Acts. Does he know how much grinding down of the poor merchant class is done in the name of the provisions of the said Acts? They have no peace. Money is extracted from them, it may be for National Bonds, it may be for the Defence Loan. When an officer goes and asks a merchant for, say, Rs. 100 for a building for officers' clubs or anything else he dare not say no, because tomorrow some *chaprassi* may come to his place to examine his accounts. Sir, black marketing does not come to light because there is corruption in Government servants. The basis of this Government is exploitation, and no officer has a higher ideal than to earn his living. Mahatma Gandhi wrote once that it is unfortunate that the British Government in its existence here for the last 150 years have built up a service who serve for the sake of their service alone. Government service is not national service in this country, and it is unfortunate that under the training they get the officials have no longer Indian outlook. They may be Indians in flesh, blood and skin, but they want to serve their British masters and please them and them alone. The result is the tremendous engine of tyranny this Government has become. So, Sir, I would like the Finance Member to remember this: we want to put down black marketing, but in a way which will not affect any man and yet rid the country of black marketing. While supporting the motion for the Select Committee, we hope the Select Committee will take care that some of these amendments which have been asked for are done.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Only two clauses of this Bill have been discussed in the House at this stage, and both these clauses deal with matters that were discussed eight years ago, and discussed fairly threadbare. They have been brought back for the consideration of the House, the Finance Member says, due to the past experience and the experience gained in the last six years. If the Finance Department have gained experience since the clauses were last considered and since the subject matter of clause 7 at least was introduced into the Bill, the assesses have also gained considerable experience, and I

do not wish to weary the House or the Finance Member with some of the bitter experiences that the assesses have had . . .

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No change was made in the law, at that time, to the detriment of the assessee.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I point out that the amendment which my friend Sir John Sheehy moved and to which Mr. Krishnamachari referred is the amendment I am referring to, and the experience gained by us is this, that if that amendment had not been moved, there would have been considerable harassment during the last six years. I can produce evidence of the attempts made to harass the assessee, and the only thing that prevented that harassment was the amendment moved by Sir John Sheehy and accepted by the House and that word put in by Sir James Grigg. Matters cannot be reopened constantly. If you gave powers to your officers to open up the assessments without any rhyme or reason, as you desire now, have you any idea, and has this House any idea of the amount of harassment that the assessee would be subjected to? Now we are told that the law is different in England, and Government would like to bring it into line with England; but I am sure the Honourable the Finance Member realises more than anybody else in this House the difference between the income-tax department in this country and the income-tax department in England. In England the income-tax department is the friend of the assessee. You will find, as Sir John Sheehy knows himself, thousands and thousands of cases of assesses going to the income-tax department and saying "Kindly fill up the form; we are ready to sign it", being certain that the officers to whom they go will deal with them fairly and equitably. But here things are different. I will give you a case that was brought to my attention only 4 or 5 days ago, of how much the highest of your authorities know about the law. This was a case that fairly astonished me.

Sir John Sheehy: Did you not lose a case yourself?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I would certainly go against the department whenever they really try to fleece. I will now give an instance and let you judge. A week ago, a case was brought to my attention where a man owned some Japanese Government Paper with a fixed return of 4½ or 5 per cent., and some German bonds, and the officer said that he would add the supposed income on that paper on to the income of the assessee and charge him income-tax on it, because he said it was income that had accrued: two enemy countries, two countries that may never pay any interest on those loans and this officer actually demanded income-tax and super-tax on the supposed income from these Japanese and German bonds . . .

Sir John Sheehy: He must not have kept his accounts on the accrual basis?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: No; on the cash basis.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is the whole point.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: That has been brought to his attention, but he contends it was something that accrued.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sounds a good story!

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I will show it to you; I will prove it—I have got it here; and I want to draw your attention that officers are taking action of that sort. I do not say it was *mala fide*—most probably it was quite *bona fide*: the officer was quite ignorant: that is why I mentioned the case. The man was completely ignorant; and if his attention would be drawn to it most probably he would withdraw it. But fancy a man who has served your department wanting to charge income-tax and super-tax on the interest on Japanese and German paper. Can you imagine such a thing? It seems to me absolutely crazy; but still the man was serious. The point is this, that the public are against giving powers to such officers, and therefore I have been pleading to have more efficient officers in your department and a larger number. Some of the inefficiency is due to over work, as my honourable friends will admit. You cannot work a man fourteen hours a day and expect him to be efficient. You must give him assistance. If, after making him work fewer hours a day you

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still find him inefficient, he ought to be sacked. But you cannot blame a man at the same time making him work and work because this is war-time, and expect him to be efficient at the same time. It is not human. You must increase your staff, and it will pay you to do so. It is said that you cannot find the staff. Personally I believe you can.

Now, these two clauses 7 and 8 are supposed to help you to stop evasion. There is evasion in many other ways of which Government ought to be perfectly well aware. There was something mentioned by Mr. Krishnamachari, Indian States are greatly responsible for this evasion and I openly say so. My Honourable friend the Finance Member knows it. It is due to some of our assessee having accounts in Indian States and in British India that they are able to evade income-tax and super-tax and excess profits tax most successfully, and evade it in crores of rupees; and unless you stop that . . .

Sir John Sheehy: Can we?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: You can if you want to. It is not a question of twisting the lion's tail. To say that you cannot do it, while you are losing crores of rupees is something that I cannot understand. It can be done. There are cases where the assessee has an account in an Indian State and has an account in British India in the same bank. He has money earned in the Indian State; he cannot bring it into British India without being subjected to income-tax and super-tax. He borrows in British India against the security of his current account in the Indian State, and he invests this money in British India with impunity, without having paid income-tax or excess profits tax: that is known to the department and they cannot stop it . . .

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: There is an easy remedy: wipe out the Indian States.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I do not want them wiped out by any means. But this is one of the many ways in which large sums of money are being lost to British India. And who is making up that loss? The other assessee. The honest assessee is making up the loss, as has been said; but because that state of affairs prevails you cannot go and ask for greater powers of which we are highly suspicious and which might lead to further harassment of the honest man.

I have nothing further to say. We shall have occasion to discuss this matter again, and I do trust that the Bill will be in a more satisfactory form when it comes back to this House.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, having bestowed some labour when the last amending Bill was passed, I feel that it is due to the House that I should say a few words on the amendments which are proposed. I quite agree that fortunately even though the Bill falls into two parts one is not made a condition of the other, and I hope that is not the intention of the Mover of the Bill today. So that, I will deal with them as if the whole thing is before the House and the Honourable the Mover will be content with whatever the House accepts or rejects. I ask him to remain in that mood throughout the time this matter is discussed. Sometimes, it is presented as if you either take it or leave it and I do not read the provisions of this Bill as meaning any such caution, much less a threat.

The Bill does fall into two parts, the ameliorative part and what is called the departmental side demands. The ameliorative part, in so far as it is the first idea introduced into the Indian Legislature of the socialist view of the future State, I entirely welcome, however small it may be.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

The distinction is made between earned and unearned incomes for the first time and I am very glad that relief is being given to the extent of a small sum of money out of every earned income. Whether the line is properly drawn or whether it might have been a little more or a little less is not necessarily a matter for discussion at this stage, but to the extent to which that particular

relief is to be given I ask the House to consider it—whether or not it should be 10 per cent. of the smaller incomes or it should be a lump sum deduction which is desirable in that behalf. In so far as the matter rests today, I take it that up to 2,000 it would be exempt from tax. The question really arises on amounts above Rs. 2,000. When you go above 2,000, 10 per cent. on, say, 2,500 would be an extremely small sum by way of relief. I, therefore, do plead that when the matter comes before the Committee it would not be merely just 10 per cent. on 2,000 whichever is the lesser but a limit of exemption would be fixed which would be reasonable in that behalf. That, Sir, is the first suggestion I wish to make.

The next is with reference to the opposite of the socialist side—protecting the future capitalist against what has happened today, namely, the increase in the price of materials in order to rehabilitate the industries which have been ground down partly by greed and partly by Government. There have been two opposite reasons which have led to the three shifts. One is the demand of the Government in that the purposes of the war must be fulfilled and the supply must be kept up, and the second is the failure of timely intervention which led in the name of scarcity to the rise in prices but both have been responsible for the wearing out of the machinery which is engaged in industries today. Any responsible State would naturally have to take into account the fact that it requires much more rehabilitation and much quicker rehabilitation than would have been required in the ordinary course of industry. The question therefore really assumes a very concrete form. In the first case, the figure is modest. In the second, it might run into larger figures. But the fact still remains that it is a matter more of concrete application of the principle by reason of the fact that, partly at all events, the machinery had to be overworked in order that the extraordinary demands of the State for the purpose of war work might be met. This provision is going to be part of the Act and therefore there is nothing temporary about this, as far as I can understand, unless the section is repealed. It is going to be part of the Income-tax Act and it is no part of any transitory law whatever. Unless the section is repealed, on the building or the machinery newly erected during the year, deduction would be admissible. Therefore, at all events, I do not fear that there is any danger of the Government withdrawing this at their pleasure, apart from any repeal of the Act itself which will naturally have to be considered by the House. I therefore do not apprehend any such discrimination in so far as this relief, by reason of the higher prices, is concerned.

Of course the question still remains by what standard Government has been prompted in this particular matter. Of course, I am not quite certain as to how the 20 per cent. would work. I can well understand the mere idea of having to relieve the excessive strain on the machinery. That is a proposition and test which I understand. What I do not understand is that up to now, I suppose, very little machinery has come by reason of the many controls under the Defence of India Rules. Very few buildings have been erected and it is only after 1945 that works of any consequence will have to be entertained. For that purpose, therefore, I have no objection to the fixing of that date. A few small factories may have been erected from machinery dismantled out of any other factory but as far as I am aware, my information is naturally much more limited than that of my Honourable friends opposite, during the last three or four years very little machinery of any consequence has come into this country. What has in fact happened is that with the permission of Government certain factories could be dismantled and re-erected elsewhere and even that has been limited, because under the Defence of India Rules even that is a matter which requires permission as a pre-requisite. As to how 20 per cent is fixed is the only problem as far as I am concerned. On this particular issue, I should like to clear the ground that it will be available after the 31st March, 1945, and until such time as normal conditions return and the House considers that this might cease to be a provision in the Act. It will have to continue long after the normal times emerge and the prices attain a level equal to the pre-war levels. I presume that it is bound to take a few years because the devastated

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world would not be so easily restored as people imagine in their fondness of imagination. Therefore the only problem to my mind is the 20 per cent. and in what manner it will be applied. I hope and trust that the matter will be considered well in the Select Committee.

The other question which has been raised under the same head refers to the matter of the expenditure on scientific research related to the business. It is now common ground that we have in this country sadly neglected this side of the business-activities. There is hardly any factory, even of the largest character that I know of, which has a research institute attached to it and related to the requirements of the particular business on any important scale and it is a matter which must be encouraged. I think it is Dr. Deshmukh who raised the question whether or not any medical research or any research of a large kind would be admissible under this provision. Now, Explanation (iii)(b) says:

"any scientific research of a medical nature which has a special relation to the welfare of workers employed in that business or, as the case may be, businesses of that class."

Therefore, to that extent, it is permissible under the clause itself. But it is incorrect to say that if a particular factory chooses to pay money in the matter of research, it will be entirely exempt from taxation. Looking at section 4, it is not enough that you pay that particular year any income for the purpose of a charitable nature because you see in section 4(3):

"Any income, profits or gains falling within the following classes shall not be included in the total income of the person receiving them.

"Any income derived from property held under trust or other legal obligation wholly for religious or charitable purposes".

So that the condition of the obligation of that section is that there ought to be a property permanently dedicated for that purpose and it is only the income of that property which is exempt. But if merely in any particular year or for a period of time, it is income earned which is given for charitable purpose, then I am afraid that this section 4 would not cover such an income. Therefore if it is intended that even if the annual income given is exempt, you would have to make a wider provision in this present section. As far as I can see the provision, first there are two conditions attached to it,—first it must be an expenditure on scientific research, secondly the donor must do it for all purposes related to the particular business out of the profits of which the donation is made. As far as I can see, that seems to be the very limited object of this particular exemption. But I am glad to find that that limited object, by an explanation, is made a little wider in so far as scientific research for the well-being of the worker is concerned. These are what I call amelioratory provisions of the Act.

But when you come to the departmental requirements, I am afraid I cannot speak in the same facile and complacent language which was used by the Honourable Mover of this Bill. It is rather amazing to me how section 34 required any amendment at all. The notes on clauses which are given as reasons for the amendment, I put it even to what is called my Honourable friend's logical mind, how the two can be consistent with each other or can even support it. They say that two cases have been decided, one by the Patna High Court and the other by the Bombay High Court. The one case which was decided by the Bombay High Court is that an Income-tax Officer could not re-open an assessment in which he had misconstrued the law. Now, for that reason, this particular amendment is required beats me. It is no new condition. I suppose Income-tax officers always made mistakes, they always misconstrued laws, how for the first time in the history of Income-tax, it was found that an Income-tax officer had misconstrued the law, it beats me, at all events, I cannot see any logic between the two.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The position was that in the section as it used to stand it runs: "If for any reason . . .". Previously it was quite possible for the Department to retrieve the effect of a mistake made by the Income-tax officer.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: My Honourable friend's explanation is none whatever, because at the time when the Act was passed in 1939, at that time the words, were 'if for any reason' . . . ; at that time it could not be beyond the ken of people that those words were altered to the present words as they now stand that an Income-tax Officer may misconstrue the law. It cannot mean that during these six years they came to know for the first time that an Income-tax Officer would be capable of making such small mistakes. Therefore I am afraid I cannot agree to that as being the reason, but the fact remains that they agreed to an amendment. I am glad that my Honourable friend Sir John Sheehy said that as a matter of merit that was an agreed amendment. I think all the merit was on our side. It was an agreed amendment because if the Government did not accept it, we were quite competent to move it on our side and have it passed by the House. But the fact that it was an agreed amendment clearly shows that they saw that power to re-open assessment given to them must be exercised under qualified and definite conditions. It was impressed upon them that you might as well omit the words 'for any reason', I do not know why you want them, you might as well say, "an Income-tax officer might serve notice when he likes". By inserting the words 'for any reason', you do not give any man any protection. The words 'for any reason you may act', I should like to know what protection it gives. You may very well imagine wrongly, that because the word 'reason' is used, that therefore anything is going to be a protection. One must never throw too much dust into one's eyes. At all events, we are able to see through all that. The words "for any reason" mean nothing either. You can simply say that "an Income-tax officer as and when he likes within a period of four years shall issue a notice . . .". Therefore you may omit the words 'for any reason'. At that time we were quite wide awake. Sir John Sheehy and myself had a very long discussion for a whole day and in the end he said "define to me the conditions and I take the responsibility on having the conditions", the result was the words which are there. "In consequence of discovers . . ." Unless there is definite information. I think it would other definite information which has come into his possession the Income-tax officer wise be an instrument of definite harassment. They themselves agreed, "yes, we do not want anything fishy".

But the other ground that is given is the very extraordinary judgment of the Patna High Court; I think if they had any reason, either they should have said so, or said, we have no reasons; but let us not have reasons which are no reasons at all. Now comes the Patna High Court which held that the Income-tax officer could not re-open an assessment in regard to a branch of a business which he had in mind when he made the original assessment. Well Sir, what is wrong with that judgment. It is not due to any information which has come into his possession. If he had the information and if he did not choose to tax that particular branch, then why should it be taxed, I should like to know. These two judgments are the only reasons given why this change is required. With very great submission, I cannot accept either of them or both of them as any reason. Then, we get back to the rock bottom of the same thing. If we reject "the reasons", then what are we left with. We agree to have something better, something different. It is for the House to decide. I ask the House to say that it is reason,—because any such power given for re-opening of assessment closed during a period of four years, in some cases eight years, I have not the least objection to this,—provided it is a case of concealment. Certainly, I agree. Then you have definite information to the contrary. But if you have no information except what is called suspicion, or what is called informer's doubts, with due respect, I submit that position cannot be tolerated. Surely this House must be treated a little better and with greater show of reason than it is sought to be made out in this particular case. The matter was so fully discussed and they could not show anything new except these two judgements which are referred to. With all respect, I cannot believe that as a ground for reopening the matter.

[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai.]

That leaves only one other matter in this Bill. There are many other matters into which I do not wish to go, at present. There are some small points and they can very well be discussed in the Select Committee. The next important question is the question of visiting premises. Much has been said about this, and I have no desire to go into it again because I have not got the eloquence of my Honourable friends who have enlarged on the difficulties and dangers and delicacies of the situation, including the closing down of a business. The fact remains that in the Select Committee last time I was one of those who yielded to the other side up to a point. The House considered the matter more fully and there may be many demerits considered in the House from the point of view either of ourselves or outsiders, fortunately it is still the same House. Therefore I am afraid there is very little chance of a review of this particular question. The fact remains that it is done on grounds which are not matters liable to re-examination because I do not think either India or the officials have altered during the last six or seven years.

These are the points which arise and I ask that no part of this Bill should be made a condition of the other. When the Bill returns from the Select Committee, even if the ameliorative part of it were left, I hope it will still be accepted.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, my Honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition has dealt—if I may say so—most skilfully with most of the main features of this Bill, and I do not propose to traverse them in any detail. I would however like to say something by way of explanation of my position in regard to what he chose to call the departmental sections of this Bill. It is perfectly clear that if Government were to bring any kind of departmental clauses before this House, unrelated to a Bill which they had very good reason to think the House will at any rate entertain, they will not only be wasting their time and energy but they will be wasting the time of the House. We must be realists. The facts are that Government is in this position that it could not hope to obtain assistance from this House in the matter of strengthening the hands of the department against evasion unless it were doing so in the course of a measure which would at any rate receive some degree of consideration from this House. It is a deplorable thing and it is particularly deplorable at the present time when, as everybody knows, evasion is going on on a very large scale. Honourable Members have cited different forms of evasion or have alluded to them. None of them has suggested—my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari has not suggested—how we are to catch a man who does a swop in a successful treble, nor what legislation we might bring forward which would be more acceptable to him for that purpose than this. I agree that the amendment we have brought forward will not enable us to deal with that particular form of evasion. But we are in this difficulty that whatever is brought forward with the object of strengthening the administration, we are always told that that is quite a wrong hole we are trying to stop and that of course it will cause everybody the maximum of embarrassment; there are lots of other holes which we should go and stop. That is exactly similar to the experience one has when trying to raise revenue by taxation. One is always told that that is a wrong kind of tax and there are other ways in which to tax people who can afford to pay and this particular tax is a poisonous one. I am very familiar with that experience. In the end, we are left in the position that we get no assistance. That is what it amounts to. No matter in what form we bring forward a request that the administration should be strengthened, we are told that that is a wrong form and it is particularly objectionable. I should be very glad if Members who have criticised this Bill and who have at the same time alluded to the large scale evasion that goes on would make some concrete suggestions. I would like them to suggest alternative amendments. I would like if possible—if the procedure of the House allows—to recast the Bill so as to include in it some other and more effective method of dealing with evasion. If Honourable friends in this House

will assure me that they will give their support to something of that kind I shall be very glad to submit to their judgment the question of what alternative methods are likely to advance us more on the road to stopping the evasion which undoubtedly goes on. It is all very well for Honourable Members to refer me to difficulties in the Indian scene, which undoubtedly are greater than those which have to be contended with, for instance, in the United Kingdom in the income-tax administration. It is all very well to refer to loopholes which are entirely beyond my control, at any rate in the capacity in which I stand in this House. That gets us nowhere. Many who are familiar with my activities in the past probably know that I have striven in other fields than those which come before this House to deal with matters of that kind also. I may even be currently engaged in trying to rectify those defects; but I do not remember that on occasions where that type of difficulty came before this House I received any tremendous assistance from Members of this House. I seem to recall that there have been occasions when amendments of the Income-tax Act which did impinge on the Indian States came before this House, and I am not conscious that I received an overwhelming measure of support even in trying to stop up loopholes of that kind. On the contrary it seems to me that no matter in what direction one addresses oneself in order to try and secure assistance, one is met with a purely negative attitude. In these circumstances Government is bound—after all it is Government's duty if income-tax is to remain a feature of the administration of this country—not only to itself but to the honest taxpayer to endeavour to secure that evasion is reduced to the minimum.

Now it surely is a familiar experience of every one in this House to hear of that common method of evasion which consists in the maintenance of more sets of books than one. That is the main object of one of these clauses and I cannot think of any more simple or direct manner of dealing with that very serious evil than by taking power occasionally to enter premises. I admit that they ought to have been business premises. A good deal of capital has been made of that and a lot of time has been wasted. But I do not see what objection should be entertained to our taking power to enter premises, look at books and at least stamp them. That at least means that when at the end of the year that assessee, who is presumably suspected, comes to produce his accounts, he must produce that same set of accounts that he was using on that particular day. Honourable Members tell me that all this will do nothing to prevent evasion. May I understand why that will fail altogether to prevent evasion? Will it not make it a good deal more difficult for the gentry who do keep multiple sets of accounts? If their shop is liable to be entered on any day and the books which they are using in the course of that day's transaction can be so marked that they must be produced at the end of the year, is that an utterly negligible and useless provision to make in the law? I find that in countries other than this, in other Dominions for instance, a provision of that kind has existed in the law for quite a long time. I will take the Australian Income-tax Act. There we find that the Commissioner or any officer authorised by him in that behalf shall at all times have full and free access to all buildings, places, books, documents and other papers for any of the purposes of this Act and for that purpose may make extracts from or copies from any such books, documents or papers.

There are, I believe, similar provisions in the Canadian Act. I am met with the objection that the departments in other countries may be more benign than the Income-tax Department here. But we also have the difficulty that if there is a climate of income-tax administration there is also a climate of business in relation to the income-tax administration—the climate of the income-tax payer.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: They are equally dishonest in Australia as in India!

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not believe that dishonesty is the monopoly of any one country in the world. But whether it exists anywhere else or not, it certainly exists in this country also.

[Sir Jeremy Raisman.]

I am very diffident of crossing swords with so adroit and able a lawyer as my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition on the question of section 34 of the Income-tax Act. Nevertheless I would like to explain once again that we consider that we have a very good reason for coming forward with this amendment at this time.

I regret that I was not one of the protagonists at the time, some seven years ago, when this amendment was being enacted, because it would have been, as it were, a historic re-association of Mr. Bhulabhai Desai and myself. Sir John Sheehy was certainly one of the actors at that time. This is a kind of historic link. I was behind the scenes and I was not particularly engaged with this part of the Finance Bill's activities at the time.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Mr. Chambers was there.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My position at that time was that I was Finance Member designate but that still was not made public at that time.

As I understand it, the position is that at that time Sir James Grigg and the officers who were assisting him came to the conclusion that the omission of the words which were then omitted with the substitution of the words which are now found in the Act would put the position on all fours with what it was in the United Kingdom law.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: That is not correct.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is my understanding of the position. There are certain rulings in the English law about the term "discovers"—and this of course is second hand information as far as I am concerned, because I said I did not participate. But I understand the position to be that when my Honourable friend suggested that the phrase should be "in consequence of any definite information which has come into possession discovers" that the department and my distinguished predecessor were fully of the opinion that that left them no worse off than they would be, for instance, under the English Act, because after all we do not pretend here to be initiators and originators of income-tax legislation. In regard to a matter of that kind we generally accept as our paradigm or model the provisions of the English law. We now have discovered that we are in fact a good deal worse off.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: On definite information!

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: ... because the Courts have held that, by the introduction of that phrase, if there has been a serious mistake of law which has led to a heavy loss, that loss is irrecoverable.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: They may decide anything in favour of an assessee through a mistake.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The danger of having the law in this form is that the only protection open to the revenue authorities is to say to the income-tax officer, "You must jolly well see to it that you never do make a mistake of law involving large sums because if you do make a mistake, nobody can retrieve it". If anything that suggests to me that the present position is not conducive to good administration or to the best relations with the assessee. It seems to me that the position as it was before is actually better. I realise that it is a disadvantage to an assessee, during the period of years for which the particular section is operative, not to be able to say that he is completely finished with the income-tax officer.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Would you go back to the position as it existed before 1938?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No, I cannot accept that sporting offer.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: I have not made that yet.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Mr. Krishnamachari has suggested it. I do attach some value to this amendment, but I do not rate it so high

as to be prepared to pay any price for it, and the price mentioned is certainly too high.

Well, I was endeavouring to explain why we on the side of the revenue do attach importance to these suggestions; why we do think that there would be some use in assisting to counter that large amount of evasion which it is admitted on all hands is going on. As I said a little while ago, I should be very happy if something more effective could be substituted for them. If Honourable Members of the Select Committee would constitute themselves for a part of the time into an advisory committee to suggest to me how I can improve on this, I should be deeply grateful. But I cannot say that I am very optimistic.

That leaves me with very little to say, because on the other clauses of the Bill I find myself in the not unexpected position that people are quite prepared to receive such benefits as the treasury very rarely may be prepared to bestow. The only words of disapproval, the only murmurs that may be made on them are that the present might well be larger or that it might take a different shape. These are matters which can best be discussed in the Select Committee.

I think that most of the points that have been brought forward can best be dealt with round a table and possibly I may hope that I shall, at any rate, on this occasion, receive some sort of assistance from the Members of this House in return for the consideration which I have endeavoured to extend to the needs of the various classes of tax-payers.

An Honourable Member: Optimism.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not think that that constitutes unreasonable optimism. At this stage, at any rate, I would like to maintain a note of cheerfulness and see how we get on.

I do not think that I should detain the House any longer. I feel that we shall be able to deal with these matters in the Select Committee.

There is one point, Sir. It has been suggested to me that the name of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Bhulabhai Desai, should be substituted for that of Mr. Abdul Qaiyum in the names for the Select Committee and in view of Mr. Bhulabhai Desai's connection with the previous history of these matters as well as his well known skill in relation to them, I trust that the amendment will be accepted.

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

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, and the Excess Profits Tax Act, 1940, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai, Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty, Mr. Sri Prakasa, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Sir John Sheehy, and the Mover, with instructions to report by Monday, the 19th March, 1945, 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 Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 9th March, 1945.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 9th March, 1945

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

FALSIFICATION OF ACCOUNTS REFERRED TO IN PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE REPORT

856. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether any investigation was made with reference to falsification of accounts referred to on page 12, paragraph 9 of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee;

(b) what has been the result of the investigation; and

(c) what action has been taken against the persons concerned?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Investigations into the circumstances that led to the irregularities in question are in progress.

(b) and (c). The results of the investigations and the action taken will be reported to the Committee in due course.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know when the investigation started, and who is conducting it?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I understand the irregularities referred to occurred in certain depots at the time the threat of Japanese invasion of South India was imminent. It was reported that the irregularities were caused largely by the general confusion which prevailed in the areas as a consequence of the threat, and were accentuated by the fact that the officers and staff in the depots were few and inexperienced. It has also been suggested that there was no suggestion or suspicion of fraud in any of these cases. The Director of Ordnance Services has been requested to have the accounts examined further in consultation with the Military Accountant General, so that a complete report may be furnished to the Committee at the time of their next meeting.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know what is the extent of the amount involved?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am sorry I cannot say.

ALLOCATION OF WAR EXPENDITURE BETWEEN BRITAIN AND INDIA

857. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether in the years 1943-44 the liabilities of His Majesty's Government and the Government of India in war expenditure have been determined in conformity with the principles of financial settlement; or whether any exception has been made with respect to any particular item; and

(b) if so, what those particular items are, and what the financial effect of this is on the finances of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). The answer to the first part of (a) is in the affirmative. The remainder of (a) and (b) do not, therefore, arise.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: If I may make my meaning clear, may I know whether any exceptions have been recommended like the one referred to in the Public Accounts Committee's report for 1942-43?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As far as I am aware, this can be said to be an exception which proves the rule. It is because you had this curious marginal case that the matter was brought prominently to notice in this way.

ILL-TREATMENT TO INDIAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN GREECE

858. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state:

(a) whether he was aware of the news that has appeared in page 6 of the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 11th February, 1945, that Indian troops' prisoners of war have been ill-treated in Greece;

(b) whether Government have called for information in the matter; and, if so, what the real facts are; and

(c) what action they have taken in the matter?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a), (b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given by me to starred question No. 584 and to the supplementary answers on question No. 579, both on the 1st of March 1945.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if the persons who have been ill-treated have been released by now?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: They have been released.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have they been personally inquired from and a report received by the Government of India?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: As I have said, the persons ill-treated have been released. We have asked the Secretary of State to make a strong remonstrance to the authorities concerned against the ill treatment.

DELHI DETENUS AND POLITICAL PRISONERS IN FEROZEPUR JAIL

859. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether Delhi detenus and political prisoners in the Ferozepur Jail are allowed to read Delhi papers other than the *Statesman*;

(b) whether he proposes to order the repatriation of the above political prisoners and detenus to the Delhi Province; and

(c) whether he proposes to relax the conditions of allowing writing material to the above named?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I would invite attention to the answer given to Sardar Mangal Singh's questions Nos. 102 to 104 on the 3rd November, 1944.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if while the Punjab prisoners in Ferozepore Jail can read all the Punjab papers, Delhi prisoners can only read the *Statesman*?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I do not know.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member inquire into the matter, and, if it is correct, allow Delhi detenus to read other papers as well?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The question of what papers they should read, and what writing materials they should use, is one for the Punjab Government.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the total number is about 30 detenus and 12 prisoners, and whether Delhi Jail cannot accommodate these 42 people?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Delhi Jail is for purposes of administration under the Punjab Inspector General. There is no accommodation for the detenus in Delhi.

EXTERMENT FROM DELHI OF PANDIT SHAM LAL SHARMA

860. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) why Pandit Sham Lal Sharma was ordered to quit Delhi within twelve hours of his release in January, 1945;

(b) whether other detenus after release have restrictions imposed upon them forbidding them access to offices or mills where they could work; if so, why;

(c) the condition of health of Shrimati Satya Vati, and the restrictions which now exist on her free movement;

(d) whether Government propose to allow Shrimati Satya Vati to live in Delhi; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the nature of the restrictions on Dr. Sukh Dev and the justification for the same?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) The Order was made by the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, with a view to preventing him from acting in a manner prejudicial to the public safety and the maintenance of public order and because he does not belong to the Delhi Province.

(b) No restriction orders are made which would prevent him from earning his livelihood in a legitimate way.

(c) Shrimati Satya Vati has had tuberculosis for a long time and is now under arrest in the Silver Jubilee Tuberculosis Hospital, Delhi, after defying an order of the Central Government prohibiting her from being in the Province of Delhi.

(d) In view of the grave opinion that the doctor has given regarding the state of her health, the Government of India have decided to cancel the orders against Shrimati Satya Vati and her mother prohibiting them from being in Delhi without the Chief Commissioner's permission. The Chief Commissioner has also decided not to proceed with the case against Shrimati Satya Vati for defiance of that order.

(e) He is required under an Order made by the Deputy Commissioner of Delhi to reside and remain within the limits of the Delhi Municipality and the Notified Area of the old Civil Station of Delhi. The Order was considered necessary with a view to preventing him from acting in a manner prejudicial to the public safety and the maintenance of public order by agitation in the rural parts of Delhi Province.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In reply to part (b) the Honourable Member said that there was no restriction on Pt. Sham Lal Sharma going to his place of business. My question is whether there are other detenus in Delhi who cannot go to their places of business.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am afraid I did not notice that my answer did not quite cover the question. The position as regards Delhi detenus is this. Today or tomorrow we are issuing instructions to guide Chief Commissioners as regards the restrictions they should impose, and these instructions will remove restrictions of the kind objected to.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With reference to his reply to part (e) of the question, may I know whether Dr. Sukh Dev was arrested the other day and brought back cuffed to the jail?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no knowledge.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: The local papers reported this.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What sort of instructions are being issued to the Chief Commissioners?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have explained that these will remove restrictions preventing a man from going to his place of business.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if the Government propose to issue instructions that detenus should not be asked to go to police stations to make periodical reports?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is included also in the letter except as an exceptional measure.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Honourable Member will read out to the House the instructions which he is issuing to the Chief Commissioner?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No; I hope there will be no further complaints in regard to this matter.

HEALTH OF LALA DESHBANDHU GUPTA

861. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) the latest report about the health of Lala Deshbandhu Gupta, M.L.A.;

(b) whether he is suffering from acute jaundice; and

(c) whether the delicate state of his health justifies his detention?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: As the Honourable Member is no doubt aware, Lala Deshbandhu Gupta is no longer in detention.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I hope the Honourable Member is aware that when I gave notice of this question, he was in prison.

MOVEMENT OF FUNDS BETWEEN UNITED KINGDOM AND INDIA

862. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Is it a fact that the Honourable the Finance Member has put no restrictions on the movement of funds between the United Kingdom and India to and fro?

(b) Have Government any estimate of the total amount of funds, both on capital and on current account, which have been transferred to and fro, on balance?

(c) Is there a larger movement of funds from U. K. to India or *vice versa*?

(d) Have Government considered at any time since the war any proposal for altering the exchange ratio?

(e) If so, what were these proposals and by whom were they made?

(f) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a remark made by the Governor of the Reserve Bank, when speaking at a function in Bombay, that exchange rates may have to be altered?

(g) Who has the constitutional power to alter the exchange rates—Government of India, or the Reserve Bank?

(h) Do Government propose to give an assurance to this House that no alteration in the exchange ratio will be made until the sanction of this Legislature is taken?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) There is no restriction on the remittance of funds in either direction between the United Kingdom and India.

(b) Statement VIII of the Reserve Bank's Report on Currency and Finance for the year 1943-44 and the figures given in paragraph 25 of that publication give a fairly accurate general idea of the net movement of funds between the United Kingdom and India. Government have no information as to how much of this movement was on capital and how much on current account.

(c) There is a larger movement of funds from the United Kingdom to India than in the opposite direction.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Government have seen a Press report of a speech delivered by the Governor of the Reserve Bank at the Rotary Club in Bombay in which some mention was made of the exchange rate though not in the terms suggested by the Honourable Member.

(g) and (h). The exchange rate of the rupee is at present fixed by Sections 40 and 41 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. Any change in the rate of exchange must therefore necessarily be made by legislative process. The function of the Reserve Bank of India in this matter is limited to making a report on the subject to the Central Government in the circumstances stated in section 55(2) of the Reserve Bank of India Act.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government seen the resolution of the Federation of Indian Industries and Commerce requesting for a guarantee that India shall not lose so far as sterling balances are concerned, should sterling depreciate?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That does not seem to me to arise directly out of this question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: It arises out of any change in the exchange rates. I submit; and I want to know whether Government have considered the question of guaranteeing India against any loss over the sterling accumulations from any change in the sterling ratio.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As I understand it, this question relates entirely to the relation of the rupee to sterling, and no matter is relevant unless it concerns the possible depreciation of sterling in terms of the rupee and I do not think that that is what the Federation had in mind.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If the Honourable Member does not propose to give information on that subject, may I ask with regard to (b) whether the report which he mentioned and which I have seen only this morning goes beyond 1941-42?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: This may be the latest compiled and published figures, and I do not know that we would be in a position to furnish any more up to date information in advance of the publication of the report. These figures are not easy to obtain.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Do I understand that it is two and a quarter years since the figures were given by the Reserve Bank and that the Government of India do not possess those figures, or that they are reluctant to give information to this House regarding those figures?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Government are continually keeping accounts of a really up to date character; but it is not easy to compile the results of transactions over long periods to bring those to account at any moment that may be suggested. These processes have to be done in an orderly manner for regular calendar years and I think that there are also sometimes special reasons why the information furnished should not be up to date. I do not say that I am aware at this moment of a consideration of that kind in this connection, but it does frequently so happen.

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

Mr. Manu Subedar: Does the Reserve Bank have a statutory obligation to submit this report?

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

HARDSHIP DUE TO ADVANCE PAYMENT OF INCOME-TAX

863. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the Honourable the Finance Member received any representations in regard to the hardship experienced by the public through the advance payment of income-tax?

(b) How much money have Government received during each completed month of 1944-45 as far as the figures are available?

(c) What is the total number of persons, firms and companies who have been brought under the operation of this law?

(d) Is it a fact that during 1944-45 every income-tax payer would have in some cases to pay three times, *viz.*, the delayed payment for the income for 1942-43, the payment on the income for 1943-44, and the advance payment in respect of the income of 1944-45?

(e) Have Government considered that many people have to borrow money in order to make such payments?

(f) What relief with regard to the postponement of such payments have Government instructed the income-tax officers to give?

(g) Have income-tax officers any discretion in this matter?

(h) Do Government propose to apply penalty for non-payment of advance payment even when the party represents that he is unable to pay?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I take it that the Honourable Member is referring to the provisions of the new Section 18-A of the Income-tax Act which was introduced last year. If so, a few such representations were received from assesses pointing out the difficulties that arose in their individual cases.

(b) and (c). A statement showing the required information upto the end of December, 1944 is laid on the table.

(d) There may be some such cases but they are not a large number.

(e) Yes.

(f) and (g). Instructions have been issued to Income-tax Officers not to apply the provisions of section 18A in cases of genuine hardship, *e.g.*, where the assessee would find it difficult to raise money for payment or where owing to any previous commitment the profits have to be applied to meet such commitment.

(h) The assessing officers will have to decide this on the facts and merits of each case.

Statement showing the number of cases in which demand under section 18-A was made in the year 1944-45 as also the collection made in each month upto December 1944

Month	Number of cases in which demand made	Collections (In lakhs of rupees)
June 1944	8,572	4.76
July 1944	11,834	75
August 1944	26,662	43
September 1944	14,053	10.38
October 1944	8,225	3.38
November 1944	8,830	74
December 1944	4,840	14.63
Total	83,025	35.07

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether people have to borrow money in order to pay these taxes, as suggested in part (e) and if so, whether Government have made any provision for their relief or for postponement?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have indicated that instructions were issued in cases of genuine hardship. It must be remembered that the man who happens to pay three years' income-tax in one year must have had two years in which he paid no income-tax at all.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to part (a), can the Honourable Member give us any idea as to how many people have been exempted under the instructions that he has issued?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I cannot give that information. I have not got it.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Does he know that exemptions have been given?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am satisfied that relief is being given in cases of hardship.

FORMER SILVER RUPEES WITHDRAWN FROM CIRCULATION

864. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state how many Queen Victoria rupees were withdrawn from circulation?

(b) How many King Edward VII rupees were withdrawn from circulation?

(c) How has the silver accruing in this manner been used?

(d) What was the metallic composition of the one-anna and two-anna pieces before the war? What is the metallic composition of the one-anna and two-anna pieces now issued?

(e) Do Government propose to re-issue the silver two-anna piece? If so, when?

(f) What was the proportion of four-anna and eight-anna pieces issued during 1943-44 as against rupee coins?

(g) What is the amount of one-rupee notes still outstanding?

(h) Is it proposed to recall all of them?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given to part (i) of his starred question No. 99 on the 10th February 1945. Separate statistics for Queen Victoria and King Edward VII rupees are not available.

(d) Before the war the composition of these coins was 75 per cent. copper and 25 per cent. nickel; the composition now is 79 per cent. copper, 20 per cent. zinc and 1 per cent nickel.

(e) Government do not propose to reissue the silver two-anna piece.

(f) The proportion was 36:19:45 by pieces and 14:15:71 by value.

(g) I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given to part (c) of his starred question No. 99 on the 10th February 1945.

(h) No.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the coinage of rupees going on still and are all the rupees produced readily absorbed by the public?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The answer to both these questions is in the affirmative.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are any rupees being offered back to the Reserve Bank, or does the Honourable Member expect no rupees being offered to the Reserve Bank as being returned from circulation?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Is the Honourable Member referring to the old silver rupee or the new rupee?

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that the rupee coin has an arbitrary definition which includes both silver rupees and notes, I refer to the rupee coin.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As the Honourable Member knows it is the position that at the present time the absorption of coin is greater than the return of coin.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to clause (h), is it a war time policy or do they propose not to reissue but to withdraw the one rupee notes after the war?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is certainly the policy during the war not to recall the one rupee notes. What may be the policy after the war, I am afraid, is not for me to determine today.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Could we know the metallic composition of the present silver rupee?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I could not give that offhand.

EUROPEAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN INDIA

865. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the War Secretary please state how many prisoners of war of European origin there are in India?

(b) What are the arrangements made for their upkeep, and what is the amount per head which is spent?

(c) How many of them are taken over by Indian States?

(d) What is the total outlay incurred on this subject, and under which head of the Budget is such outlay included?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) The majority of the 29,499 prisoners of war in India are European. In the interests of security I am unable to give the exact number.

(b) Prisoners of War of European origin in India are accommodated, clothed and fed in accordance with scales laid down from time to time by His Majesty's Government as required under Article 4 of the International Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war, 1929, known as the Geneva Convention. A sum of approximately Rs. 1,200 per head is spent annually.

(c) None, Sir.

(d) The total outlay on prisoners of war in India to the end of 1944-45 is estimated at Rs. 28 crores roundly. The expenditure is borne wholly by His Majesty's Government and is not therefore provided for under any of the heads in the Indian Defence Services Budget.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it not true that contracts have been given on Rs. 3, Rs. 5 and Rs. 7 per head for European prisoners of war both in British India and in some of the Indian States and that the rates do not work at Rs. 1,200 per year as mentioned by the Honourable Member?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have given the figure of expenditure, that is, 1,200, and that is correct.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the amount spent per head?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I said Rs. 1,200 per head annually.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is nothing more spent on these prisoners of war beyond the 1,200 mentioned by the Honourable Member? Is the 1,200 merely for the direct upkeep or does it also include the overhead charges?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I was asked what arrangements are made for the upkeep and what is the amount per head spent. I shall look up the details of this amount and let the Honourable Member know.

BASIS OF FUTURE PLANNING

366. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the Honourable Member for Planning and Development come to any decision as to the basis of planning which he is making for the future?

(b) Do Government propose to assume direct responsibility for the employment of every adult person in India? If not, why not?

(c) If the reply is in the affirmative, what are the means by which Government propose to reach this result?

(d) Do Government propose to establish a minimum standard of life in this country and to see that such minimum is enforced by Government as well as private employers all over the country?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a), (b), (c) and (d). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to Part I of the Second Report on Reconstruction Planning in which the general objectives in regard to planning have been outlined and to Chapter 3 of Part II which deals with post-war employment. Provincial Governments as well as Departments of the Central Government are now engaged in preparing draft five-year plans on the general basis of the Second Report.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The scheme does not contain mention about employment. I am very anxious to know whether the Government of India in their planning have as an objective that no man shall be unemployed in India under their plans?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Chapter 3 does deal with this question of employment, if my friend will look at it. It is given in considerable length on page 18 of the Second Report on Reconstruction Planning.

REVISION OF SALARIES OF CLERICAL STAFF OF INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT, BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

367. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the salaries of the clerical staff of the Income-tax Department of the Bombay Presidency excluding the Bombay city have been revised;

(b) the scales of pay of such staff of the Income-tax Department of the Bombay Presidency before such revision and after it;

(c) whether any discontentment has arisen among the said clerical staff on account of such revision of the scales of pay of the upper grade staff;

(d) whether Government propose to reconsider their decision about the revision of the scales of the clerks and allow them to draw old scales which they were already drawing before the introduction of the revised scales; if not, why not; and

(e) whether it is not a fact that the said staff had to suffer on account of the policy adopted by the Government of India in not confirming the Government employees?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes, in so far as the posts borne on the upper grades are concerned.

(b) I lay a statement on the table.

(c) Not as far as I am aware.

(d) Government will be prepared to reconsider their decision if they are satisfied that taking the staff as a whole the disadvantages accruing from the revision out-weigh the advantages.

(e) I am not aware of any hardship peculiar to this staff.

Statement

The pre-existing and the new scales are the following:

	Pre 1931 scale	Post 1931 scale	Scale introduced in January, 1945.
First grade Head clerks	110-8-150	100-5-150	60-5-80 (E.B.)— 5-120 (E.B.)— 5-150.
Second grade Head clerks	80-5-105	80-4-100	
Senior clerks	105-5-140	100-5-125	
First grade clerks	85-5/2-100	85-5/2-100	

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Has the Honourable Member not received any representations to say that those clerks that were raised have been demoted, so far as the pay is concerned?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I dare say that certain individuals had some reasons for discontent. I understand that Government are considering sympathetically many individual cases of hardship on their merits.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I am not asking about individual cases but with regard to the junior clerks who were raised to senior clerks very shortly and afterwards their pay was so adjusted that they were again demoted.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I will be frank with the Honourable Member. I know less about it than he does. My pre-occupations are such that I do not have the time to master the details of these petty establishment cases.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member . . .

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am not in a position to answer supplementary questions.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: What are we here for then? These are questions which should be answered.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I deprecate all questions of this kind. I do submit, Sir, that it is not possible for an extremely busy Member of Government at a time like this to master the details in such a way as to be able to answer further supplementary questions that may be asked. It is physically impossible.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: There is good reason to refuse supplies on these grounds.

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

INCONVENIENCE TO GOVERNMENT STAFF OWING TO NON-CONFIRMATION.

368. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that the policy of not confirming the Government staff, specially in the Income-tax Department, has caused much inconvenience to them with regard to their leave, revision of scales and pension?

(b) Do Government propose to discontinue this practice? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Some inconvenience to the staff in question arises as the result of the general policy of Government not to confirm, during war time, officiating men against permanent vacancies and to continue temporary posts on a temporary basis. The Income-tax Departments are, however, not alone in this respect. This policy is dictated mainly by the decision, again as a matter of general policy, to reserve a certain percentage of permanent and quasi-permanent posts for war service men and in so far as temporary posts are concerned by the difficulty in deciding during the period of the war how many of such posts created during this period will really be required in peace time on a permanent basis for normal work.

(b) In view of the reply to part (a) this does not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I ask the Honourable Member to issue a circular to these people that they should keep quiet until the war is over?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I think the establishments in question are aware of the reasons why they have to be maintained on a temporary basis.

CONTROL OF APPELLATE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS OF INCOME-TAX.

369. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether the Appellate Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax are working under the control of the Commissioner of Income-tax?

(b) Have the said Appellate Assistant Commissioners to look to the Commissioner of Income-tax for their confirmation?

(c) Is it a fact that Appellate Assistant Commissioners at the time of hearing appeals have to send cases to the Income-tax Officers for re-examining the disputed points?

(d) Does the Honourable Member propose to see that the Appellate Assistant Commissioners are provided with their own examiner of accounts for re-examining the disputed points? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Appellate Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax are under the Commissioners of Income-tax only for immediate administrative purposes. It is the Central Board of Revenue that exercises direct administrative control over them.

(b) Appellate Assistant Commissioners are appointed and confirmed by the Central Government.

(c) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to Section 31(2) of the Income-tax Act.

(d) No. Government do not consider it necessary to do so.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With regard to (c), is not the system of sending the appeals to the Income-tax officers prejudicing the decision of the higher officers?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No, Sir. It is not a fact.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I suggest to the Honourable Member that in view of his pre-occupations and pressure of work during the next ten days it will be better for him to ask his Secretary to answer the questions and the supplementaries?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am quite prepared to consider that
DIFFERENTIATION AS REGARDS PENSION OF DAFTARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICES

870. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to say if it is a fact that the scales of pay of Daftares attached to the offices of, (i) the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs and Auditor General, and (ii) the Accountant General, Central Revenues, and Chief Controller of Supply Accounts are identical and the duties and responsibilities of these classes of Daftaries are similar? If so, will the Honourable Member kindly state the reason for treating them differently in regard to pension admissible to them?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the replies which I gave to starred questions No. 192 on the 25th February, 1943, and No. 704 on the 21st November, 1944, on this subject.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: In view of the fact that in the present day, the salaries of other Departments are being raised, why these poor daftaries are left alone?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is arguing.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I am not arguing. I am asking a question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Under the guise of putting a question, the Honourable Member is arguing.

PROVISION FOR MINISTERIAL STAFF WORKING IN TEMPORARY WAR VACANCIES

871. ***Mr. M. Ghiasuddin:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) the measures contemplated to provide employment to the ministerial staff of the Government of India employed at present in temporary war vacancies and who will be thrown out of employment at the end of the war;

(b) whether it is proposed to absorb them permanently in the regular Secretariat services;

(c) whether the services of the staff so employed are to be counted as war service; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) is in the affirmative, why the new scales of pay for the temporary personnel have been fixed at a lower level recently?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the Home Department *Press Communique* of the 7th September, 1943, wherein provision has been made for the absorption of those temporary Government servants who are otherwise suitable and eligible for permanent appointment in 30 per cent. of the vacancies filled on a temporary basis during the war.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

FORCIBLE REALIZATION OF MONEY FOR DEFENCE DRIVE FROM CERTAIN PERSONS IN NAINI TAL

872. ***Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member been drawn to the article of Lala Mohan Lal Sah, M.L.C., (*Rais* and Banker of Naini Tal) published in the *Leader* of Allahabad in its issue of the 21st February, 1945, under the caption 'National Savings Drive' regarding the forcible realization of money for the defence drive from his *thikadar*, his *Sajbi* and from the Munshi of Mohan Lal?

(b) Was, as the article goes on, the Munshi of Mohan Lal called to the Tehsil abused and threatened with getting the locks of his hair pulled out and that he was detained and not allowed to go until he promised to bring some security for payment of this money?

(c) Has the Honourable Member enquired into these allegations in view of his recent promise on the floor of the House that he would do so if specific cases were brought to his notice? If so, with what results?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The matter is under investigation.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: How long will this investigation take? Will it be dealt with in this Session?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I cannot say.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member place the results of the investigation on the table of the House as answer to supplementary question?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I dare say that a reply would be given to any question that is asked.

873* and 874*. [Cancelled.]

RUPEE NOTES AND COINS IN CIRCULATION

875. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the amount of rupee notes issued by the Government of India and in circulation as on the 31st of January, 1945?

(b) What is the amount of rupee coin in circulation on that day?

(c) What is the cost of paper and printing of a rupee note?

(d) What is the cost of silver and alloy in a rupee coin and its minting charges?

(e) What is the estimated average life of a rupee note, a five rupee note and a ten rupee note and a rupee coin?

(f) Do Government propose replacing the rupee note with a rupee coin out of the silver obtained from U. S. A. under lease-lend?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). The number of rupee notes and coins in circulation is almost equal at present.

(c) The average cost of paper and printing of a rupee note is 2/3rds of a pie.

(d) At present market price the cost is:

Silver	Rs.
Alloy	638
and Minting cost	011
	008
	657

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

(e) Under present conditions it is difficult to estimate the average life of one, five and ten rupee notes. The average life of a rupee coin is estimated at 50 years.

(f) No, but it is our policy to improve the proportion of coin to notes as far as possible.

MUSLIMS IN SUBORDINATE ACCOUNTS SERVICES OF POSTAL AUDIT DEPARTMENT

876. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the total number of posts of Subordinate Accounts Services sanctioned for each Postal Audit Office;

(b) the number of posts held by Muslims, Hindus and other minority communities in each Postal Audit Office;

(c) the percentage of Muslims in the Subordinate Accounts Services of the Postal Audit Department fixed for each Audit Office;

(d) whether he is aware of the fact that the percentage of Muslims in the Subordinate Accounts Services referred to above either by promotion or direct recruitment is meagre as compared to the ratio fixed for the recruitment of clerks in different cadres;

(e) if the answer is in the affirmative, what steps Government have hitherto taken to keep up the percentage of Muslims in the Subordinate Accounts Services; and

(f) in view of the inadequate representation of Muslims in the Subordinate Accounts Services, whether the Honourable Member proposes to see that the percentage fixed for the recruitment of Muslims as clerks in each Audit Office is also maintained in respect of promotions to the Subordinate Accounts Service Cadre from that of the clerks who are eligible for promotion after passing out the departmental examination and that due share is given to Muslims in the Subordinate Accounts Services?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(c) Subordinate Accounts Service posts are at present being filled only by the promotion of clerks who have passed the Subordinate Accounts Service Examination according to a seniority list based on the date of passing the examination. As no direct recruitment is being made the communal rules do not apply and no reservation is made for any community.

(d), (e) and (f). In view of the answer to part (c) these questions do not arise.

Statement

(a) The number of Subordinate Accounts Service posts, permanent and temporary, sanctioned for each Postal Audit Office is:

	Permanent	Temporary
Calcutta Audit Office	32	3
Delhi " "	24	2
Madras " "	11	..
Nagpur " "	18	4

(b) the number of posts held by Muslims, Hindus and other minority communities in each Postal Audit office is:

	Hindus	Muslims	Other minority communities
Calcutta Audit Office	33	..	..
Delhi Audit Office	22	3	1
Madras Audit Office	10	..	..
Nagpur Audit Office	22	..	..

MUSLIM CANDIDATES FROM POSTAL AUDIT OFFICE, NAGPUR, ETC., FOR 'A' GRADE EXAMINATION.

877. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the total number of candidates who appeared from the Postal Audit Office, Nagpur, and Army Postal Pay and Accounts Office, Nagpur, for the "A" Grade Examination held in October, 1944;

(b) the total number of candidates who have been declared successful in that examination from Nagpur;

(c) the number of Muslim candidates who appeared from both the offices;

(d) the number of Muslim candidates who were declared successful in that examination;

(e) whether he is aware that some seats are reserved for the Muslims in all the competitive examinations; if so, the percentage of posts reserved for the Muslims in the above "A" Grade Examination; and

(f) whether he proposes to see that a sufficient number of Muslims are promoted to the "A" Grade to make up the percentage of the reservation?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) to (d). I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(e) and (f). Promotions to grade "A" are made exclusively through departmental tests and are purely on merit. As there is no direct recruitment to grade "A" posts, the communal orders do not apply and no reservation is made for any community.

Statement

(a) and (b) The number of candidates who appeared from the Postal Audit Office, Nagpur and the Army P. and T., Pay and Accounts Office, Nagpur, in the departmental test for promotion to grade "A" and the number of candidates who were promoted on the results of the test are as follows:

Name of office	Number of candidates	Number promoted
Nagpur Audit Office	53	24
Army P. and T., Pay and Accounts Office, Nagpur.	15	7

(c) and (d). The number of Muslim candidates who appeared from both the offices and the number promoted is:

Name of Office	Number of Muslims appeared	Number promoted
Nagpur Audit Office	1	Nil
Army P. and T., Pay and Accounts Office, Nagpur	3	Nil

DEBIT OF INCOME-TAX ON HOUSE AND WATER TAXES PAID TO MUNICIPALITIES IN UNITED PROVINCES

878. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please refer to his reply to starred question No. 666 on November 21st, 1944, and state:

(a) what action he has taken, in view of the Allahabad High Court ruling in that behalf, to debit income-tax charged on the amounts paid as house and water taxes to the municipalities in the U. P.; and

(b) if the taxes have been and are being recovered during the current year?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) In cases where the tax was paid before the High Court ruling, without the assessee having taken any steps to appeal against the assessment, the assessment became final and conclusive under the Law. No action of the nature suggested by the Honourable Member is therefore legally possible in such cases. In cases, however, where appeals or revision applications were filed in time, instructions have been issued to revise the assessments in due course in the light of the decision of the Privy Council, an application for leave to appeal to that body having already been filed.

(b) Instructions have been issued to postpone recovery of income-tax due on the amount of the taxes paid pending the decision by the Privy Council.

REVISION OF INCOME-TAX MANUAL

879. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please refer to his reply to starred question No. 667 on November 21st, 1944, and state what progress, if any, has been made in the preparation of an up-to-date Income-tax Manual?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Manual has been compiled and is being printed.

PERSONS EXEMPTED FROM RECEIVING CERTAIN INCOME-TAX NOTICES

880. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please refer to his reply to starred question No. 696 on November 21st, 1944, and state if there are any classes of persons exempted from the necessity of receiving such notices, requiring them to attend income-tax offices with account books, etc.; and, if so, under what law?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: There are no such classes.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the section of law to which the Honourable Member referred before clearly states that such notices will be issued only in case the Income-tax Officer is not satisfied, may I know if it is a fact that the Income-tax Officer issues such notices as a matter of routine or does he examine each case on its merits before issuing notice?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I suppose if he is required to issue notice in cases where he is not satisfied, that he does not issue them as a matter of routine in all cases.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact—I mean no offence—that Income-tax Officers issue such notices only to non-officials and that high officers of State are exempt from receipt of such notices?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not think that is what the law courts call ratio discrimination.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Without trying to be impertinent in the least, may I ask if the Honourable Member himself receives such notice and whether he had to cool his heels in the verandahs of the Income-tax office on the date specified from 11 A.M. till 5 P.M.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not remember having received such a notice, but I have had to enter into quite an irritating correspondence.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member issue some instructions that at least

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

BAN ON ENTRY AND PUBLICATION OF BOOKS BY KARL MARX, ETC.

881. ***Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if Government have placed a ban on the entry and publication in India of books by Karl Marx, Engels and Lenin and on books on Soviet Russia and the last Spanish Civil War; and, if so, the names of these books and the reasons for the ban;

(b) if Government have placed a similar ban on any book on the American War of Independence; and

(c) if Government pay any subsidies to persons in India or abroad to publish commentaries in accordance with their views on books referred to in (a); and, if so, the amounts of these subsidies and the persons to whom they are paid?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) The entry into, and publication in, India of books of these types, have been banned only in the cases of "The Paris Commune" by Lenin and "Civil War in France" by Marx (for reasons given in my answer to Mr. Abdul Qaiyum's starred question No. 348 on 19th February, 1945); and "The Revolution of 1905" by Lenin, because it contains instructions in the tactics of violent revolution.

(b) and (c). No.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Are these books banned in U. K.?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no knowledge.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Are any publications from Russia banned from entering into this country?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Not, as far as I know.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I know if the Government do not fear that publications on the American War of Independence will promote revolution in India?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I cannot answer that.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is there not a treaty between Russia and England? Why should these books be banned here?

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

PAY, ALLOWANCE, ETC., OF BRITISH AND INDIAN SOLDIERS

882. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the pay of Indian sepoy and British soldiers, separately;

(b) the allowances, if any, allowed in any and all circumstances to Indian sepoy and British soldiers, separately; and

(c) the costs of uniforms and other articles of use supplied to Indian Sepoys and British soldiers, separately?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the table.

(c) The initial cost of uniform, necessities and equipment issued to Indian soldiers is Rs. 125-11-0 and to British soldiers is Rs. 135-10-0. When entitled to an extra issue of warm clothing, both British and Indian soldiers receive the same articles which are valued at Rs. 54-13-0.

*Statement showing Pay and Allowances admissible to British Other Ranks and
Indian Sepoys*

(A) Pay and Allowances admissible in India.

I. Pay	British Other ranks	I. Pay	Indian Sepoys	Total
	*Pay of rank		Pay of rank	
	Rs. p. m.		Rs. p. m.	
<i>Private Class II.</i>		<i>Sepoy.</i>		
Under 6 months' service.	6-7	On enlistment.	18	18
With 6 months' service.	68-7	After 6 months' service.	18	22
With 1 years' service.	79-14		1	3
With 2 years' service.	91-4	After 1 years' service.	18	5
With 3 years' service.	96-15	After 3 years' service.	18	5
<i>Private Class I.</i>				
With 6 months' service.	79-14			
With 1 years' service.	91-4			
With 2 years' service.	102-11			
With 3 years' service.	103-6			
<i>Private Class I-A.</i>				
With 3 years' service.	114-1			

*Converted at 1s. 4d. to the rupee.

II. War Service Increments and Japanese

II. War Service Increments

British Other Ranks.		Japanese Campaign Pay.		British Other Ranks (British Service only)	
Rs. 22-11 p. m.	Rs. 11-7 p. m.	Rs. 22-13 p. m.		Rs. p. m.	Rs. p. m.
				4	2

III. Married allowance admissible under Indian Regulations to families in India.

(i) Family Allowance.

Wife.	Wife + 1 child.	Wife + 2 children.	Wife + 3 children.
Rs. p. m.	Rs. p. m.	Rs. p. m.	Rs. p. m.
30	86	136	181
Each additional child Rs. 45.—			

(ii) Separation Allowance at Rs. 18 p. m. for all ranks when the husband is so separated due to the exigencies of the service.

(iii) Families receive free accommodation and all ed. services or compensation in lieu up to a maximum of Rs. 50 per mensem.

NOTE.—British Other Ranks whose families are ex-India receive married allowance under a separate code.

Statement showing Pay and Allowances admissible to British Other ranks and Indian Sepoys.

I. Pay	(B) Pay and Allowances admissible Overseas.				British other ranks				Indian Sepoys			
	Mideast. *Pay of rank. Rs. p. m.	Allowance. Rs. p. m.	*Total. Rs. p. m.	*Pay of rank. Rs. p. m.	Paiforce. *Col. Allowance. Rs. p. m.	*Total. Rs. p. m.	Pay of G. S./ S. Prof. rank. Rs. p. m.	Expt. Alloc. Rs. p. m.	Pay. Rs. p. m.	Rs. p. m.	Rs. p. m.	Total
<i>Private Class II.</i>												
Under 6 months' Service	60-13	6-12	67-9	60-13	18-9	79-6	On enlistment					
With 6 months' "	60-13	6-12	67-9	60-13	18-9	79-6	After 6 months' service					
With 1 years' "	71-0	6-12	77-12	71-0	18-9	89-9	After 1 years' service					
With 2 years' "	81-2	6-12	87-14	81-2	18-9	99-11	After 3 years' service.					
With 3 years' "	86-3	6-12	92-15	86-3	18-9	104-12						
<i>Private Class I.</i>												
With 6 months' service	71-0	6-12	77-12	71-0	18-9	89-9						
With 1 years' "	81-2	6-12	87-14	81-2	18-9	99-11						
With 2 years' "	91-4	6-12	98-0	91-4	18-9	109-13						
With 3 years' "	96-5	6-12	103-1	96-5	18-9	114-14						
<i>Private Class I-A.</i>												
With 3 years' service	101-6	6-12	108-2	101-6	18-9	119-15						
NOTE:—This statement does not include deferred pay which is 6 d. per diem for B. O. Rs., and Rs. 3 per mensem for Indian Sepoys.												
II. War Service Increments and Japanese Campaign Pay.												
For each subsequent year's War Service up to a maximum of 6 years.												
Rs. p. m.												
British Other Ranks.												
British Other Ranks (British Service only).												
III. Married allowance admissible under Indian Regulations to families in India.												
(i) Family allowance.												
Wife.												
Rs. p. m.												
Wife + 1 Child.												
Rs. p. m.												
Wife + 2 Children.												
Rs. p. m.												
Wife + 3 Children.												
Rs. p. m.												
All ranks												
Each additional child Rs. 45 p. m.												
(ii) Separation allowance at Rs. 18 p. m. for all ranks when the husband is separated due to the exigencies of the service.												
(iii) Families receive free accommodation and allied services or compensation in lieu up to a maximum of Rs. 50 p. m.												
NOTE:—B. O. Rs. whose families are ex-India receive married allowance under a separate code.												
* Converted at 1s 6 d. to the rupee.												
† Japanese Campaign pay is admissible to entitled personnel serving in Ceylon and eastwards to longitude 180 degrees (excluding U. S. S. R. only).												

NOTES:—1. Batta has not yet been sanctioned for Cylon
2. Indian troops serving in Assam, including Indian States under the jurisdiction of the Government of Assam, and the Bengal Presidency east of Brahmaputra, Jamuna, Padma, and Meghna Rivers and the whole of Chittagong civil division receive batta.

II. War Service Increments.
After 3 years' War Service from 3-9-39.

For each subsequent year's War Service up to a maximum of 6 years.

Rs. p. m. 4
Sepoy Rs. p. m. 2

British Other Ranks.
British Other Ranks (British Service only).

III. Married allowance admissible under Indian Regulations to families in India.
(i) Family allowance.

Wife.

All ranks

Each additional child Rs. 45 p. m.

(ii) Separation allowance at Rs. 18 p. m. for all ranks when the husband is separated due to the exigencies of the service.

(iii) Families receive free accommodation and allied services or compensation in lieu up to a maximum of Rs. 50 p. m.

NOTE:—B. O. Rs. whose families are ex-India receive married allowance under a separate code.

* Converted at 1s 6 d. to the rupee.
† Japanese Campaign pay is admissible to entitled personnel serving in Ceylon and eastwards to longitude 180 degrees (excluding U. S. S. R. only).

Mr. Manu Subedar: How much of this goes to recruiting agents? May I know whether these figures are separate for different military personnel?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Nothing. It is not included here at all.

RECRUITS FROM BIHAR

883. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of recruits, combatants and non-combatants, from the Province of Bihar, district by district; and

(b) if the appointments in (a) have been made permanently or only as a war measure?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) No statistics of recruitment by districts are maintained at General Headquarters. As regards the total recruitment from the province of Bihar, I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to starred question No. 734 on the 6th March, 1945.

(b) The appointments have been made as a war measure.

Mr. Manu Subedar: How much per head was paid for the Province of Bihar for recruitment? What is the scale of payment per head to the recruiting agents for each man they capture?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I repudiate the insinuation by the Honourable Member that these men are captured. It is entirely on a voluntary basis that these people are recruited.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know if the Honourable Member is aware that in the answer referred to by him, only recruits from the Province of Bihar are mentioned. The question asks district by district?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No statistics of recruitment by districts are maintained at General Headquarters. As regards the total recruitment from the province of Bihar, I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer I gave a few days ago.

884*. [Cancelled.]

COLLECTION OF EXCISE DUTY ON ARECANUT IN CERTAIN AREAS

885. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether arecanut in the hands of traders and growers on the 31st January, 1944, were subjected to excise duty in the areas comprising South Kanara District, Bengal, North Kanara, Malabar, Nilgiris, and Coorg;

(b) the total duty collected in the district of South Kanara on arecanut stock found on the 31st January, 1944;

(c) whether any representations were received with regard to refund of that duty from the growers and traders; if so, what orders have been passed;

(d) the conditions imposed for the refund;

(e) whether any representations were received with regard to the difficulties to fulfil the conditions imposed;

(f) what steps have been taken to relieve the distress of the assesses;

(g) the rules regarding arecanut taxation first published; and

(h) whether the Honourable Member is aware that Inspectors who have been recruited to enforce the collection of duty have been issuing certificates to some traders and growers showing that the stocks were old and not liable to excise duty; and whether they are empowered to issue such certificates.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The information is being collected and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

886. *[Cancelled.]

NON-OBSERVANCE OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF KING'S REGULATIONS IN THE CASE OF INDIAN FORCES

887. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the fact that provisions of paragraphs 585 and 586 of the King's Regulations have remained unenforced in the case of His Majesty's Indian forces raised for the duration of war from amongst the inhabitants of India, that soldiers have suffered to be arrested by police or by Warrants of Criminal

Courts instead of by summons and that no officer had been detailed to watch the proceedings in the Civil Courts?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will he please state the authority for the non-compliance of the provisions of King's Regulations?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is presumably referring to paras. 598 and 599 of the King's Regulations, 1940, which have replaced paras. 585 and 586 of the King's Regulations, 1935. King's Regulations apply to personnel of the Indian Army only when they are not at variance with the Regulations for the Army in India. Rule 383 of the Regulations for the Army in India provides for the arrest of a soldier by the Police for a cognisable offence, and Rule 388 of the same Regulations provides for the defence in civil courts of soldiers charged with criminal offences, but contains no direction that an officer should attend the trial.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does the same procedure apply to British soldiers employed in India?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Yes, Sir.

SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES OF THE WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY

888. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please refer to his reply to part (a) of starred question No. 687 of the 21st November, 1944, and state the nature and extent of the subversive activities of which the organization known as the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society has been known to be guilty of?

(b) When did these subversive activities first come to the notice of Government, in which parts of the country were such activities carried on, and who were the principal culprits? Were these culprits put on trial for participation in these activities? If so, with what result, and, if not, why not?

(c) What are the reasons for which a ban was imposed on the importation into, and publication in, India of all publications of this organization, and what are the reasons for the subsequent removal of the said ban?

(d) Is it a fact that certain restrictions on the movement or other activities of some members of this organization imposed during the period of the aforesaid ban, still continue in spite of the withdrawal of the ban? If so, for what reasons?

(e) Has the literature seized from the office and individual members of this organization been restored to them since the withdrawal of the ban?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (e). The Society's doctrine is generally pacifist and opposed to any temporal authority. That is the reason why its publications were banned in December, 1942 and presumably also the reason why in a number of cases the ban was defied. As the Honourable Member was informed in my reply to his question No. 686 of 21st November 1944 the ban has now been removed. No further action has been taken by the Government of India against the Society.

The action that was taken to enforce the ban was taken by Provincial Governments. For such information as I have I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I gave on 21st November 1944 to his question No. 687. I have no information whether Provincial Governments have found it necessary to take any other action against the Society or whether they have returned any literature that may have been confiscated by them.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Then may I take it that there are no actual charges against this organisation of having indulged in any subversive activities to which reference was made by the Honourable Member in reply to my question in November?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No legal charges can be framed against a Society. It is a question of suspicion of the sort of thing they do or might do.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Then do I take it that the individual members of this organisation were not guilty of any subversive activities?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have told the Honourable Member that in some cases they defied the ban.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Society suspected of any Pacifist activities?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is what I said.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the members of this Society have changed their religious beliefs since the ban was lifted?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I believe not.

PAY, ETC., OF WORKERS IN FENCHUGANJ WORKSHOPS

889. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether the workers in the Fenchuganj Workshop of the I.G.N. and R.S.N. Company in Assam are employed on a monthly basis or on daily wages? How many workers are being employed on monthly rates of pay and how many on daily wages?

(b) What pay or wages are being paid to these workers?

(c) Is any dearness allowance paid to them? If so, at what rates?

(d) Does any provision for overtime work exist in the Workshops? What amount of overtime has been prescribed under the Factories Act, and are the workers being paid on the same scale as is laid down in the Factories Act?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: With your permission, Sir, I shall answer starred questions Nos. 889 to 893 together.

The points raised in these questions are the responsibility of the Provincial Government.

SUPPLY OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES AT CHEAP RATES TO WORKERS OF FENCHUGANJ WORKSHOPS

†890. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether any arrangement exists for supplying essential commodities at cheap rates to the workers of the Fenchuganj Workshops? If so, what commodities have been made available to them, and at what rates?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that the quality of commodities supplied is very poor and the price at which rice is supplied is higher than the market price? If so, does he propose to consider the desirability of bringing this to the notice of the Managing Agents of the Company?

QUARTERS FOR WORKERS OF FENCHUGANJ WORKSHOPS

†891. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether any quarters have been provided for the workers of the Fenchuganj Workshops in Assam? If so, will he please state whether (i) there is any verandah attached to these quarters, (ii) separate latrines have been provided in these quarters, (iii) there is any provision for drinking water inside the quarters, and (iv) three families are housed in a block of three rooms?

(b) If these amenities have not been provided in these quarters, does he propose to consider the desirability of doing so now?

MEDICAL TREATMENT OF WORKERS OF FENCHUGANJ WORKSHOPS

†892. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: Will the War Secretary please state whether any arrangements exist for the medical treatment of the workers of the Fenchuganj Workshops and the members of their families? If not, why not?

LEAVE FOR WORKERS OF FENCHUGANJ WORKSHOPS

†893. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether any provision for leave, medical or otherwise, exists for workers of the Fenchuganj Workshops?

(b) Is it a fact that wages for Sundays and holidays are not paid to the workers?

(c) Is it a fact that the expenses in connection with the medical treatment of these workers are borne by them and not by the Company?

†For answer to this question see answer to question No. 889.

(d) Is it also a fact that there is no provision for old age pension, provident fund, gratuity or bonus for the workers of the Workshop?

(e) Is it also a fact that there is no security or stability of service for the workers of the Workshops?

(f) Does the Honourable Member propose to consider the desirability of bringing the grievances of the Fenchuganj Workshops to the notice of the Managing Agents of the I.G.N. and R.S.N. Company, Limited, with a view to their being redressed?

SUPPLY OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES TO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS IN JAIL

894. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly are regularly supplied to Members of the Legislative Assembly at present confined in jails;

(b) if Mr. Shri Krishna Dutta Paliwal, a Member of the Assembly at present confined in the Bareilly Central Prison, United Provinces, is supplied with such proceedings;

(c) if it is a fact that the jail authorities refuse to deliver packets containing these proceedings to Mr. Paliwal and, if so, under what law this is done; and

(d) if he proposes to make enquiries and ensure the delivery of the packets to Mr. Paliwal?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (d). The Government of India are advised that Honourable Members of this House, who are detained as security prisoners, have no right as such to communicate with the Legislative Assembly Department or the Office of the Council of State, if the rules under which they are detained do not permit of such communication.

The United Provinces rules do not, however, prohibit the receipt by security prisoners of the proceedings of this House and should Mr. Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal wish to receive them the Government of India will raise no objection. The decision, however, rests with the Government of the United Provinces.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it the opinion of Government that the Legislative Assembly proceedings are so revolutionary and subversive that they ought not to be received by detenus in jails?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is not what I said. I said the Government of India would have no objection if Mr. Paliwal wished to have them.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Are the Government of India prepared to recommend to the U. P. Government that they should not interfere with the receipt of these books by Pandit Paliwal?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have answered the question fairly clearly.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that the Legislative Assembly office does actually send these proceedings to Pandit Paliwal and that the same are not being delivered to him in jail?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I presume they do send it to all Members.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: What are the rules of the Government of India themselves for security prisoners who are detained by the Central Government? Are such proceedings received by them or not?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Those detained by the Central Government are kept in Provincial jails and the rules of that Province apply.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: In the case of a person detained at Deoli, for instance, do the rules of the Government of India prohibit his receiving Government publications?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: They are Japanese, Chinese, Malaysians; and as to whether they can receive the proceedings of this House, I should require notice.

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

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Sir, we should be permitted to ask further questions because the privilege of the House is involved.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: There are no privileges here.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should not make that kind of remark; it is a reflection on this House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I submit that the question of privilege is involved here because we have been denied the right of receiving the proceedings of this House while we are being kept for years under detention.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has got the answer that it is for the Provincial Government to see that the rules they have laid down are complied with.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I submit that the Legislative Assembly Department is a part of the Government of India and it is the duty of the Government of India to see that every Member of this House gets a copy of the proceedings of this House wherever he may be kept, even if he is kept as a detenu.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has said that so far as this particular case is concerned they have issued instructions.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No, Sir; I said that we have no objection.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is about Pandit Paliwal. What about other detenus who are detained elsewhere?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member wants to raise any question of privilege he can do so by an appropriate motion.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Sir, the Honourable Member has not assured us that he has issued any instructions in this behalf even to the U. P. Government.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I understood the question to be this that Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal wished to receive these proceedings and did not receive them, and that is why this question was asked. I have informed Mr. Sri Prakasa that if Pandit Paliwal wishes to receive them we have no objection whatever. But the decision rests with the U. P. Government who have detained Mr. Paliwal and who have made rules under which he is detained. I do not think anything can be more clear.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But may I inform the Honourable Member that when I wanted to get into communication with the Secretary of the Legislative Assembly with regard to the proceedings, the letter was not allowed to be sent by the jail authorities?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That was the Government of Madras.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes, but the Government of Madras is today under the Government of India, being under section 93, and they have to comply with the directions of the Government of India.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: If Prof. Ranga should go back to jail I shall have no objection to his receiving the proceedings.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am not going to oblige the Honourable Member.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

INTERNMENT AND PROSECUTION OF MISS HEILMAN

84. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state under whose orders, the Provincial or the Central Government, Miss Heilman, a European lady educationist and social worker and a disciple of Mahatma Gandhi (now known as Sarla Ben) residing in Kausani, Almora District, U. P., was first interned and then prosecuted and jailed for one year?

(b) What were the charges against her?

(c) Is it a fact that she is not a political worker, but only a social worker?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) No action was taken against this lady by the Central Government.

(b) and (c). I have no information.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS.

SECOND STAGE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now discuss the Demands for Grants.

I understand that the time-table agreed to by all the Parties and Unattached Members in regard to the moving of Cut Motions has been circulated to Honourable Members.

As regards the time-limit for speeches, I suggest that, as usual, the Movers of cut motions will have twenty minutes, and the Government Member replying will have twenty minutes or even more, if necessary. Other speakers will be limited to fifteen minutes.

I take it that this will suit Honourable Members.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): In this time-limit for speeches, Sir, I should like to point out that there is nothing about Leaders of Parties.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As regards cut motions there is no special provision for Leaders of Parties, but if an arrangement is made among the Parties themselves I may be informed beforehand.

DEMAND No. 12—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,96,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1946, in respect of the 'Executive Council'."

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,96,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1946, in respect of the 'Executive Council'."

Refusal of Supplies—No Confidence in the Government

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): Mr. President, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced to rupee 1."

Sir, this is a direct censure motion against the Government of India as at present constituted. In the brief time of twenty minutes, which is at my disposal, it is very difficult to cover even the important points dealing with the many acts of omission and commission of the Government of India. I shall therefore try to content myself with giving the main heads of the various charges which I hope will be absolutely self-explanatory.

The first charge which I wish to make against the Government of India is that the present Government of India in spite of the promises made to the people of India and to the people in other countries still remains irresponsible and irremovable. Sir, this is not only a vote of censure against the present Government of India because after all they are the agents of His Majesty's Government in Great Britain. It is something more. This is in a way a moral vote of censure against His Majesty's Government, because it is they who have constituted and set up a thoroughly unpopular Government in this country. It is His Majesty's Government, which has never been tired of explaining to the world that they are fighting this war in order that democracy should be vindicated, that free Governments should be set up in different countries in the world, and yet we find that in India, where about 1/5th of the human race lives, they have set up a thoroughly undemocratic Government almost on the Nazi pattern.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions, Non-Muhammadan Rural): It would be an insult to the Nazis to compare their Government with this.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: If you look at their record, you will see that it is thoroughly undemocratic. Sir, when I gave the analogy of the Nazi pattern, I was not very far wrong. The Nazi regime in our estimation and in our view is associated with concentration camps; when we think of the Nazi regime, we

think of the concentration camps where thousands of people are arrested at the dead of night and detained for years on end without even a trial. And what do we find in this country? The fair face of India has been blackened and disfigured by the numerous concentration camps which have been set up by this Government where the very best of our countrymen have been detained without any trial, without any charge having been brought against them, and Heaven knows how long their detention is going to last. Sir, this is a Government which professes to fight for freedom, for four freedoms—freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from fear and freedom from want—and yet we see the type of regime, the reign of terror which they have set up in this country. They are absolutely unresponsive to the popular sentiment in this country; they are actuated by the feelings of mistrust of the Indian people.

Now, Sir, let us look at the Defence expenditure. The estimated expenditure for the year 1945-46 has mounted up to something like 412 crores. It is far beyond the capacity of a poor country like India to pay or to withstand. I have said that the present Government of India works in a spirit of mistrust of the Indian nationals. I can give an instance, and a very direct instance to the point. Here are two-and-a-half million men recruited in this country ostensibly to defend India, but at present to conquer other countries so that British Imperialism and British trade might prosper and might thrive as a result of our sweat, our money and our blood. Now, Sir, what happens? Thousands of our soldiers have been taken out from this country to different theatres of war to fight in Italy, in France, in Africa, in so many distant countries, at a time when the Eastern Frontier of India was threatened by the Japanese. Why were they taken away? How could the Government, which pleads for the absence of shipping space for ordinary imports into this country—the case of the Government is that we cannot bring capital goods in this country because there is no shipping space—how could they, in the midst of a gigantic war when the German submarines were so very very active and playing havoc with the Allies' shipping, how could they afford to find shipping space to transport these thousands and thousands of people to different theatres of war to fight the battles of the British Empire? I believe that any National Government in this country would have seen to it that the entire Army on the Eastern Frontier of India was cent. per cent. Indian, but it is that spirit of mistrust which has resulted in the present Government importing soldiers from abroad—Americans, British, East Africans, West Africans, Chinese, and all these big forces have been brought into this country—because the Government of India and their masters in Great Britain are haunted by a feeling of mistrust of the people. We have absolutely no voice or say in the organisation, in the control and in the direction of this huge military machine which has been set up in this country at our expense and at our cost. Promises have been made that at some time or other in the distant future—God knows when—the Army in India, is going to be Indianized and defence is going to be handed over to a minister responsible to the Indian people.

I now come to the next charge, namely, the malicious and tendentious propaganda which has been carried on by the Government of India and their agents in the United States of America to slander the great people of this country. They have set up their Agent-General there to do this. The other day the Honourable the Leader of the House, when I put a question to him, stated, that 1/10th of what was stated in the article was true. This was an article about British propaganda in the U. S. A. The Honourable the Leader of the House forgot, and conveniently forgot, that 9/10th of what had been stated in that article was no other thing but a repetition of the propaganda which is being carried on by the agents of this Government in the United States. Therefore, it could not be true. I think the statement of the Honourable the Leader of the House was correct. Sir, I am quoting an extract from an article to show the type of propaganda which has been carried on against us: Here is an extract from a publication entitled 'Four Freedoms' issued by the British Information Service in America:

"What is the force that holds the Government of India and the mass of the Indian people together?"

[Mr. Abdul Qaiyum]

It is news to us that the Government of India and the mass of the Indian people are at all together. The article proceeds:

"The Atlantic Charter guarantees four freedoms to the world of the post-war future—Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Religion, Freedom from Fear and Freedom from Want.

It may be necessary to promise the first three of these freedoms to other countries, but India has already been enjoying them for over a hundred years."

Sir, it is really a lie of the worst type to say that there is freedom of speech in this country when men like Jawahar Lal Nehru, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and other patriots are under indefinite detention just because they had the courage to say "Quit India, because we want to set up a Government of our own".

There is another short extract: It says:

"Under Bajpai's direct supervision, thousands of pages of poisonous propaganda against India and her leaders have been published at the cost of the Indian taxpayer. The strong and natural anti-Japanese feeling in America is exploited to describe Mahatma Gandhi and other Congress leaders as defeatists and agents of Japan. The least bit of criticism appearing in any obscure paper in India is eagerly picked up and purveyed to American readers by means of hundreds of thousands of leaflets for the sole purpose of discrediting Gandhiji and the Congress. This is the special responsibility of the department over which Bajpai presides. The air mail brings an unending stream of the right stuff from India where a huge 'Information' department is maintained for the purpose. The air mail reaches in a matter of a week."

It would be very interesting to know why this propaganda is all centred on the United States of America and not on Russia. For the simple reason that the Russian people know all about the doings of the present Government in this country and about their masters in Great Britain—the atrocities, the horrors, the detentions, the shootings and the murders committed by this Government. Therefore there is no room for the spread of malicious lies in that great Republic of the Russian people. But in the United States of America they think that they have got a soil where the seed which they are scattering all over the country might take root, but I am sure, Sir, that there also they are going to be disillusioned.

I now come to the performance of the present Government in the domain of agriculture. They have absolutely failed to rise to the occasion and to come to the rescue of our peasants. What do we find in this country? If you go to the villages in the countryside you find illiteracy, you find hunger, you find nakedness, you find complete absence of medical relief: and these are the people who contribute to the upkeep of this white elephant which is called the Government of India.

And now, Sir, coming to the financial and industrial side, although the Governments in the Dominions of Canada and Australia did not have any heavy industries before the war started, they became alive to the realities of the situation, and while this great war was going on and in spite of the difficulties of shipping space they managed to obtain capital goods and they started heavy industries like automobile, aircraft production, ship-building, locomotive manufacture and chemical industries. But what do we find in this country? We find that the Government of India did not take any advantage of the war situation to set up these industries because we have got no freedom in the matter of setting up industries. We cannot set up any industries which are likely to compete at the end of the war with the industries which now flourish or are likely to flourish in Great Britain after the war. We have no freedom and therefore that is the real reason why this Government has betrayed the people of India by not setting up these heavy industries which are so vital for the welfare and for the strengthening of our nation.

Now, Sir, in the closing year of the war, we have got absolutely no freedom to pursue an exchange or currency policy of our own choice.

Then there is the coal muddle. The machinery for the production and distribution of coal has absolutely broken down at a time when the industries set up during the war were badly in need of coal. There is a shortage of coal with

the result that several factories and mills had to close down and this might bring down the production in this country and might result in killing once and for all some of the industries which the Indian people managed to set up during this war in spite of the restrictions and handicaps which an unsympathetic Government had imposed upon them.

And then what is their attitude in the matter of sterling balances which now amount to the tune of 1,200 crores and the Empire Dollar Pool? It is a wonderful mystery. It is like the Dead Sea. Liquid gold flows into it but nothing comes out of it. The Government of India will not take this country into its confidence by telling us what are the financial resources of this wonderful dollar pool. Everything is being kept as a sort of mystery. Everything is secret and now after so much public agitation something like 40 million dollars for two years have been released because there was an uproar in the country. All this is shrouded in mystery and all our currency, our finances, our sterling balances, our dollar reserves are being manipulated by a subservient Government in the interests of Great Britain and not for the people whom they pretend to serve. This must be exposed once and for all.

Then there is the sending of the Hydari Mission to England. All these attempts to bring consumer goods into the country when the war is about to end is a direct blow aimed at industries set up in this country as a result of the war. We do need consumer goods but we must see that those goods should not be brought into this country which would compete with the goods already being manufactured in this country. We do not want our industries—which have come into existence as a result of the war, to be killed just because it suits Great Britain to send our consumer goods to this country. When we demand that capital goods should be brought into this country we are told there is no money and no shipping space. These difficulties will go on as long as an irresponsible Government is at the helm of affairs in this country.

Now I come to another subject which deals mainly with my people whom I have the honour to represent, that is the Pathans. In the year 1935 this House passed an adjournment motion against the Government of India in which in clear and unequivocal terms the policy of the Government of India in bombing the Pathan tribesmen in the tribal belt was condemned. And what do we find in 1944? I will read a short extract to show that this kind of bombing has been going on in the tribal areas by a Government which pretends to be a civilized government, a democratic government, a government which is fighting for freedom of conscience and of thought all over the world. Here is an extract from an interview given by the British Political Agent in North Waziristan. It was published in the *Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, on the 5th January, 1945, and it was for the first time that we came to know that our kinsmen in the tribal belt were being bombed for months on end. It reads thus:

"The story of intermittent bombing, lasting for five months, of the villages of some of the turbulent Pathan tribes in North Waziristan, under the Faqir of Ipi, was described to me by Mr. R. H. D. Lewis, Political Agent, North Waziristan, in an interview at Miranshah, on Thursday.

Mr. Lewis emphasised that air action was taken against carefully selected villages." (This is how a butcher sets about his business efficiently) "and houses and invariably followed verbal and written warnings to the tribes about the time of bombing.

"In retaliation the Political Agent ordered the bombing of the villages where hostiles were encamped. The first bombing was made in February, and then it intermittently continued up to June last."

For five months these unfortunate people were being bombed by a Government which pretends to be civilized. It is said that the hostiles were encamped in these villages. They are never encamped in these villages. The hostiles who come out to fight are always at the front. The people who really occupy the villages are the women, the aged, the infirm and the children: it is this unfortunate non-combatant population which was the target of these bombs falling from British aeroplanes and on a people who are as good British subjects as we are.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has only one minute more.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I will take two minutes and then I will conclude.

Let me say something about the notice which is given. The first notice which they receive is the first bomb which falls on their heads: no other notice is given. All this story of notice is a lie and I would ask the Government of India to do one thing. If they do not abstain from this horrible practice of bombing civilian non-combatants, I would ask them to confine this dirty work to non-Indians. It is really very cruel on the part of Government to send out our young airmen, who really are as good patriots as any on these Benches, to do this dirty work in the cause of British Imperialism. I would like the Government of India to see that only non-Indians are sent out to perform this dirty work of bombing the civilian population.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Why not try them in England?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Sir, the promise of reforms for Baluchistan has not been fulfilled. There is nobody to speak here on behalf of Baluchistan. Even though a promise was made that a representative would be nominated the powers that be thought it fit to send a representative to the other House. They would not introduce elections.

The people in Baluchistan are very largely Pathans. They are of the same race, the same blood and speak the same language as my people in the N.-W. F. P. In fact they form part of the same people whom I have the honour to represent in this House and I condemn the Government of India for having ignored the question of reforms for Baluchistan and for having done their worst to stop those people from having elected bodies of their own.

There is also the failure of the Government to revise and increase the subvention to the N.-W. F. P. Our Provincial Government is starved for money and 6,000 of our teachers are on strike because of inadequacy of pay. Sir, I conclude my speech as my time is up. I think that the record of this Government of India is so very black indeed that they deserve to be censured and defeated. Sir, I move.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced to Rs. 1."

Sir Olaf Caroe (Secretary, External Affairs Department): Sir, I listened with great interest to what my Honourable friend Mr. Abdul Qaiyum has said. I should like to correct one or two statements which were definitely incorrect.

In the first place, I should like to correct the impression that the tribesmen in the Tribal Belt are British subjects: they are not British subjects, they are British-protected persons. This area is not part of British India. It has not been disarmed. It consists of a large number of armed men who sometimes are a considerable nuisance. From the other side of this House, much more in peace time than in war time, and from the middle of the House there has been very strong pressure that something should be done to protect the lives of the most unfortunate and innocent, mainly Hindus, not always Hindus by any means, who live in the adjacent districts, from kidnapping and most violent outrages. We have to strike a balance. We have to do what we can to protect those lives and to see that the armed tribesmen do not exceed, what I might call, their brief.

During the war there have been in the neighbouring State of Afghanistan Legations of our enemies. I wonder whether it is fully realised either by this House or the country at large that a great deal of effort has been put into the Tribal Belt by our enemies in an endeavour to embarrass the Government of India and to tie up troops on the North-West Frontier. We regard (I am not at all penitent) when necessary the use of the air arm as justified against armed tribesmen who might be instigated by our enemies or by the enemies of India and the enemies of the Commonwealth generally to embarrass us, also to take lives, to carry off innocent persons and so on and I am not in the least penitent in this matter. I regard it as entirely justified to use the air arm.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member sure that those who kidnapped are really the only ones who received the bombs?

Sir Olaf Caroe: Almost always. Very often action has been taken against belligerents, against harbourers and kidnappers. I repeat, and I am not in the least penitent, that the air arm should be used when necessary to keep them under control. At the same time a warning is always given. The Honourable Member made a definitely incorrect statement. He said that it was quite untrue that warning was given. That is utterly and completely false.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: This is absolutely true and we have no faith in what the Government have said. This Government consists of liars, especially the Political Officers.

Sir Olaf Caroe: On every occasion when the air arm has been used against tribesmen a warning has been issued and the tribesmen given the time to enable them to remove non-combatants from the area.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What is the nature of the warning?

Sir Olaf Caroe: It is sent out by the officials of the neighbouring Tahsil. This is also dropped from the air. It is a well known practice and the tribesmen themselves recognise it as absolutely fair. It is done on every occasion. It has always been done and always will be done in the tribal area.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: It will never be done. We will, God willing, kick this Government out: we will bomb them out of this country.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Why should the Honourable Member get so excited?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Sir, this is our country, who is he to talk like that?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): So long as the Honourable Member is in this House he should respect the rights of the other Members of the House.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Sir, he should not talk like Hitler. Sir, you may tolerate this behaviour but I cannot.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member is really too excited.

Sir Olaf Caroe: Sir, the Honourable Member is a friend of mine and I do not wish to see him excited at all. He is a Member of this House for whom I have the greatest respect, but, at the same time, I would like to point out that he has made an incorrect statement about air bombing on the Frontier.

The Honourable Member at the end of a very hurried speech, hurried through no fault of his own, made certain comments about Baluchistan. I could not quite understand exactly what the purport of those comments was but he implied that because a large part of Baluchistan was Pathan (it is perfectly true and, in fact, it might as well be called 'Pathanistan'), there should be a member to represent Baluchistan.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I said that a member should have been nominated to the lower house, whereas I see a member nominated to the Upper House.

Sir Olaf Caroe: There are many reasons for that. There are not always vacancies available.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): Is he a member of British Baluchistan?

Sir Olaf Caroe: Even Quetta is not in British Baluchistan. It would be rather a pity if we were to limit representatives to what is technically known as British Baluchistan and as I explained in this House on three or four previous occasions, it is a constitutional anomaly by which even the capital of the Province is not in British Baluchistan. In the circumstances, I think Honourable Members would prefer that we cast our net wider and look for the most suitable representative without being tied down to this purely paper distinction between British Baluchistan and other parts of Baluchistan. That, Sir, is the reason why a member of that kind was nominated.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Is he the real representative of the people?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I would like also to say that the other point which was very largely stressed by my Honourable friends of the Muslim League when we were discussing Baluchistan in the last Session was that there ought to be an elective system in the Quetta Municipality. The proposals in this connection have been

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worked out and are now under examination and I hope they will shortly be put into effect.

I was not expecting these matters to be raised so soon but it seemed to be well that I should rise and nail certain matters to the counter straightaway. That, Sir, is all that I have to say.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammādan Rural): Was the bombing on the Frontier started in 1935 before Mussolini had started it in Abyssinia?

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I support the cut motion for two reasons, and I will put them before the House briefly without possibly availing myself of the full fifteen minutes which under the rules are at my disposal.

The first reason is this. What has the Executive Council so far done to find a solution for the present constitutional muddle? What have they done to pave the way for a political scheme which can be introduced ultimately in the form of a revised and new constitution? Though I fully realise that the Government of India today do not take this House seriously, a fact which is shown by what has been happening in this House since November last, yet I think that even according to the poor standard set up by the Government of India for themselves, the Executive Council has invariably failed to do its duty. Let me tell the Honourable Members of the Executive Council what I mean. In 1916 when the Great War entered on a very acute stage, action was taken by 19 members of the then Indian Legislative Council to frame certain proposals which were submitted to the Government of India. One of the signatories to that memorandum, which was signed, as I pointed out by 19 members, was the present leader of the Muslim League, Mr. Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who fortunately is a member of this House today. Sir, a great change has taken place since then. It is no longer open to the non-official or elected Members of this House to submit any proposals to the Government of India for the simple reason that no attention will be paid to these proposals which will only fall flat on the Government of India. The change clearly indicates that what was done in 1916 by the non-official members of the Legislative Council should be done today by the Members of the Executive Council. That is the great change which has taken place. Their number is large. What are they doing? What have they been doing? What thought have they given to this question? Have they had consultations among themselves? Or are we to believe that even if these 14 or 15 Members of the Executive Council are united—and this is a question on which they should more or less be united, so far as I can see—no cognisance of their united proposals will be taken at all by the Governor General or by the Secretary of State? Sir, my main grievance is that the Members of the Executive Council take things very mildly, they do not care, they do not consider it their duty to help this country in the present crisis. We know that action has been taken in almost every direction to find a solution for such problems with which the country and the Government of India will be faced after war. There is such a thing as post-war planning on which hundreds of crores of rupees are going to be spent. There is the Hydari Delegation which was mentioned by my Honourable friend, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum. Numerous, almost too many, Delegations have been sent out during the past eighteen months to England and America to deal with economic, social, labour and other questions which will arise after the war. The Government of India are doing their level best to deal with every problem except the political problem, which it should be the first duty of the Executive Council to consider. So far as the present members are concerned, I am sure they are keenly interested in the question. One of them, namely, the Leader of the House, is interested in the question to such an extent that he has brought out a book which, to say the least of it, is a thought-provoking one. One may or may not agree with what the Honourable Member has said in that book, but surely the questions that have

been discussed by him in his book are questions which deserve the serious attention and consideration of the country, and more so of his own colleagues, namely, the Members of the Executive Council. If the Honourable Members of the Executive Council feel any keen sense of duty, I will ask them to put their heads together, and to appoint a Committee from among themselves to go into this question, a small committee of three of which personally I would prefer one to be a Hindu, another a Muslim, and the third an Englishman. If I had the power, I would almost nominate the Committee at this very minute. There are in front of me faces of people who can discharge this duty in a very proper and satisfactory manner. The only thing which the Members of the Executive Council lack is seriousness. That is the whole trouble. There is nothing so dangerous as lack of seriousness. If I may say so without any offence, I would say that the Members of the Executive Council are acting like the Prince of Denmark in the play of Hamlet. They know all the facts, they want to do something, they consider, they think, yet their minds are not free from suspicion and doubts, and they do not know what to do. They want to do something, but they do not know how to do. In order that their fate may not be the fate which befell the Prince of Denmark, namely, to act but to act too late, I would ask them seriously to take such action as they can, as they are the most competent people to take the initiative at the present stage.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Thank you.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: I do not know whether that is ironical or sincerely meant: my own fear is that it was rather the former than the latter, and this is the disease from which they are all suffering. I am very glad that my friend made that interjection.

A few words on the second ground and I have done. The question of the bombing of the Pathans in the tribal area was raised in the speech of my Honourable friend, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum. The Honourable Secretary for External Affairs justified that bombing on two grounds. I happen to be acquainted with the North-West Frontier Province up to a point: I was a member of the committee that toured the whole of the province in 1922, and brought forward a report: it was presided over by Sir Denys Bray, Sir Olaf Caroe's predecessor at that time. Sir Olaf Caroe said pressure had been brought to bear on the Government by this part of the House—he referred to the Central part—to take action against those who were engaged in kidnapping the Hindus. Secondly, he pointed out that the enemies of England, those who are at war with us, were carrying on propaganda to sow the seeds of mischief in the tribal area. These two grounds have nothing to do with each other. They are absolutely unconnected, absolutely separate. What was it that induced the Government of India to embark on a policy of bombing these innocent people? Was it the tender regard for the Hindus that prompted the Government of India to take this action? Or, was it really the intrigues that were carried on by England's enemies in the trans-border frontier area? This is a painful subject in fact. I am sure that the Government on this question have been acting recklessly, because there is no public opinion in that part of the country, and there is nobody in this House from that area to represent these unfortunate people who are bombed. After all, you are bombing people who even though they do not owe allegiance to the King are our neighbours. No doubt they act in a very unruly manner at times; but resort to bombing is a very extreme step; and the Government of India, constituted as they are, can act in any manner in which they want to act; but surely it is a very wrong thing to have recourse to bombing these mostly unarmed people—some of them are armed no doubt but it is a very wrong thing to do.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: One detects one thing more. In the explanation given by the Secretary for External Affairs, I seem to detect a desire to cause a split

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between the Hindus and the Muslims, namely, that the action that was taken was to safeguard the Hindus' interests. What have the Government of India been doing to safeguard the interests of the Hindus since the year 1922? In fact the worst year so far as the Hindu community was concerned was the year 1921. What did the Government of India do then? They did not bomb these unfortunate people then. Why are they doing it now? So all this pretext of protecting the unfortunate Hindus against these unruly Pathans is a farce. In any case that pretext ought not to have been brought forward in this House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Sir, I support the motion of my Honourable friend.

Sir Olaf Caroe: I said that most of the victims were Hindus, but there were also Muslims; and the last thing I had in mind was to draw any communal distinction. The question is to protect the people of the plains who are British subjects from outrages and worse from people who are not under adequate control.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: By bombing innocent people?

Sir Syed Raza Ali: The question is does the Honourable Member want to protect the interests of the Hindus or the interests of England? I want to protect the interests of England; but say in what direction you are moving? What is most dear to your heart?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I find the cut motion is to refuse supplies—in other words, if the supplies are not given for the Members of the Executive Council, they will have to go starving!

An Honourable Member: The Food Member is there!

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I am coming to the Food Member; he starves others and therefore it is right that we should starve him first. A motion of this nature would require to show the irresponsibility of the Members of the Executive Council collectively and also individually. I think in their own mind of minds they know they have committed and are committing many acts of omission and commission for which they deserve censure. I wish I had time to take up collectively and individually the Executive Council and show their irresponsibility and non-performance of duties to the public and to this House but I shall however take up a few of the points now. For want of time I cannot speak on any and every point sufficiently.

The first and foremost point is their irresponsibility in not giving their advice to the British Government as well as to their own Government, to remove the deadlock that is going on now in this country, which gives no freedom to the people; it is their duty, I say, as Members of the Executive Council to do their duty, at least to give their own honest, conscientious advice to the Viceroy and the British Government. I know that they are bound hand and foot and they feel they cannot do anything and that it is the British Government only that can do this in removing the deadlock; but I do think they must do at least their own part; and I say they have failed in it—they are not even giving advice: they are not giving their own views in public or the House at to what their view is. I know they sit collectively in a chamber which may be styled a star chamber where they talk between themselves secretly and that is all. They show no independence. But all the same they owe a duty to the public, at least to state their own inclinations in some way which may be considered creditable to them to show that they are also striving—at least those Indian Members of the Executive Council should give an inkling that in their heart of hearts they do support freedom. Why, for the matter of that, if they become independent and give their view in their council or in public, deadlock will be removed, but they do not care. I know if men—like Sir Sultan Ahmed or the Law Member go outside to express themselves they will be applauded by the people. But they feel subservient and therefore I am submitting that they have failed in their duty collectively. With regard to giving views outside, we have seen even members of Parliament and of the British Government and many responsible persons have given

their views on India's plight. Why are they giving it and not these Honourable Members? Then, Sir, I have seen that not only politicians but even Professor Politicians have given their views in England and they have given it very plainly and without fear. I have been reading the views of Prof. Bertrand Russell. He says that dominion status won't do for India. Of course, even dominion status is not being offered. He says advocating the grant of independence to India should not be construed as opposing the grant of dominion status. While discussing the question of the future of India at a crowded meeting at Cambridge yesterday, Professor Russell argued that there was no cultural affinity or sympathy between Britain and India as existed between Britain and the British Dominions. Even if dominion status is offered to India, India would exercise the right of secession. Then what is the use of offering dominion status. The tie between Britain and India is an artificial one.

So far as the Members of the Executive Council are concerned, they feel shy to express their views even privately. They do not even give their own opinion to people to come to India for the purpose of finding out whether and if so how freedom should be given to India. For instance, last time Sir Stafford Cripps came to India. May I ask if the Members of the Executive Council gave him their honest views. They left it to the Congress and other people to decide between themselves.

The second question is with regard to the release of political prisoners. In that also they have failed. The present Home Member is giving short shrift to questions. He will give a short reply. When you put another question, he will give the same reply in monosyllables. There are prisoners considered to be non-violent, who can give good advice like Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram of Sind who has been incarcerated for a long time. The reply always is—go to the Provincial Government and if we go to the Provincial Government, they say it is Central Government policy—go to the Central Government. This is how things are being done. Persons are being locked up and no help is being rendered either collectively or individually by the Members of the Executive Council.

The third question is about food.—May I ask the Food Member what he has done? We know the condition of Bengal and other places. In places where there was much food, matters were brought to his notice that corruption and jobbery was going on. Rs. 70,000 was taken by one man, as a bribe. What did he do? He again left the management of this to the Provincial Government. They should appoint their own Inspectors on higher pay for food distribution and rationing. The Food Member says we have not the machinery for doing all that. If you have not the machinery, then it proves you are failing in your duty. So far as the question of food is concerned, they should give more attention. In this respect also they are to blame.

Then, Sir, I come to clothing.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member): You have finished with Food?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: No. I will come back to you some other time, you don't give us food. You are getting good food yourself.

So far as cloth is concerned, the Honourable Member says that ten yards will be given at some places and 12 yards at some other. Is that sufficient? Have you consulted the people and come to that conclusion? They feel they are masters of the situation and the matter is for them to decide. This is the time when we should tell them plainly what is their responsibility. If they don't listen we must censure them.

With regard to industries, the Honourable Member is not in his seat. We have asked him a plain question and only evasive replies have been given. The question was—will the new industries that have been built up now and which are working for the war, survive after the war or will you scrap them and send for all things from England and the United States? We have got no satisfactory reply on that. Here also, they are playing hide and seek. They know full well that the interests of Britain will suffer. We know what

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has happened to their country, how they have suffered and how their industries have been ruined by bombs like V1, V2 and V3. After the war, they will say that first they will put their own house in order. They will say 'You are a subject race. We will give you after we have helped ourselves, after we have rebuilt our homes and hearths'.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: In the end I will say one word about the Honourable the Finance Member. He is not here in his seat. He was getting on fairly well but you saw his conduct today, how he flared up and said that he was not going to reply to supplementary questions, because the war work is on him. Is that the reply to be given? They want as if to sit upon us. Are we their servants or masters as legislators? There are certain other handicaps also but as my time is up I will take another opportunity to discuss them.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the Executive Council is constituted for the benefit of the administration of India and it is only from the point of view whether they are discharging those duties for the benefit of India that I rise to speak on the present motion. Now, Sir, there are various ways in which a country can be governed. It may not only be a democratic government as it is being demanded by us today; it may also be a benevolent bureaucracy, and if there is not even that benevolent bureaucracy in this country, then it is incumbent on us to support this cut motion to refuse supplies. It is often said by the Government that Cripps Mission was sent to India offering to give Indians a larger share in the Government of the country but the Indians refused to accept it. The Government, therefore, was obliged to be run on the old model. But the question is that now that they have sent prominent leaders in the country to the prison, persons who had any voice in the country, could they not come to any terms with the other Parties—the Muslim League and other Parties, whether they be capitalists or labour? The Government, however, selected quite a large number of Indians—prominent Indians—to serve on the Executive Council. Now that might have been considered a step forward. But the question is whether these Members who are Indians, do they really represent the Indian point of view? I say and I maintain that even with the present Government, constituted as it is, we can establish and carry on to a certain extent a government which can be for the benefit of India. But are the present Government Members conducting themselves in such a way as to inspire confidence of the Opposition and act according to their wishes? It is only if they do so, that it can be said that they are acting for the good of Indians. Is it necessary that formal change of Parties should take place before real National Government can be formed? Can there not be an intermediate stage? By intermediate stage, I mean that persons selected should be from among the Indian people who would constitute the Government. Let them be selected by the Government, but they must absolutely act according to the wishes of the elected representatives in this House. Are the present Members of Government prepared to do that? If they are prepared to do that, and if they can do it, then, I, for one, will have no complaint, and I would say that we should not refuse the Grant for the Executive Council. But what do we find? Unfortunately, we find that every one of them works with joint responsibility.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): But have they got joint responsibility?

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: It is very doubtful, because joint responsibility means joint confidence and I am not quite sure whether they enjoy the confidence of each other and whether they know the secrets of each other. Joint responsibility cannot exist without confidence. Now, Sir, are they acting in the interests of India, are they discharging their duties in consultation or in concert with the Opposition parties? We find that we have been crying hoarse against the propaganda that is being carried on against India in America

at the expense of the Indian taxpayer. May I know how a Government can allow and permit one of their own agents who is paid by the Indian taxpayer to carry on a malicious propaganda against Indians in America? Have the Members of the Executive Council ever consulted, in spite of so many questions asked, so many Resolutions discussed and passed in this House, have they ever consulted the Members of the Opposition as to what they should do to meet this adverse propaganda that is being carried on by their own Agents in America? The Members of the Executive Council simply stand up and give cut and dry replies, sometimes having no information, sometimes contradicting them and saying that mere contradiction in the House is sufficient to give wide publicity in the world that what is being said in America is not with the consent of the British Government or of the Government of India. Do the Members of the Executive Council really try to meet the wishes of the Opposition in any Department which they administer? Take the Department of Supplies. We know the amount of extreme corruption that is going on in this department. We know the reign of terror under which we live, these controls and these Defence of India Rules are being actually enforced in a spirit of hostility to every Indian. Matters are so clear, so transparently clear that they must be known to every Member of the Executive Council if they have got any intention to know them or if they care to know them. But we all see that they are absolutely indifferent to what is going on in the country. Even in Delhi, under their very nose, in the name of controls, in the name of permits, a large number of persons are given monopolies; they are allowed to suck the blood of the poor people of this country and deprive them of their employment, deprive them of their food, deprive them of their clothing and they say they are carrying on efficient Government by these controls. Look at the condition of the market? Go to any market? You do not find even long cloth, you do not find muslin which used to be bought easily in the market. Go to any place, you do not find anything available in the markets. The moment any article comes under control order, that very moment it disappears from the market. Sugar has gone out of the market. Anything which the Government touches and brings under control, it disappears from the market. We find that agriculturists in U. P. have been producing large quantities of *gur*. The Government in their wisdom thought it necessary to put a ban on export of *gur* from U. P. to Punjab. In the Punjab, the people are not able to get a *chattack* of *gur*, while in U. P. large quantities of *gur* are rotting and going to waste.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That is not correct.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: If my Honourable friend would only get the latest information about this, he will find that there is ban.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There is no ban on *gur* now.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: The people in U. P. are forced to give their cane to mills, they are forced not to sell their produce at proper rates but only at control rates and when the *gur* season comes in the export of *gur* is prohibited. I can understand a ban being put on export of *gur* in times of scarcity, but you will find that under the present regime in U. P. even though there is a glut of *gur* in the market, the Government has prohibited its export.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There is no ban on export of *gur* at all just now.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Very good, it cannot be just now, because the manufacturing season is only in November and December when the crop will be ready and when persons will have a lot of it in their hand. This ban comes at that time and it is withdrawn at a time when there is nothing to export. I will give an illustration. We appreciate the action of the Railway Member in submitting to the vote of the House in the matter of not increasing the railway fares last year. That is an example which may be followed by other Members of the Executive Council also; if

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they respect the wishes of the opposition they can be a Government which will be for the benefit of India.

Now what about the release of political prisoners? There are all kinds of theoretical reasons which cannot survive the test of a trial, yet they are continuously detaining persons inside the jails. Now when we are winning the war and the war is coming to a close, what is the reason for detaining these persons without trial? Is it that the charges against them are so serious that a trial would mean a great scandal? No; it is the want of evidence which is forcing Government to keep them in detention without trial. It is said they may do a lot of wrong if they are allowed to be outside. But many of them have come outside. Mahatma Gandhi has come out and he was considered to be the originator of all these plans and schemes and it was also thought that his orders would be followed by the whole country. He is outside the jail and he has given indications of his views. It is well known that if any revolutionary or subversive activities are undertaken it will not be done against the wishes of Mahatma Gandhi. Still Mahatma Gandhi has been let out and those who are his followers only are detained. I personally know that persons who had nothing to do with this agitation, once they have been arrested and taken into prison, no one cares whether they are outside the prison or inside. Maulvi Habibur Rahman was the *ex-President* of the Majlis-i-Ahrar. He had some communication with Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai long ago. He was taken into jail; in the hot weather he used to be kept at Montgomery and in the cold weather at Dharamsala in Kangra.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: In short, Sir, the actions of this Government are absolutely guided by a foreign Government which is not acting in the interests of India in any manner whatever; and therefore it is not entitled to get a single pice from the Indian taxpayer to carry on the Government in the way they are doing. Sir, I support the cut motion.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): Sir, I think that when one attacks the whole Government and wishes to abolish the whole of the Executive Council one should base one's case on facts and should at least know what the policy of that Council is. Mr. Abdul Qaiyum condemned the policy of the Government of India of detaining certain persons without trial; but he based his case entirely on slogans. He talked about concentration camps. The slogan of "one vast concentration camp" or "one vast prison-house" is very good, I have no doubt, as propaganda, specially abroad where the facts about this country are not known and cannot be verified. But I think Honourable Members of this House will prefer to base their view on the actual facts and not to be deceived by the slogans. What are the facts? The total number of persons under detention today in this country is 7,500.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): A very small number!

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: My Honourable friend Sardar Sant Singh comments that it is a small number.

Sardar Sant Singh: It is not consistent with the rule of law.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: What sort of people are these 7500? Firstly there are two thousand Bengalis—mostly Calcutta-goondas, whom I do not think it will be in the interest either of Bengal or the country at large to release. Then there are over two thousand Hurs from my Honourable friend Mr. Lalchand Nayalrai's province, who cannot be allowed to be at liberty either. That reduces the number of detenus, who are not either actual or potential ordinary criminals, to about three thousand. Let us examine them. A certain number are detained because they have had dealings with the enemy,—they were either enemy agents or helped enemy agents. A large number are Bengali terrorists. I do not believe that the Honourable Members of this House wish to censure Government for not releasing enemy agents, and I am quite sure

the Government of Bengal would take strong objection to our asking them to release these terrorists.

Then there are a number of other miscellaneous people. The total of these three classes—enemy agents, terrorists and miscellaneous—comes to roughly about 1,500, which leaves us with 1,500 people detained in this country for what one might call political reasons in the ordinary sense of the word. Now, how large a number is that? Let us compare it with the population of this country.

Can you call a country where the number detained is four per million of the population one vast concentration camp? Compare it with the jail population; it represents one per cent. of the jail population. If the jails of this country are full, they are not full of political detenus. Compared with Mrs. Pundit's figure of 18,000, Mrs. Pundit's error of exaggeration is just over 1,000 per cent. That is the danger of slogans.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non (Muhammadian Rural): What about political prisoners convicted?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Now, Sir, why are these people detained and who has detained them? This House is concerned solely with the responsibility of the Governor General in Council, particularly in a motion to censure the Council. Of that number of 1,500—of whom 1,350 were detained owing to the August disturbances—the number detained by the Government of India including Chief Commissioners' provinces is round about 50, the balance being detained by Provincial Governments.

Now, Sir, I am not giving these figures in order to plead that our fault, if it is a fault, is a very small one; nor am I sheltering behind the Provincial Governments. But what I do claim is that if we err we err in good company. Every argument which has been used against our policy can be used also against the policy of Provincial Governments, including the policy of Ministerial Governments.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Allah Bux!

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadian Rural): They are all shaky.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I do not suggest of course for a moment that the Government of India and these Provincial Governments all by accident hit upon the same policy. We consult one another from time to time. Doubtless the Provincial Governments pay considerable attention to the views of the Home Department which receives information from all over the country, but we, on our side, also give great weight to the views of the Provincial Governments.

What sort of a policy is that which we have adopted? What is this one policy? To begin with, it cannot possibly be an anti-Indian policy; it cannot be called part of some sinister anti-Indian conspiracy. If it were, we would not have been supported by Indians responsible for the administration of their provinces, and responsible to their Legislatures and supported by those Legislatures. Nor, Sir, can these people be detained, as I think one Member suggested, because they believe in and would advocate self-Government for India. As far as the League Ministries are concerned, Mr. Jinnah has made it quite clear that one of his main objects is to obtain self-Government as soon as possible, and whatever the difference between the Punjab Government and the League may be, Malik Khizar Hayat Khan has made it quite clear that they are at one on this point. By self-Government I mean self-Government of the Dominion kind—full self-government with the right to secede. Nor, Sir, are these people detained for any opinions they may hold. If, as has been suggested, there is no right of free speech in this country, would Mr. Gandhi be out now, would Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit be allowed to go to the United States? These people are detained simply and solely for what they might do if they were released.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: What will they do?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: A great majority of them either believe in violence openly as a political method or have had associations with those who do.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Others who do not follow violence as a method cannot at once be released *en bloc* as that would very likely create a situation which would facilitate the operation of those who believe in violence.

An Honourable Member: Are you non-violent?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I must ask the Honourable Member not to go on interrupting. Let the Government put forward their case. If the Honourable Members do not want to bear the Government, it is another matter.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: We want the Government to put their case properly.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No Government could afford to take that risk at the present moment. No Government could afford to risk a repetition of what happened in 1942.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: How many people suffered?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): There is the right of free speech in this House.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I quite agree that these people cannot be kept in detention for ever. It does not follow from that that they should all be released immediately—that would be disastrous. For that reason, the Government of India and all the other Provincial Governments have adopted the policy of gradual release which means that we and they release these detenus as rapidly as that can be done consistently with the public safety. Some provinces may be over-rash, some over-cautious. The decision rests entirely with them. They do not even ask us or report to us when they release any one.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Question.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: They decide as to when someone should be released. The pace of release depends, if I may say so, almost entirely on the behaviour of those who have been released. If those who are released behave well and cause no trouble then Provincial Governments are encouraged to release more and more rapidly. If, on the other hand, they cause trouble then Provincial Governments naturally hold their hand. The pace of release is governed almost entirely by the detenus themselves after their release.

I have not the least doubt myself that the policy we are pursuing of gradual release is the correct policy. It is equally clear that it is not an excuse for keeping the maximum number of people in jail. If you take those who were detained in connection with the disturbances in August 1942, the largest number of detenus in jail at any one time in June 1943, was 10,000. Six months later, in January 1944—the number had approximately halved; it was 5,500. Ten months later it had decreased by more than half again; in October 1944, it was 2,000. And on the 1st of February this year, as I have said, it was 1,350. That means that nearly 90 per cent. of those who were in detention only 18 months ago have been released. That has been done without any great disturbance to the law and order of the country. That is the policy which we are following and that is the process which I would ask the House to endorse when they come to vote on this motion.

Sir, I would like to say one word more before I sit down. I should like to pay a tribute to those who have as Ministers been in charge of administration in the Provinces and had to deal with this very difficult and distasteful matter. They have been subject to criticism, wild criticism, ignorant criticism, in the press. They have also been attacked in their own Legislatures, but they have never faltered in what they have considered their duty. I think that it would be disastrous from the point of view of India as a whole if any vote given in this House today could be interpreted, as even by implication, showing lack of appreciation of what these people have done. Sir, I oppose the motion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I can not congratulate my Honourable friend the Home Member on his frivolous attitude in regard to the manner in which our people have been kept as detenus. He was telling the House how at six months interval their numbers have been reduced. I was offering him the other day in our private conversation advice that it would be a good thing indeed if these people were kept in jails for at least six months so that they would be able to know the pains and the rigours of it. The Honourable Member does not seem to realize that there is what is known as humanity. Of course he cannot realize it, because he forms a part of the Government of which that Member, who spoke on behalf of Government for Tribal Areas, also forms a part. We were told that this Government will continue to bomb from air with or without notice those tribal areas just on some sort of a pretext that they have eloped with a woman or kidnapped a girl. There was a time in 1935 when there was no such charge made at all against these tribal people and yet they were being bombed from the air and that was the first time anywhere in the civilised world where aerial bombardment was resorted to in the case of civilian population. It was Mussolini who followed in the footsteps of the Government of India; it was not the Government of India who followed in the footsteps of Mussolini. And yet this Government has the cheek to say that it is fighting Fascism, Nazism, Hitler and Tojo. It is true to say that those people have only been following the soiled footsteps of this Government as well as its master, the British Government. Sir, I find that on every score there is enough reason and more to condemn this Government. My Honourable friend there began to take to task Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit for having given the number as 60,000 to 70,000.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Even Mrs. Pandit only went to the length of 18,000.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari was asking him for the number of all those political prisoners behind the bars and the Honourable Member would not give that information. And why? For very good reason, because their number is very much more. All these people have been kept there for all these years and some will be kept for more than 20 years on account of charges put up by the police who were let loose on the country in the troubled months of 1940. This country has been turned into an enlarged prison house.

My Honourable friend, Sir Sultan Ahmed, who deals in nine-tenths of false propaganda in America and other countries has nothing to say. If he were a responsible Minister he would have been driven out of his office within twenty-four hours for the villainous propaganda that he has allowed his agents to carry on in America against this country and Mahatma Gandhi. It was this Government who was responsible for saying that Mahatma Gandhi was a Japanese agent. It was after two years of adverse propaganda against our people by a few friends of the Government of this country in America that Amery was forced to admit that this Government had never charged Mahatma Gandhi as being a Japanese agent.

Now, what has this Food Minister done for the country? One Member has called him not a Minister for Food but for Starvation, and it is actually a fact. The other day so many of our Members were angry with this Government because the Finance Minister was giving power to some people to enter into our houses. But what is happening in the seven lakhs of our village homes? Your officials are going into those homes and breaking open the locks to the doors with pistols and molesting our womenfolk and taking away their grain. When a question was put here to find out whether enough grain would be left for the peasants, we were informed that they would be permitted to have only three months grain. What was going to happen for the next nine months? Were they expected to go into the black-market?

Coming to the Emigration Department, even while the House was in Session to discuss the department's failure to give satisfaction to this House in relation to South Africa, the High Commissioner was being permitted to go to South Africa. When the Honourable Member in charge was asked questions about

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him, he said he was not sure where the High Commissioner was, nor could he say whether he was really on his journey to South Africa. But that gentleman has actually gone to South Africa. What can he do? The Honourable Member has not sufficient power to give any sort of effective relief to our own people.

Then I come to the Law Member. What has he been doing while all the agents of this Government have been misinterpreting the Defence of India Rules and persecuting the masses. Here sits the Law Member without making any sort of move to remove the various anomalies brought to the notice of this Government by the Federal Court, not to speak of other Courts, instead of coming up here with the necessary legislative counter-proposals.

Then there is the Planning Member and he has been raising false hopes in the hearts of our people that this Government was going to do important things. This house has passed a Resolution. We asked this Member whether he was going to accept that Resolution. He had the temerity to say, No. And why? Because he was not allowed to speak. That is the frivolous nature of this Government. But there is the more important reason behind him: because the mail fist of the Finance Member has come out. The Finance Member has said that post-war planning must be post-war planning and there shall not be any anticipation of it during the course of this war. And yet he continues to be a Planning Member. I know the Planning Member does not care for the money he gets. There is some sort of glory about the position. But what sort it is I do not know. I would have thought that he would have been completely unconcerned about glory, but unfortunately he happens to be a former member of the Indian Civil Service. Poor fellow, in those days he could not rise to the position of an Executive Councillor. Now that he has the satisfaction of rising to that post, we hope he will go out once we pass this motion.

I now come to Industries and Civil Supplies. There is the gentleman who assures us inside and outside the House. I am impressed with his earnestness but I must condemn him for not being able to persuade the British Government to yield to our demands that it is not civil consumers' goods that we want in return for our sterling securities but capital goods: and he has not been able to prevent the importation of these so-called special experts into this country. There have been streams of them.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): They do not require any license!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But you are a part of this Government and an evil combination of it. We are told that he is in charge of civil supplies. What sort of supplies are there available? He wants us to be satisfied that the price of cotton cloth has been brought down to 75 from the peak figure of 1943. But how was it reached? Was it not reached by the Civil Supplies Department when it was still in existence? It was allowed to be reached because the Finance Member wanted to command the financial resources of the masses through the bottle-neck of the millowners. They were profiteering but they were condemned for very much more than they deserved because most of their profits went to pay their excess profits tax. You were absorbing 100 per cent of that. First of all make out a case against the millowners before you can condemn them for profiteering and black marketing.

Then to the Supplies Department. I have already told the House that the Supplies Department is another name for bribery department. It is growing like anything. It is under the aegis of the Supply Department that the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation has been allowed to commandeer our resources, take goods away at the cheapest price and sell them at the highest rates and also establish trading goodwill and other contacts.

Then I come to the Finance Member.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is 1-30 p.m. now. You had better continue your speech after Lunch.

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.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Mr. Deputy President, coming to the Finance Member I have to say that he appears to be a very honest and sincere man but his honesty and sincerity have served a very good purpose so far as England is concerned but have proved very bad so far as this country is concerned. Sir, he has impoverished our masses, he has impoverished our villages. He has only enriched the Americans and the British. I am not here to say that he has enriched himself, because in that respect he seems to be an honest man. I am rather more afraid of such people. They disguise the continued drain that they have been carrying on of our economic resources in favour of their own country, that is, England. He is like Lord Irwin. He also posed as a Sadhu. He also let our country down at a most historic moment in her history.

The Honourable the Finance Member has introduced a new element into our taxation system, that is commodity taxes and through that he has been impoverishing our agricultural masses. Only the other day I was touched to see agricultural peasants and landless people shedding tears, because when they went to buy *bidies* and cheapest possible cigarettes they found that the cost had gone up, thanks to his tobacco tax. Similarly he has introduced the betel nut tax and other taxes and he envisages, he advises that our future finance ministers also should develop this commodity taxation. I am here, Sir, to protest very vehemently against that kind of attitude. The Finance Member considers that the system of commodity taxation must be developed and he is not at all ashamed of the growing regressive character of the taxation system. He has been draining our resources to America and England. The *Eastern Economist*, a very able weekly, has made it perfectly clear how the Finance Member and the other Members of the Government of India have conspired among themselves to insist that our commodities like jute should be sold to America and England at a much lower price than the purchasing power parity of the whole of the world. Similarly they have been trying to import consumers' goods into this country from now on. I have got the information which was given in the other house only yesterday, from which it is clear that they are allowing retailers in this country to add as much as 100 to 150 per cent more to the cost price at which the foreign goods have been bought from England. What is the idea behind it. It is that they want to build up their trade again for British goods to be sold in this country. In all our markets, they know that before the war began the British business was losing its trade and they now want to regain that trade. And the Honourable Member comes here and says "Oh, I am importing all these commodities in order to lower the pressure of inflation". He creates the inflation. He then goes to England and makes what is known as the Financial Settlement with Great Britain and pretends that he is getting by it a *quid pro quo* for all the sales that we are making to England and America. But by this the Honourable Member has arranged for a very quick and rapid impoverishment of this country. All our goods are being sold to England and America. We have to sell these things and our people are obliged to pay higher and higher prices as a result of it and there is this mounting inflation. He is not prepared to stop this inflation but he says in answer to questions from my Honourable friend Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad that he is trying to stabilise prices. How does he propose to do it? By keeping down agricultural prices and thus keeping down the agricultural masses also and by not controlling the prices of industrial and commercial goods and by importing industrial goods and commercial services from England and America? This is how he has been impoverishing our country and draining away our country's resources.

Coming to the question of colour prejudice, my Honourable friend was saying this morning that there was no racial discrimination at all. I say that this

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is a Colonial Government. It is a racial Government. It is for the benefit of Great Britain that this country is being governed.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Your time is up.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: England has not suffered half as much as India has suffered in sufferings and casualties, though England has been the scene of war; India has not been the scene of war, because India happens to be a colonial country. The British soldiers in the defence forces are paid thrice and four times what is paid to the Indian troops and this racial discrimination is being carried on under the very aegis of the Honourable the Finance Member. I am therefore here to dissent very strongly from the policy of the Honourable the Finance Member and to support this motion.

(Both Dr. P. N. Banerjee and the Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare stood up.)

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Under the convention only if Dr. Banerjee agrees can I call Dr. Khare to speak.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am a critic,—sometimes a stern and severe critic,—of Government's policy. But I have no personal quarrel with any Member of the Executive Council, whether Indian or British, although I want the Indian Members of the Executive Council to cast away their inferiority complex, to be more assertive as to the rights of Indians and to stand forth as the true representatives of the people of India. At the same time I want the British Members to curb their superiority complex and be more alive to their sense of duty to India, which has done so much for Britain during the last 200 years.

Sir, I have some grievances of a public nature against the Members of the Viceroy's Executive Council. My first grievance is that these Members of the Executive Council have placed a huge burden of taxation on this country. My second grievance is that they have placed a very large burden of debt on the shoulders of the poor people of India. My third grievance is that they have been a party to the adoption and continuance of a policy of inflation which has proved disastrous to the country and has resulted in a devastating famine in Bengal and scarcities in other Provinces and has caused an inordinate rise in prices throughout the country. Fourthly, my grievance is that they have not been able to modify the inequitable financial settlement regarding the allocation of the cost of war between Britain and India and to place it on a fair, just and reasonable basis. Fifthly, they have failed to safeguard the economic interests of the country. Sixthly, they have failed to prevent racial discrimination against Indians in the other parts of the Empire and the Commonwealth. Seventhly, they have kept in detention large numbers of men and women in the country without trial for a long time. Eighthly and lastly, they have failed to resolve the political deadlock in this country.

Now, Sir, if my Honourable friends, the Members of the Executive Council, are able to convince me that these grievances of mine are ill-founded, or if they are able to show that they are not responsible in these matters, then I am prepared to vote against this motion; otherwise, I shall consider it my duty to support the motion.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare (Member for Commonwealth Relations): Sir, I would not have stood up to oppose this cut motion had a full-fledged national Government responsible to the people been in sight. We have been asked by certain Honourable Members to state categorically our views in this matter.

An Honourable Member: Nobody asked.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: You have asked.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: We have asked, let us see the answer.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Therefore, in answer to that query I want to state here categorically that I am behind nobody in this country in my desire to have a full-fledged national Government responsible to the people here and now. I wish it was in my power to bring it about, but as it is not so, I cannot help it.

We are charged with bringing about a constitutional muddle. This is a wrong interpretation of history. Sir, we are not responsible for the constitutional muddle. We are here because the Opposition Members indulged in a constitutional muddle. That is the real fact. Sir, I have told on a former occasion to this House that in this drama of wilderness Bharata is willing to offer the crown at the feet of Rama when he comes back from Lanka after slaying Ravana and rescuing Sita. Bharata is prepared to do it as his duty. But, Sir, if Rama comes back to Ayodhya for the throne from the wilderness without even going to Lanka, either from Madras or from Wardha or from Bombay, and if there is nothing to his credit excepting the doubtful and uncertain friendship with the Monkey-God Hanuman, then Bharata is entitled to revise his part in the drama. Therefore, Sir, I am bound to oppose this motion.

It has been said that we are irresponsible, that we are irremovable—it is a fact. We are here under the Act of 1919. We are not responsible for that Act at all. This is the best legal defence one can offer against this charge.

As regards the other charges that have been levelled against us, I believe in the dictum that the best form of defence is attack. I want to ask, Sir, whether this motion, which has been moved today, is a part of the programme for the fight for freedom. Are those who are responsible for this motion sincere about it. If this motion is carried, according to the best canons of political practice, it is clearly the duty of the Opposition to go to the country and start a no-tax campaign and a non-violent or a violent revolution. Are they prepared for it? I am sure they are not. Therefore, it is absurd for them to press this motion today. But they will not desist from that. Therefore, I doubt the motives behind this motion. What is their programme after this motion is carried? They say there is such a thing as the constructive programme; but it has been before the country for a generation; and yet it is supposed to be new lead for the country; I cannot understand this. It seems to me that the constructive programme is like marrying a barren woman.

The other part of the programme is demagoguery in the open and intrigues in the secret. We are aware of these from press reports, rumours and otherwise. It was in the middle ages that palace intrigues were the springboard of political action. We are rather far advanced now, and democracy demands that all these political manoeuvres should be placed before the public and their verdict obtained. There is no place for secrecy at all. But they do not care either for democracy or for freedom.

Then, Sir, much has been said about the four freedoms. Here I myself have said once that before these four freedoms can be obtained there should be a freedom from humbug. They do not care either for freedom of thought or freedom of expression. When I began to give expression to my views, they victimised me. Here in my person you behold a live victim of Non-violent Nazism.

Sir, this country has gone through various storms. Recently we have been through one. The storm of war has also practically blown over. Where were my forgotten brothers then? They were not here. They have come back to the scene again after the storm has blown over just like a rainbow with its varied splendour called Vibgyor, and in their imitation whiteness all these colours from V to R—green implies jealousy, yellow jaundice, red revolution—are present, and I do not wonder how they can change their ground like quick change artists. There was a time when they called out "Quit India"—"Chale jao". Now, there is a time when they say instead of "Quit India", "Give jobs". In Hindi it means from "*E chale jao*" to "*Hujur nokri deo*". A cynic may call it, a fall from the sublime to the ridiculous; but because I am a gentleman, I will not say so; but a cynic may say that. I am constrained to say that all these manoeuvres are not for any programme of freedom at all. It is only a game of power politics—palace intrigues for power politics. Intrigues started under the shade of tamarind trees in the Hardinge Avenue; then they entered into the Purana Kila, into its dark cellars; here they evolved

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some sort of a scheme or Jantar Mantar and went on to King's Way, where I am afraid these intrigues will meet their *kerbala*. They have begun under the shade of tamarind trees and as the poet says, *Imli se dant khatte hoten hain*, are bound to come to sour end. We are quite willing to go out, but the Government expected to replace us as a result of this palace intrigue will be, I am sure, as much or as little national as we are; then how are we better; we may be worse. I would like to remind the House that there was a time last year when we were likened to *chaprassis*: the liveries were once very ugly; but after some time, at least to some people they have now become very attractive. It is no use beating about the bush. I will come straight to the point. I would like to ask this House whether they believe that this war should be won and won quickly and it is in the interests of India to win this war or not. If they believe that it is so, then they must vote against the motion. If they believe it is not so, then they can do what they like. I will say why. Because yesterday a member of the Opposition spoke and said that "this war is not of our seeking, and we are not going to support or finance it". He has said so definitely.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Not yesterday: it must be the day before.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Yes; I will mention the name if you want it. The fact of the matter is that there is no use denying the fact that the Congress has been against the war efforts: it is on account of that that they left this House five years ago. They cannot deny that. I must say that the Congress is willing to hurt and hold enough to strike. But the Muslim League organizationally is willing to hurt and afraid to strike. That makes no difference, so far as the actual war efforts are concerned.

There was a reference in the debate to concentration camps. I do not want to say anything about it, because it has been replied to by the Member concerned; but the fact remains—and I want to tell this House definitely—that the very first arrest under the D.I.R. was made by a Congress Prime Minister in Madras in the person of Mr. B. Srinivasa Rao, a Congress socialist, a member of the All-India Congress Committee; and if that same procedure is adopted by this Government, who is to blame? Then, they cavil at nominated Members, and say we have got a packed house, and this and that. I want also to say that my Honourable friend Dr. Rajan, who was here before, and who was not an elected member of the Madras Legislature, was taken into the ministry by the Madras Prime Minister after securing his nomination through the Governor; and when asked by the party why he was employing back door methods, he said, "No; it is not back door but he has come through the window". So, there is nothing to choose. What is the difference? You started the joke.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): You have come through the black hole!

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: This phenomenon is common to all. To make a long story short: I have been attacked on the issue of South Africa. I will simply read to the House, with your permission, Sir, three or four lines of a press cutting I have got. This is from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, a Congress paper.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal: Landholders): No; question.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: . . . dated the 23rd February 1945. It says, it is from "Our Nagpur Office":

"I cannot forget the way in which Dr. Khare, the Member for Commonwealth Relations, has tried to solve the South African problem; he has tried to solve it with great bravery and great self-respect. How can I forget that?" Said Mahatma Gandhi in the course of an interview to Mr. Harkare, the Secretary of the Capital Punishment Relief Society."

They call it bogus. I do not care; nor do I care for his certificates. My conscience is my only guide. That is all. But I want to tell them that Mahatma Gandhi, the great mighty atom of which they are all electrons, or

if I may say so, the great resplendent comet of which they are the tails, has said this. Sir, I oppose.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Deputy President, the motion which has been moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, is intended to express lack of confidence in the Government of India as it is constituted today. This would not be the first time when it would be demonstrated that whatever anybody else may say, but so far as the peoples of India are concerned, they have no confidence, no respect, for the present Government of India. I have listened very carefully to the speech of the Honourable Dr. Khare. Sir, no royal court is complete without its jester, and the Executive Council of His Excellency the Viceroy of India would be incomplete without Dr. Khare. In the olden days, those who had the privilege of being appointed as court jesters were men of intelligence and wit. But the days are changed now. The Honourable Member's logic is indeed peculiar to himself. He says that if we pass this motion of no confidence or refusal of supplies to the Government we should go out and preach a campaign of non-payment of rents. I am afraid I do not see any logic in it.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: It wants intelligence to do so.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I am afraid it does because anything which is abstruse and is only intelligent to the Honourable Member himself would be ununderstandable by any intelligent person. He has taken shelter for his presence in this House under the Government of India Act of 1919; but he is not willing, he is not prepared to give this side of the House the privileges which are embodied in the Government of India Act of 1919. Are not the Members of this House entitled to express their lack of confidence in the Governor General's Council without going into the country and preaching a campaign of non-payment of rent? From where has he got this idea? Is he aware—can he point out a single instance where in any country if the Legislature has passed a vote of non-confidence in the Executive, its Members have gone out into the country preaching non-payment of taxes? From where has he got this idea? It does not exist in any constitution and it does not exist in any country in this world. Sir, the Honourable Member talked of sincerity. I think he should have been the last person to do so, because it is very fresh still in the memory of every Honourable Member of this House—the statement that he made to a press representative wherein he stated that he had accepted the Executive Councilorship because he wanted a job. So, I do not know how he can accuse the Members on this side of being not sincere, when on his own admission his motive for accepting the Executive Councilorship was anything but sincere or patriotic. Sir, the Honourable Member has pleaded for freedom from humbug. Well, he enjoys freedom for humbug. He has had a fling at the Muslim League which I think ill-became him, because one of his colleagues, the Honourable the Home Member had paid a tribute in his speech to the Muslim Leaguers who were in power in the various Provinces. He had paid a tribute to those ministries who had taken the responsibility and have not shirked their duty and yet his colleague comes forward and accuses the Muslim League of being willing to hurt but afraid to strike. The Muslim League is not afraid to strike and let me tell him that when the Muslim League decides to strike it will not be a blow of the type which the Government of India have received in the past. Mussalmans do not believe in going to jails. Mussalmans believe in either killing or being killed. He knows nothing about sacrifice. He thinks that because he has been to jail once to get some kudos therefore he is the only one who can strike. We know how to strike and we know when to strike. Sir, the Honourable Member has quoted some statement which is purported to have been made by Mr. Gandhi. In one breath, he accuses Mr. Gandhi and his movement for all sorts of things, and in another breath he wants to take credit from some utterances which might have been made by him.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have already said I do not care for the chits.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: He does not care for the chits but he is shrewd enough to mention them on the floor of this House so that the world at large may know that whatever Dr. Khare is doing is really receiving the blessing of the peoples of India. The peoples of India know what Dr. Khare has been doing. The people of India know to their shame and sorrow of the ill-treatment which Indians have been receiving in South Africa, without Dr. Khare turning a hair about it. The people of India know how he has been flouting the opinion of 400 millions of this country and yet he has the audacity to come forward and produce a chit in his defence.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: And talk of sincerity.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I am sorry my Honourable friend Sir Olaf Caroe is not present in the House. While replying to a charge of air bombing of civilians in the Tribal areas that was made by my Honourable friend Mr. Abdul Qaiyum he stated—I have got his words written down—I repeat that I am not in the least penitent that the air arm should be used. This statement is at par with the evidence of General Dyer after the massacre at Jallianwala Bagh. General Dyer had stated that if the troops had had more ammunition they would have continued firing on the defenceless people who had collected there. It shows, Mr. Deputy President, that Britishers in this country today—and I say it deliberately because your actions are proving that—are as bad where Indians are concerned, where Indian lives are concerned, as General Dyer was in 1919. He defends the act of bombing of unarmed civilians, women and children from the air for certain criminal offences they may have committed and yet the Honourable Member says that the people living in the Tribal areas are not British subjects but they are British protected persons. God help those poor people from such protection, which takes the form of throwing bombs from the air on innocent women and children and destroying their homes in their hundreds. Sir, any one with any decency and with any human feelings would feel ashamed that this mighty British Government should resort to such methods but not the Honourable Secretary for External Affairs.

Mr. Deputy President, my Honourable friend Sir Sultan Ahmed when speaking on a similar motion last year stated that the political parties had refused to join the Executive Council, and the Viceroy therefore did the best he could under the circumstances by proceeding with his original plans of expansion and appointing to the Executive Council public men standing aloof from the main parties. Sir, my Honourable friend's statement is not quite correct. I know at least one political party, I mean the Muslim League, did not refuse to share the responsibility and the burden for the successful prosecution of this war. It refused to accept—as any decent man would refuse to accept—the position of camp followers of the British Government. It wanted equal position as co-partners in a common enterprise and because Lord Linlithgow, the then Viceroy, was not able to offer those terms to the Muslim League, therefore as a self-respecting party it had no other course open to it but to refuse that offer. After that my Honourable friend says—I would not give the quotation but I think he can refresh his memory by reading his own speech—that it was through the efforts of this Government that an Indian had found a place on the War Cabinet. I have paraphrased him correctly, because I have got his speech in front of me. I would like to know who is the person in the War Cabinet today? Is it because the Indian who was sent there was found not a very docile person? Or is it because the British found that the Indian was useless. It may be either of the two things. Will the Honourable Member give explanation to this House as to why this great achievement of this Executive Council does not exist any longer? Why there is no Indian on this War Cabinet today and there has not been one for a very long time. Then, my Honourable friend justified his own existence and that of his other Indian colleagues on the grounds that they were doing a national job of work. I think it must have been on account of this that the present Government of India has been described by His Excellency the Governor

General as a National Government. He said they are a National Government because they are doing a national job of work. Now, Mr. Deputy President, this definition again is at par with the definition that is given by Japan to the Burma Government. Japan also says the same, that the Government of Burma is a National Government because it is doing a national job of work. To me, Mr. Deputy President, only that Government can be called legitimately and honestly a National Government that has the support, the good will and the co-operation of the peoples of that particular country. Unless the Government is that, it cannot by any stretch of language be described as a National Government. All that I would say is, give up these pretensions why do you want by such phrases to deceive the world at large, because do not think that the world at large consists of fools, and that you are the only wise people in this land. The world at large knows that the present Government of India has neither the backing, nor the good will, nor the co-operation of the peoples of this country. I do not cast any reflection, as I said on the last occasion on the honour of Honourable Members who are Executive Councillors. But they would certainly recognise that we on this side of the House are entitled to express on the floor of this Assembly the opinion which the people in this country hold about the present Government of India. Some of my Honourable friends who supported this motion referred to the misdeeds, the sins of commission and commission of the various Departments of the Government of India. They are indeed too many to be related in a few hours. Every Department of the Government of India is not only inefficiently managed, but in some cases its activities have proved a curse to the people of this country. What is the use of your sitting in your office and passing certain ordinances and orders without knowing and without appreciating the effect of those orders and those ordinances? Sir, the whole policy that has been followed during the last few years has been responsible for a great deal of misery to the people of this country. I do not want—it is not my intention at least in this debate to refer in detail to all that. You can ask any Indian you like—I am not talking of an Indian of the type of some of the Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches, I am talking of an Indian who does not want jobs, I am talking of an Indian who does not want contracts, I am talking of an Indian who really wants to live in peace and pursue his normal life in the country—go and ask any Indian, and you will hear a long tale of woe. Even in the army, and I am making this statement with a full sense of responsibility in the hope that this Government, bad as it is, in their own interest, in the interest of this war, may be able to take some action which may prove useful in the future, even in the Army, your Indian officers are most dissatisfied with the treatment which they are receiving. It is not confined, mind you, to any particular community. People have approached me, those who have gone and fought for you on the battle-fronts of this war, they have told me—Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians—they have told me of the shabby treatment which is being meted out to Indian officers in the army. I would request the Government and tell them: do not at least treat those people who are shedding their blood, who are mingling their blood with yours to fight for the preservation of British Commonwealth of Nations, at least treat them with such decency, with such humanity, and with such justice that they may not have this rancour in their hearts. Sir, I again repeat what I have said does not apply to any one individual. What I have said applies to the Government of India collectively and I say that the present Government of India have failed completely in the purpose for which the present expansion had taken place. Sir, I support the motion which has been moved.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Supply Member): Mr. Deputy President, this is the sixth occasion when I have had an opportunity of listening to a debate on a motion of this kind trying to abolish the Executive Council. There were previous occasions when I must confess that there were more tangible reasons put forward than have been put forward in the course of this debate. The discussion has gone away because in fundamental principles there is a difference between the point of view which my

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Honourable friends opposite have and the point of view which any Government functioning at the present time and any set of Members sitting on the Treasury Benches here must have. Sir, I do not want to import any heat into this discussion at all. It was my Honourable friend opposite who suggested that whatever may be said by Honourable Members opposite, however wild accusations they may make, however much they may lose their temper, the Members on the Treasury Benches had always to sit calm, cool and collected and ought not to lose their tempers at all. For my part, and on the present occasion, I confine myself to the present occasion, I propose to follow that advice. What is the gravamen of the charges that have been brought against the Executive Council or the Government of India? It springs, does it not—we have heard a great deal about humbug, straightforwardness and frankness—it springs, does it not from the fact that Honourable Members do not like the existing Government?

"I do not like thee, Dr. Fell
The reason why I cannot tell
This I know and know full well,
I do not like thee, Dr. Fell."

I do not think that there has been any more serious reason than that. The fact is that they want to have a type of Government—I can understand that—a Government which is responsible, a Government which can be turned out, a Government, as they say, which has the backing of the elected element of the House. I do not quarrel with that. All of us want to have that sort of Government. But when they try to put the blame on this Government for not bringing into existence such a Government, I think they are very wide of the mark indeed. And I should like to refer to one point which has been made by more than one speaker—my Honourable friend Dr. Banerjee for instance—that this Government has done nothing, that the Members of Government have done nothing, to resolve the political deadlock. Now, Sir, this phrase "political deadlock" has been so often used that it seems sometimes it is not properly understood. Taking it in any sense in which any speaker may use it, I think I can appeal to the knowledge that most Members of this House must possess that this Government as a united body, that individual Members of this Government, have time and again tried to do what they can to resolve the political deadlock. (Interruption by Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.) I hope I shall have the courtesy of a patient and quiet hearing because while I am not afraid of interruptions I think they will take me away from my theme in the short time that I have at my disposal. Is it not a fact that since 1940 suggestion after suggestion has been made by individual members who are Members of this Government, by organised groups in this Government, by the Council as a whole, to resolve this political deadlock? I shall not refer to all the steps that have been taken; some have not been liked by one section, others have not been liked by another section; some did not come up to the expectations of some people at some time, others have not come up to the expectation of other people at other times. The proposals which were once anathema have become a little more reasonable as time has passed on. But to suggest that no effort has been made by either individual Members of the Government or by this Government as a whole to resolve what has been said to be a political deadlock and to bring into existence a Government more in keeping with the wishes of Honourable Members opposite—let me put it at that and no higher—to suggest that no steps have been taken is to wipe out all past memory which individual Members opposite must have on this subject.

Now, Sir, I will refer to only one other matter before I come to specific charges that have been made. A great deal has been said about propaganda in America. My Honourable friend the Leader of the House who is specially in charge of this subject may have to deal with that, and I hope he will; but

I should like to relate one personal experience. I was in America for over two months in the early months of 1943. I went about lecturing at various places; I put forward what I considered to be the point of view of the Government of India,—I do not put it any higher than that. Some of those speeches have been printed and circulated in America by American Foreign Relations Councils, not by the British Information Office, not by any agency functioning under the Agent General of the Government of India. I ask my Honourable friends, in fairness to myself, to take any of those printed speeches and to find one word there of abuse, of even severe criticism of any of the Honourable Members opposite or their leaders. I was in a foreign country, representing my Government and my country. Every Indian was sacred to me. Whatever differences we had were here in our own country, and I refused to be a party to saying one unsavoury word or phrase about any person, whatever my differences may be with that person. Just contrast that with the sort of propaganda that is going on by certain of the splendid representatives of the Party opposite at the present time. Look at the way in which Indians have been maligned simply because they do not agree with your views, ridiculed simply because they do not conform to your wishes, held up in the blackest of colours simply because you and I in this country cannot come to an agreement over such issues. That is the propaganda that has been going on. That propaganda is sufficient to bring India into disrepute; that propaganda is sufficient to make the Americans feel that Indians do not deserve self-Government; that is the propaganda against which one has to fight if one has a real love for the country. I should like to say this in all sincerity. Heresy-hunting is never profitable; religion has never advanced because of heresy-hunting, and political heresy-hunting will never bring about that unity which all of us are striving for. If people go about calling traitors those who do not agree with them, you are not going to have a national Government for the next one hundred years. There must be a common platform where most people must be considered to be as good patriots in advancing the cause of our own country, in advancing the cause of self-Government, in admitting our people to that stature which is necessary so that we may be in the same position as other people in other countries. A certain minimum of assumptions on this subject is required, and during the last 25 years it is because all those who are not in agreement with you were said to be not only against you but against the country, because you have treated them as traitors, the differences and divergences are widening in ever-widening circles. And I appeal to my Honourable friends opposite to take this lesson from that that while they may have the most severe criticism of men, of policies, of measures, common factors of all Indians of any self-respect, there must be the basic assumption that they are as good patriots as any that can be found inside the jails or outside them, in the Benches opposite or in the less comfortable Benches on this side.

Now, Sir, I will come, in the few minutes at my disposal, to one or two questions that have been raised in the course of the debate. I do not know whether I shall have time to deal with them, but I should like to deal with only one particular point. The Honourable the Finance Member both in the general discussion on the budget and now in the course of this discussion has been held up as the one tyrant here who has done all sorts of things to the detriment of the country. I hope I shall have a full opportunity of paying my meed of tribute to my Honourable colleague. It is not usual amongst us for one colleague to praise another in public. But this is an exceptional occasion when my Honourable colleague is shortly leaving us, and I do not think any tribute that I may pay to him will be misunderstood. In the first place I should like to state that the Honourable the Finance Member is not the one person who decides the policies, that every one of these questions comes before the Governor General in Council, that the whole Executive Council does take and must take the responsibility for these measures; and it is quite unfair, in fact and in theory, to put all the blame on the Finance Member. If he has introduced measures, if he has put forward proposals, if there has been inflation in

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this country, and if certain measures have been taken which have tended to oppress the poorer sections of the people, the whole blame must be shared by every one of us, and there is no point in trying to blame the Finance Member only for them. I think that is a cardinal fact; I say it as a fact and not merely as a political theory that in these matters the Finance Member is not the only person that can be blamed. And, Sir, let me say this. I have been his colleague for six years; I have watched every one of his financial proposals. I do not suggest that there have not been differences of opinion amongst us; but I do suggest,—both as Commerce Member and as Supply Member, I perhaps have had more to do with the Finance Member than most other Members of Council—I do suggest this for serious consideration. I know there are whispers outside of gentlemen well in the public eye, who say that the Finance Member has after all done well by this country. And I do suggest that it does not require a historian of the future but any one who has taken an intelligent interest in the current affairs of the country will say that on the whole the Finance Member has dealt with this country as if it was his own country. I want to say this quite emphatically and categorically. (Interruption by Mr. Manu Subedar.) The Honourable Member from Bombay who has been flitting about the House, who has been for five years absenting himself and has not got even the credit of being an honoured guest of the Government of India cannot come here and say that the finances of the country have been mismanaged, when he has not done his duty either by his constituency or by himself. I shall not pursue the Honourable Member further. As I said, he has not got even the credential of having that highly valued certificate which other Members value in his Party, of having been guests of the Government of India.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau; Indian Commerce): I am not a collaborator.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The whole issue about inflation, about the various measures that have been taken, about defence charges, etc., is warped by this one consideration, and one of my Honourable colleagues has referred to it. Honourable Members opposite, to this day, do not consider that this country is at war; Honourable Members do not consider to this day that it is at war along with the Allied nations; and if that is the fundamental hypothesis on which they are basing their criticism, it is no wonder that their point of view must be radically different from the point of view of those who occupy these Benches. We are aware that we are in this

4 P.M. war.—Never mind, it is another issue altogether whether the Assembly should have been consulted or should not have been consulted,—it is a fact that this country is at war. You cannot escape from that, and if it is at war, certain essential methods have to be adopted, certain essential measures have to be adopted which are inescapable and those are the measures that have been adopted by this Government. You may say that owing to inefficiency, bad administration, want of staff, whatever reason you may put forward, the measures that have been adopted have so worked that it has caused hardship here and there. Which country is there in this world today which has been and is at war where people of one section or another have not complained of the way in which bureaucratic rules and administration have caused hardship on them?

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: You are at war with the people.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: An excellent sentiment that I am at war with the people. That is a sort of argument, Mr. Deputy President, which will not advance the cause of the political freedom of the country by a hair's breadth. The Honourable Member talks of my being at war with the people when he is fully aware that for five years I stood at my post and tried to do what I can to defend the interests of my country, I stood at my post to defend the interests of my countrymen . . .

An Honourable Member: No.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: My Honourable friends who have been in the wilderness, who have allowed the Government to be run without bringing to their notice at the proper time any criticism that they have thought of, they are not the persons to talk of the liberties of the people, they are not the persons to talk of the economic interests of the people which they have woefully neglected.

Sir, I began by saying that it was not my intention to warm myself up and to deal with points which I feel are not relevant. I say in all sincerity that Honourable Members opposite should appreciate that some Government must exist in this country! So long as it is not possible for an agreement to be arrived at with the Parties opposite to replace this Government by another Government—it is no use indulging in mere nihilism—that is not good, this is not good, something else is not good and I am not able to take your place, that is an attitude of infructuousness which is prevailing in the minds of Honourable Members opposite—neither this Government nor individuals in this Government can be blamed. Mr. Deputy President, I would only close on one note. I intended to refer to other matters that have been referred to, but perhaps I may have an opportunity on the Finance Bill where I dare say these things will be thrashed out in greater deal, to refer to my own department and some criticism that has been made about that department. I could only say this that if Honourable Members are anxious to bring into existence a Government which they like better, none will stand in their way provided they are quite clear themselves, that they have come to some understanding among themselves, that they are able to run this Government on the basis of that understanding and it is not common hatred that joins Parties up and makes for cut motions being carried but something more substantial, something more positive, something that inheres them together more solidly than the mere hatred of any particular officials or Government or Council. If that is predicated—and I hope it will be predicated and I hope all the rumours that I am hearing and all the things that I read in newspapers—some of them inspired, some of them most uninspiring—that all these are correct and will evolve into something tangible, and in that case nobody will be happier than myself to give my place to those who want to occupy this seat.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to support the cut motion which has been made before this House. It has been said that the aggressive declaration of patriotism is, I believe, the last argument of an unpatriotic person, for it is obvious that if it were so true it did not require the declaration of the last speaker before this House. It is a matter of sincere regret to me that people have been put forward here—my two Honourable friends—to deflect the course of debate by pretending something which we never intend to say.

The motion before this House is extremely straightforward. There are two facts which are not in doubt—that those who sit on this side of the House represent the three-hundred odd millions of electors of this country, and it is equally a fact that those who sit there represent nobody except themselves and it is no use every time saying 'Oh, yes. I am as good a patriot as you, but nobody has confidence in me', and confidence, after all, is the real measure of patriotism in any democratic country in this world. Therefore, I think the less we speak about personal elements in this House the better so far as the other side are concerned, because they cannot claim more, for I am aware that in reference to most of them—and I am excluding perhaps the European Members because I am not quite aware of their secrets—that as regards most of them many of their own members of their own families do not agree with them, so that you might be quite certain that whether our struggle is based on means and resources which you may or may not approve, the fact that we struggle for the freedom of the country is a fact that cannot be denied. You may deride it, or,

[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai]

as my Honourable friend the Home Member said this morning, he was under a duty to keep people under detention and his duty was to suppress those who were fighting for freedom. Therefore he cannot get away with the fact that without any cause and out of sheer misapprehension one night they carried out a raid on those patriots—and I venture to say that again—who dared and were prepared to lay down their lives for the cause of their country, and not those merely who sat and supplied other people who fought and laid down their lives. Supply is a very simple problem, because it is to be taken from me, passed through this hand on to the other and paid for by his sweat and labour—and that is the duty he did in our absence, extraordinary duty! I have known a sense of duty of this kind for the first time in my life. But, Sir, it is my duty to come down to every single charge that I propose to make before this House, to prove that you have done ill by this country, that you have acted during the last year, for which this particular vote is concerned, in a manner that is a standing disgrace to the Government, for indeed what have you done? Compliments are easily exchanged, and it is easily said, 'Oh, You don't believe in war; we believe in war'. Perhaps it is easily forgotten that in this very House last year, in this very House in the year 1940 I got up and said we are quite prepared to make this war ours if only you have the confidence and if you are prepared to leave it as our job, but we are not going to make it our job if we are going to do it for the purpose of defence of your own democracy and not mine. You may neglect it, you may forget it, you may disregard it, but you will do so at your peril at the bar of the world. It is no use saying what speeches were delivered elsewhere. The fact is that their conduct is much more important than the question of speeches delivered here or abroad. But take each thing done during the last year. My Honourable friend the Finance Member said in a most glorious tone, shall I tell you? We have collected 830 crores of loans in a year and it is your proud record.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Not in a year. Since the beginning of the war, and 833 crores.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: All right 833 crores. But what does that mean in terms so far as the people are concerned? Of course that is not a debt which the Indian people have to pay. The fact is that the stewardship of my Honourable friend, however much it may be praised by his own friends, has cost us this: our outstandings are sterilised. The thirteen hundred crores it will easily amount into. You are aware of the proverb: very often you go to a debtor. He says, you lent me Rs. 100 but after all cannot you accept Rs. 60? Then you say, cannot you give us Rs. 60? He says, what does it matter. Rs. 20 I will pay, Rs. 20 I will get paid, and surely you are not mean enough to ask me for the remainder Rs. 20! And I read that in the speech of the Honourable Member himself. He says that this is not time to discuss our liability. In other words it comes back to this. What we have taken we have pocketed and please do not discuss about it. It would be very wrong. I suppose some planning or unplaning is going on in the hope that he will try to rob me of some part of it. But let him beware that this country will not accept anything that is done by the irresponsible Executive of today. This country will demand that every pie that the sweat, labours, the starvation, the debt of the people of this country has paid shall be recovered to the last pie.

Another Honourable Member said that they are looking for jobs. I think it is the least he should have spared himself. The very disgraceful show he made is unworthy of a man in that position. You think Mr. Churchill is doing a job, or that he is looking for a job when he wants to govern his own country, because he has a right to do so! To call that a job is not understanding the English language and if you do not understand it why don't you talk in Mahrathi? I think it is right that if you use a language you should understand what you are talking: otherwise do not speak in it. So let us not have this kind of language in order to stigmatise people who deserve better. You may not want to do it or

desire to do it. You may want to feather your nest. You may not want to declare every moment that you do not want to resign, but you know that you do not want to resign. You all know that in all probability it will not happen. So you say, let us say, we will resign. The fact remains that you do not want to resign if you can help it. What is the good of tamarind trees in Hardinge Avenue! Why not have the courage to say that Parties in this House will come to an understanding and when the British Government have the honour to honour the pledge they have given, certainly you will have the honesty and obligation to resign. It is no use talking in terms of obscurity of this nature. Let us talk straight. The fact remains that whether we take office or not, are you here to say that because we do not take office therefore you have done everything right? It is a great pity that the way in which this issue has been raised has entirely obscured the issue.

I have told you about the two great issues which are the gift of our friend, the departing Member for Finance. Have you ever found a person who said your balances are not recovered and your debts have grown, and that is good stewardship! That is to his credit. Well, get on with the rest.

My Honourable friend who was very vociferous a little while ago when this House told him that he had no business to send any representative of this Government—not of India—to South Africa as an honourable protest, because that is the least we can do in order that we may show that we do not propose to deal with a country that does not deal with us, prevaricated in this House. He said I do not know whether the gentleman is in Bombay. I do not know whether he is going or has gone. Such a perverse ignorance coming from the Honourable Member is amazing. He ought to have stated, I insist on sending him. I intend to send him there. I do not intend to honour the vote of this House. And yet he says, why not give me your confidence? But by your own conduct you have forfeited it. Therefore if you resign you resign in an ignominious condition altogether. After all, one can say two things for one if he wants to.

The point is: what is it that you have done? Our position abroad had deteriorated daily including the position in every other country. My friend, the Leader of the House—of course he will have to apologise or speak at all events in an apologetic tone—knows that very dirty propaganda is being carried on under the aegis of this Government against India in general in America. He may say that it is one-half, or one-third, or one-ninth true. But why should it be anything at all? You spend my money and malign my country in another land and then say that this Government deserves some confidence? My friend says it is a joint responsibility. I hope it is. Then I hope we know with whom we are dealing.

This morning my friend, the Honourable Mr. Mudie, referred to an error of the number of prisoners and he thought he had secured a very great point. Does it really matter as to the number of prisoners? The question is: under what circumstances, what class of people, and for what offences, have you kept these persons in prison, that is the issue. The issue is not the number. Even if you keep one man in prison it is a symbol that India is fighting for freedom against you. Then you do not deserve well of this country. One thing is certain that this war would have been fought in vain if India is to remain exactly where it is. Do not go and tell the world that my soldiers are fighting for freedom, that we are having victories, that we have great strength and great merit. So they have individually. I am glad India has. But for what purpose are you using it is the real issue? And that is the issue on which I hope and trust that every man, who votes against this motion, will have to lay his hand against his conscience and say that he is an honourable man or a dishonourable man. If you advance the freedom of India by an inch, it is a question of freedom. It is not a question of agreement to replace one or two Members from the other side. It is all very well to talk of slogans of democracy, etc. But for whose democracy? Your democracy, meaning the British race that you are serving? Undoubtedly the Indian soldier has the honour of his convictions. He has fought

[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai]

in Africa, in Italy, in France. He now fights in Burma and I am quite certain he will go right into the frontiers of Japan. But who are you to talk about it?

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

I hope you have some sense that you are a subject race. It is amazing to me that these gentlemen should get up without the realization that they belong to the same slave race that we are, notwithstanding the salaries and the remuneration that they are claiming every time. We were willing to fight. We were not going to undertake the responsibility of fighting unless we fought for our own freedom along with the freedom of the other people and you do not like that. You went and are fighting for their banner, for their freedom against my freedom and that is the charge against you and that is a charge which will always remain so long as this present state of affairs lasts.

Two and a half million of our men, 830 crores of very easily raised loan and 1,200 crores of sterling balances. Indeed that is what we have paid, those whom I represent, not one of you. And what is the result? The result is that in the march of freedom I am exactly where I was. I am merely told in a glib manner by people who have no authority of any kind "Oh, come to some agreement and we will vacate our posts. We are fighting that India shall attain complete freedom like any other country". If there is the smallest honesty in all the declamations that Britain has made from time to time, if we desire to occupy a place similar to the Minister of the Crown elsewhere, it is not a proposition of finding a job and keeping people suppressed who want to fight for their freedom. So that the question is not what is happening in America. It is not your monopoly, though you may have a great deal of censorship. I know what is going on. What is going on is this that America by reason of the fact that they are allies in this war, by reason of the fact that their soldiers are in this country, by reason of the fact that they have come to acquire a great deal more of respect among the Indian people, not individual officials but among Indian people it has now become difficult for them to resist the demand of India for freedom. They cannot call us uncivilised. They cannot call us unfit for freedom. And my Honourable friend preached to me, of all people my Honourable friend in this House, we won't be fit to get the freedom of this country if I do not call him a patriot. That is all the qualification. I am afraid I will attain freedom long before you ever think you will get it. The fact remains that it does not depend on my calling each single individual here and there a patriot. Let us have some sense of proportion. Let us have some logic. Let us have some common sense. What is standing in the way of India's freedom? My not calling my friend a patriot? Have you ever heard of such a joke? I have not heard one. It is the best I have heard for a long time. If we do not call you a patriot, we do not get freedom. I assure you that I am prepared to lose that freedom if that is the only condition involved. The point is very simple. We have deteriorated every where. Our external affairs are not in our hands. We are ground down and our future is dark.

There is what is called planning going on. I do not know what is planning but this House passed a vote seriously and I trust that this House will stick to it. We said that it shall not be planned by any individual, however great or good he may be, that a committee of this House should be set up for this purpose and all plans should come before them. It does not matter whether you agree to it or not. We will be able to plan our future, we are quite capable of doing so when the time comes. It does not require merely the inside knowledge of a factory to plan a country's future. It is an extraordinary idea with some people that because they collect revenue, or keep order in a particular district and then go into the inside of a factory that they are super-planners of the world. Plans are made for the world by those who have greater hearts, larger

patriotism and greater interest in their country. So far you have mortgaged our future, you have degraded us in the eyes of the world. In every thing you have attempted to do you have disgracefully failed. I am very glad that any Indian, even a single Indian, who is able to go out can set an example to show what we are made of and what we represent. We do not want to take your place. It is not your place. It is a very different place, yours and ours.

Coming to the other Members of this House, it is not my desire to take up more time of the House. I have got only five minutes and I will sit down to the time. There is a Member for Trade, there is a Member for Supply and there are other Members also in this House. I have no desire, as I said, to deal with every Member individually. It is not the issue with me. It is their joint responsibility, on their own showing, of what has been done. And, as I said, if this country has been impoverished, if this country has come to the brink of starvation, if this country has come to the brink of epidemics, if this country has suffered it all in some useful cause, I would not regret it. I make a bold offer that I would even make a present of all the sterling balances if England has the decency to say "From tomorrow you are free to arrange your own affairs in the best way you like". But I do grudge that my money and my resources should be exhausted for other people's freedom and I continue to be a slave and this gentleman tells me that I must call him a patriot. Imagine coming and telling us that, the effrontery of it. The whole point is merely this. There is the fact that the country has fought the war. You may say you have fought the war. You have fought the war against us, against our will. I do not object to that, if you would like to use that phrase. But the fact remains that if all that had been expended even against me, notwithstanding all the difficulties I have put in your way, and you have secured the freedom of this country, I would have congratulated you but you do not care about that. The self-complacency of the Members sitting opposite is the most degrading thing that I have ever seen. They seem to think nothing better could exist in this world except themselves and I dare say if that is the attitude, then they compel us to say what we think of them. We do not want to say anything more. We want to talk about the administration. But the fact remains that unless this war is meant to be a war for our freedom, there is no doubt that every thing that has been expended, supplied, traded in or anything else, all that would be perfectly useless. That is the real issue before this House. The gentlemen opposite have administered this country in a most dismal manner during the previous years. As I said they have accumulated debts which bring me no *quid pro quo*. They have mortgaged the future of the country. They wish to plan something in secret and ask for the approval of this House. They say, "Our wisdom cannot be questioned by the representatives of the Indian people. We are a very different race. We are a very superior race". I am glad that you are a different race. We will treat you as a different race when the time comes. But the fact remains that if more resources are to be expended and if my freedom is gained, it is worth having done it but inasmuch as it is not done, I hope this House will unanimously condemn those sitting on those Benches and if they have a sense of honour, they will also give their vote in favour of this motion.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Member for Information and Broadcasting): Mr. President, it is not my desire or intention to vie with my Honourable friends opposite in the use of violent language or even intemperate language. I shall, however, deal with one item which has loomed large throughout the debate today as well as on several other occasions at question time. But I cannot allow my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, to run away with one observation which he has made, without challenging it. He has put one question to us: Have you advanced the freedom of the country by one inch? What have you done for the freedom of my country? My answer to him respectfully is—and is entitled to respect—that we have certainly done much more by sticking to our jobs . . .

Honourable Members: Hear, hear.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: . . . and holding to our posts.

Honourable Members: *Ad infinitum.*

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: That is right. My Honourable friend thinks that only his freedom is involved, and freedom of people like him. Freedom of the country means the freedom of my country—this is my country as much as it is theirs. They have no monopoly of patriotism. I hope we will not hear the same thing again, because they repeat the same thing over again every year.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: You will if you remain there.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: We have been here, and we will be here as long as you behave as you have been behaving, and you may rest assured you are not serving the country by simply abusing those who are trying to do their jobs as best as they can.

Mr. President, I am glad that several matters, which I have to deal with, have been dealt with already by some of my friends who have spoken before me, and I am really going to speak only on the question of Propaganda outside India. I am glad I have got this opportunity to say a few words on this subject and I will do so within the limited time at my disposal. My Honourable friends are very anxious that they should carry this motion in time, and I assure them they will have plenty of time for that purpose.

The main point that has been discussed times out of number throughout the Session was our publicity in America. There have been a number of inquiries, in the House itself, various questions have been put, and statements have been made in the press in Delhi and outside and everywhere. I say that most of them are malicious and fantastic as I will show in a moment. I use the word malicious advisedly not only because most of them are false, but because they have been designedly used to decry every Indian as venal and unprincipled. Sir, before I deal with the statements I would like to say that I propose to describe the untrue statements in an unequivocal manner, and for this I am going to take advantage of the word which has been used by Mr. Abdul Qaiyum. He seems to think that unless you call something which is untrue as a 'lie,' it will not have the same effect. Therefore, for every untrue statement I propose to use the word lie.

An Honourable Member: Your Department is expert in lying.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Let me just tell the House of a statement which has recently been made in America, according to press reports, by Mr. J. J. Singh. He is the President of the India League in America. As anybody can verify from the various papers that come to us, he has for years consistently been proclaiming that the Indian National Congress is the only political party in India representing Indian views as a whole, and that only the Congress representing Indians can place India in its rightful position on the international map. There is no objection to that. Everybody is entitled to have his own views, but this gentleman somehow or other came to hear a rumour that arrangements were being made for two other parties to send their representatives to America, and that is the Muslim League and the Hindu Mahasabha. This was quite enough for him, and he made a statement at a public gathering to this effect: "The presentation of communal views in America will weaken India's cause, and strengthen British case". Now this amazing statement was made by him. But it does one good, it gives direct repudiation to Mrs. Pandit's statement that "there are no religious differences in India". Mr. J. J. Singh says that it is dangerous to allow these communal organisations to come and represent their views because it will weaken the case of India. Mrs. Pandit says there are no religious differences in India at all.

Sir, as regards Mrs. Pandit, she made three amazing statements: one, there are no religious differences—my Honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition also says that there are no differences, I wish it had been true. If there had been no religious differences, I am sure things would have been much better in this country than they are at present.

The second statement she made was that India is a concentration camp. That has been dealt with by my Honourable friend, the Home Member, effectively.

Honourable Members: No, no, it is nothing.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: That is because you will not accept anything which does not please you, and therefore you say it is nothing. In this connection there is one question which was put to the Home Member by either Prot. Ranga or Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, which has not been answered. That is the number of convicted prisoners still in jail. For disturbances 26,000 people were convicted. Let me tell them that out of this 26,000, 21,000—I think—are out of jail within two years or less than that, and there are only 5,000 who are there, and who will come out after serving their sentences. It cannot be said that the sentences were severe, and apart from that they were convicted and sentenced by courts of law. My Honourable friends cannot say that we are responsible for it.

The third statement which she made was still more objectionable. She says that Indian soldiers are rice soldiers thereby suggesting that they were mercenary soldiers, that they had no love for their country at all, that they were not dying for anything which was noble. The same thing has been repeated here in a different language by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Desai. Sir, I confess there is nothing so unpleasant as these derogatory expressions about our soldiers. If India is to get freedom, and get it soon, it will not be because you people have gone to jail, but because these soldiers have shed their last drop of blood. Mr. President, it is all very well to be talking here like this, but on the 5th May, 1944, I myself visited Imphal when that place was cut off from all sides. Let me tell the House the conversation I had with the Viceroy's Commissioned Officers in the evening quietly without any other officer with them. When I was leaving them, they told me "Please go and tell our countrymen in India that we will not return to India until we have driven the Japanese out of the Indian soil and until we have driven them out of Burma". Mr. President, it is all very well for our friends to be talking gaily as they have been doing. Do they realise that only one Indian division, supported by a tank division, actually annihilated about 3,00,000 enemy soldiers in North Africa?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I thought the Honourable Member was discussing and replying to criticisms about the propaganda in America: he is going on to discuss other matters.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I was going to reply to Mrs. Pandit's remark about Indian soldiers being rice soldiers. Instead of paying a well deserved tribute to these people, these people who are the real ambassadors of the freedom of India, instead of paying a tribute to them, are called mere rice soldiers. I would be ashamed of thinking on those lines. As my Honourable friends are very anxious to hear about the allegations that have been made about our publicity in America, I thought that I should say something about the propaganda that Mrs. Pandit was doing; and when I say that those remarks made by her are absolutely unjustified then they say "We would like to hear about your propaganda". Very well; they will have it. I will deal with the criticisms in newspapers as well as the statements in the House as shortly as I can and I will take only about 10 or 12 of them. The first statement that has been made is that the Indian Information Series have issued hundred of books in America. What are the facts? The whole thing is a lie in the language of Mr. Abdul Qaiyum. Not one book has been published by us.

Sardar Sant Singh: Who published them?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: May be you!

Sardar Sant Singh: I can assure you that I never did anything of the sort.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: We are told that we have subsidised American writers and re-written their books for them and then purchased huge quantities for free distribution. Sir, this is a lie. There is not one single case where we have done it. I cannot use the word 'untruth'—it will not please Mr. Abdul Qaiyum. We are told that our Agent General devotes his time to spying on Indian students and visitors in America.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: That is a lie!

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: It is a black lie. I will try to use adjectives if they please you. He has neither the desire nor the time nor the staff necessary for such a futile and unsavoury job. We are told that the Agent General gets 52,000 dollars a year to carry on anti-Indian propaganda.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: That again is a lie!

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I will tell you, my Honourable friends are out by 30,000 dollars. You knew it, but you wanted to have it from me: you believe in inflation and therefore you use the bigger figure!

Now, it is a very serious thing that an allegation has been made that the British Information Services distributed Miss Mayo's book "Mother India". I have denied our and their connection with this book in explicit terms before; but let me repeat it again: that we neither distributed it nor encouraged its distribution anywhere either in this country, in America or in England.

Pof. N. G. Ranga: Did you ever try to repudiate it?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: We are told that India spends 26 lakhs of rupees every year on doing propaganda. The fact is that we spend only 4½ lakhs.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: At least one-sixth is true!

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: So far as that is concerned, one-sixth is true. I wish my Honourable friend will force me to spend more, in which case I think our propaganda will be more effective than it is at present. The length to which our friends can go is really most amazing. We are told that the Indian Government confers titles and other favours upon American missionaries to induce them to poison the American mind against India. This is in one of the papers. **Mr. Abdul Qaiyum**

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: On a point of order: I never read these charges—they have been written for him—I do not know who wrote them—but he has got a written reply and he can unload it on the House: but I can assure him that I gave only two cases and I did not read this before—I never knew them.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Questions were put to me and I remember very well that Mr. Chapman-Mortimer—I do not know whether he is here or not—asked me "Why do you not come and repudiate all these charges in the press?" I said I would do it at the proper time, and I am doing it now.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Why are you uncomfortable?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Why am I uncomfortable? I am ashamed of you. Now, we are told that 10,000 British propagandists of whom 3,000 are officials are devoting their time exclusively to India. I am afraid I gave credit to the statements in the press to the extent of one-tenth—I was wrong. When a statement is made, that there are 10,000 propagandists of whom 3,000 are officials, devoting their time exclusively to India the proportion of truth is negligible. If you want the honest facts, there are only three officials—so it is only one-thousandth true.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: The British have got their own independent agency.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am referring to that: there are only three and you multiply it by a thousand and ask us to believe in India that those are the facts. We know the author responsible for these statements; but it is thought that by doing this he is raising the status of India in America. I respectfully submit that the greatest wrong is being done to India by such lies and falsehoods.

There is another factor which has to be borne in mind. It is believed that anything will do for an American. The American is neither a fool, nor is he such a simpleton as my Honourable friends think. He knows how to assay these statements, and he knows what value should be put upon them. I respectfully submit that if Mr. J. J. Singh in America or the gracious lady, Mrs. Pandit, thinks that he or she can lead American opinion by the methods which they are adopting, I can assure them confidently that they will never succeed.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Why take notice of them then?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Our method is absolutely different; and I challenge anybody to repudiate that except those who will never understand these things at all, unless it suits their purpose, and it is this. We place only facts.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: And figures.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: When Mrs. Pandit says that there are no religious differences, we are bound to say that there are religious differences and that her statement is false.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Go ahead.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Why must you contradict it? Is it because you are a lover of truth?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Yes. You can never solve a problem by saying that there is no such problem. There is the problem and the best way to solve it is to face it. There are religious differences and they must be resolved. We must sit down and try to solve them.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: The Honourable Member's time is up.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: There is one more statement which I think must be contradicted.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Another lie?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: It is worse than a lie. Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar is reported to have made certain statements and based on those statements, there was a leading article in a Calcutta paper accusing us of doing anti-Indian propaganda in U. S. A. I have got the authority of Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar to say that he has written to the Editor of that paper that those statements are absolutely untrue and that they should not have been made. The Agent General is doing his level best to help India's cause and nothing is being done by us which will go to the discredit of the country.

An Honourable Member: It is a lie.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced to Re. 1."

The Assembly divided:

Ayes—61

Abdul Basith Choudhury, Dewan.
Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Ahsan, Mr. Muhammad.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachalam.
Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
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.
Habibur Rahman, Dr.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.
Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
Kazmi, Qazi Muhammad Ahmad.
Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Lakhchand, Mr. Rajmal.

Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Manu Subedar, Mr.
Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Pande, Mr. Badri Dutt.
Parma Nand, Bhai.
Raghubir Narain Singh, Choudhri.
Ram Narayan Singh, Mr.
Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Raza Ali, Sir Syed.
Reddiar, Mr. K. Sitarama.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Satyanarayana Moorthy, Mr. A.
Sham Lal, Lala.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Srivastava, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad.
Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

Noes—53

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.	Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.	Khare, The Honourable Dr. N. B.
Anthony, Mr. Frank R.	Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.	Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.	Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Bewoor, Sir Gurnath.	Mehta, Mr. Jamnadas M.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth.	Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
Caroe, Sir Olaf.	Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.	A. Ramaswami.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.	Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francois.
Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.	Piars Lall Kureel, Mr.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.	Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardesir.	Ram Nath, Mr.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.	Richardson, Sir Henry.
Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.	Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.	Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir
Ghasuddin, Mr. M.	Muhammad.
Ghuznavi, Sir Abdul Halim.	Sheehy, Sir John.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.	Spence, Sir George.
Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.	Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.	Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.	Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.	Sundaresan, Mr. N.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.	Thakur Singh, Capt.
Ismajel Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.	Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
James, Sir F. E.	Tyson, Mr. G. W.
Jawafar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.	Tyson, Mr. J. D.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.	

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, the 10th March, 1945.

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.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—contd.

DEMAND No. 72—POST-WAR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 97,32,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Post-War Planning and Development'."

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 97,32,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Post-War Planning and Development'."

Refusal of Supplies for the Department.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan):

Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Post-War Planning and Development' be reduced to Re. 1."

The amount provided this year for this department is one crore. Over and above that there is another amount of Rs. 16,41,100 provided for the same purpose under various other heads. That of course for obvious reasons is not included in this motion. With regard to the amount of one crore mentioned by me, Rs. 2,68,000 are non-voted, and therefore as a result the amount which is concerned in my motion is the amount of Rs. 97,32,000. But that is not all. This is only a precursor of many more crores that will have to be spent on this department. Probably this modest sum of one crore will finally lead up to the famous ten thousand crores which certain people in our country think it necessary to spend for industrial and other developments of this country. Therefore this is a very grave issue that the House is facing today. If today we refuse to grant this Government the amount that they ask for in respect of this department, we are actually saving this country from the great danger and loss that faces this country, of handing over to this Government the future of the millions of this land as to the lines on which the future development of this country should proceed.

Having formulated my motion I will now proceed to enumerate my reasons for moving this motion. For the sake of convenience I will state my objections in three parts. The first and the fundamental objection is a political one. I hold and hold very strongly with thousands of others in this country that this job of planning for the future of this country is too big a job for this Government to undertake. It can be attempted only by a Government which is broad-based on the people's will; a Government which is responsible to the people and which has the whole-hearted support and co-operation of the people behind it. But in saying this I want to add a word of warning and it is this. I do not want it to be said and I do not want myself to be misquoted as advocating or demanding what is called a National Central Government for India. This term has become almost a technical one, to mean the subjugation of the whole country to one party's Government. It is of course well known that I and my friends on these benches are vehemently opposed to that idea. What I mean is this. I maintain that no Central Government, whether of Hindustan or Pakistan, can attempt this gigantic task of planning for the future of the 40 crores of this country, shouldering the responsibility of executing this plan, without first being broad-based on the will of the people. A Government, whether in Hindustan or in Pakistan, can undertake this gigantic task only if it is a representative Government. Therefore I say that this Government is not at all suited to undertake this big work.

[Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait.]

Then, Sir, the least that this Government should have done in attempting this task was to consult this House, constituted as it is, in regard to their plans or for the purpose of formulating a plan. They ought to have come to this House of their own accord but they did nothing of the kind. Then a demand was made by this House that they should consult this House, that they should constitute a Committee of this House, to formulate a plan for the development of this country. That Resolution was passed unopposed; and yet Government have not thought it necessary to take the people's representatives into their confidence. And I am reminded that they not only did nothing to consult us but in the other House they announced their refusal to consult the people's representatives. Here, Sir, I should like to quote one sentence from the speech that was made by the Leader of the Opposition on the 17th November last when this matter was discussed here. In demanding that a Committee should be constituted he definitely said:

"It was not our desire to anticipate the examination of the merits of any particular plan."

What the House wanted was stated in one sentence by my Honourable friend. He said:

"The whole object is to support what we are asking for as against leaving our fate in the hands of this Government."

Virtually that is happening today. The fate of forty crores of people is left in the hands of this irresponsible Government. And actually it is not even the Government of India—it is one individual Member of the Government. When we go deeper and examine some of the plans that he has been kind enough to let us peep into it looks as if the fate of forty crore people of this country is to be left in the hands of some Under-Secretary, some Assistant Secretary, or some Deputy Secretary in his Department who deals with the particular subject. I will come to that in a minute.

In answer to some searching questions put by my Honourable friend, Mr. Neogy, on the 10th of February the Honourable the Member for Planning and Development was pleased to raise the curtain slightly, and he just told us what is happening in his department. He said:

"29 industrial panels have already been constituted"

I do not know, there may be many more by this time, but it is 29 that he mentioned:

"These Panels are to make recommendations to Government regarding the development of industries both existing and new."

As regards the formation of these panels, my Honourable friend wanted to know how they are formed, and here is the answer [it is in part (ii) of his answer on that day]:

"Invitations are issued to persons prominently associated with the industry concerned and one or two experts are also added to those who by their general knowledge of trade and industry are likely to be useful as members."

So we know what is happening with regard to this planning: Certain people whom the Government Member likes or whom the Government Member knows are invited individually to form a committee to consider and to make recommendations to Government regarding the development of industries, both existing and new. A few people, four or five, chosen big industrialists are given full powers to decide about a particular industry, about the future of that industry in this country, in fact about the future economic plan of this country. It is said that they make their recommendations to the Government. But what is the Government in this case? As I have said already, some Under-Secretary, or some Deputy Secretary in his Department who deals with that particular question. He and this Panel together finally decide as to what should be done. But who gave him this power? Did the people of this country tell them even once how and where to proceed, what is going to be the future economic policy of this country; how they are to proceed about it, and where is the money to come from? We know nothing about it. These 29 Panels, sitting somewhere in the Secretariat, working our future, they are working the future of 40 crores of people, and v

know nothing about it. Insistent demands have and are being made that the Honourable Member should disclose his plans, but he has always taken shelter behind the plea that plans are not yet complete and there is nothing to place before this country. Yet we find here that in this one crore of rupees that is demanded, a sum of rupees seventy-five lakhs is set apart as a lump sum provision for schemes under consideration. What does that mean? Does it mean that this seventy-five lakhs, and crores and crores of rupees (which will run into ten-thousand crores) which is to follow this small sum of seventy-five lakhs, is to be spent without anybody's knowledge and without anybody's consent? That is how things are being worked? I am sorry I have very short time and it is a very important subject, and therefore I will touch only one or two other matters leaving other questions to the speakers who will follow me.

Apart from the money that is to be spent and the manner in which this money is to be spent, there is a great deal yet to be decided with regard to the development of the country. I find that so far as my friend is concerned he is concentrating all his attention on the industrial development of this country. What about agricultural development, and what about thousand and other matters in which we are interested. He will say, "Agriculture is not a Central subject; that is not my subject". But may I ask whether there is any co-ordination. I find that certain other departments are going on merrily with their ideas of post-war planning. Is there any co-ordination between the departments? Is he the head of all the planning in this country, or is he the head of industrial planning alone? Is there any co-ordinating agency in his own department to cover all these 29 Panels? We know nothing about all that. I wonder if the Honourable Member knows anything himself about it; perhaps some Under-Secretary is dealing with these Panels and he alone knows what is happening.

Another very important point is the question of location of industries. I see here that in the direction that is given to these Panels, the location of industry is mentioned. This is a very important question because looking at the political situation today and the demand that is made by the Muslim League, namely that there should be a division of the Central Government into two Central Governments and that our provinces should be separated from the rest of India, this becomes a matter of very grave importance to us. Where are these industries being located? I find that a direction is given to these Panels that they should consider on the question of location of these industries but it is only on paper. Actually what is happening is that permits are even now being granted for starting new mills, new industries in places which have reached a saturation point. For instance, in Bombay I find that permits are being given even today for starting mills. In the Textile Control Board meeting it was mentioned that even those who were condemned by the Textile Control Board and whose licences were cancelled have been given permits to start mills in Bombay. Why? Nobody has given consideration to the question of starting industries in other parts of the country. Nobody has taken the trouble to explore the possibilities of starting new industries in other parts of the country and with that end in view look into the existing conditions there. Sir, in this way the future of this country is being determined without anybody knowing anything about it. I wanted to speak about what my friend Mr. Manu Subedar called the unholy marriage between the Indian and British capitalists and the function of Kazi that our friend on the Treasury Benches is performing. But as my time is up, I place my motion before the House for acceptance. Sir, I move:

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

"That the demand under the head 'Post-War Planning and Development' be reduced to Re. 1."

Mr. C. P. Lawson (Bengal European): Mr. President, Sir, we on this side have always supported some form of planning for the past year or more and therefore I am unable to go the whole way with my friend, Mr. Essak Sait, when he moves a complete cut of the grant for this Department. We think,

[Mr. C. P. Lawson:]

Sir, that this Department has produced some extremely valuable material and it has produced two extremely able reports. But this does not mean that we are completely satisfied with the working of this Department, and I am here to ask the Government for a specific definition of its functions. We want to know whether the functions of this Department consist of planning as distinct from Government policy, and I would like the Honourable Member when he replies to this debate to pay particular attention to that definition. There seems to me to be a specific difference between planning and policy. The one to us means the fixing of certain definite targets for the country—a certain optimum of development that the present Government consider to be advisable in all circumstances and which should be aimed at. If the Government were to avoid this duty at a time like this when the war is drawing to a close, they would in our opinion be failing in their duty, but, Sir, we must know, and definitely, what that duty is, and when we talk of planning let us be quite clear what that planning entails.

In the preamble to the second planning report, the following passage occurs:

"It is not however intended to convey specific approval to any particular measures. It is not possible for Government to arrive at final conclusions on matters of policy, until a more definite picture of the plans of the provinces as well as the Centre can be drawn."

That to my mind should rule out any provisions in these planning reports which impinge upon policy. I know I shall be told that policy is inextricably tied up with planning. That may be so and so are a very large number of other matters too. The constitution will undoubtedly be inextricably mixed with planning and that undoubtedly is worrying our friends in the Muslim League. But, Sir, that only reinforces my point that these reports of the Planning and Development Department should be extremely careful to avoid any impingement on the policy of Government.

Now, Sir, in these reports a considerable portion is devoted to the question of State control in industry. Is this planning or is it policy? We on this side hold some very definite views about the interest which the State may be permitted to take in industry. But those views apart, is it policy or is it planning? I have no doubt at all, Sir, that the various Governments whether they be autonomous and separate Governments, whether they be State Governments or whether they be Provincial Governments, will all have their views on this question and the Department's adumbrations on this particular point in the planning report are out of place.

There is another portion in these reports which deals specifically with the assistance to be obtained from abroad. Once again, Sir, is this planning or is it policy? The various Governments which now exist and which will exist in this country may have differing views on this point. The value of assistance from abroad may be assessed differently in different parts of the country. So, Sir, again I contend that this portion is out of place in the report.

Again, Sir, I see in the report a statement to the effect that the State must not hamper private enterprise, but may prevent schemes which are unlikely to succeed. Who is to decide whether a scheme is likely to succeed or not? Is it not possible that the person who is going to risk the capital and possibly risk his livelihood is the best person to decide whether his capital is to be risked or not? Supposing a province wishes to start a certain industry somewhat late in the day and a similar industry has already been established in another province. Is the first province to be told that its venture is unlikely to succeed and therefore it may not produce this industry? The answer to that presumably would be, no, but that province will receive advice. It is, however, well known that import control rests with the Centre and behind this suggestion there may possibly be the mailed fist, whatever its velvet covering.

The Honourable Sir Ardesir Dalal (Member for Planning and Development): To which suggestion is the Honourable Member referring?

Mr. C. P. Lawson: I am referring to a portion of your second report. The subject is a quotation which says that capital is a national asset and must not be frittered away and that it would be reasonable for the State to interfere if they thought that capital was being engaged in an enterprise which might not be successful. That occurs in the report and while I cannot quite at the moment put my finger on the passage, I think you know it.

The Honourable Sir Ardesir Dalal: Yes, I have it. Thank you.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: Now, Sir, that raises the question—and upon this I would like an answer from the Honourable Member—has he at the back of his mind an intention to circumscribe private enterprise, if it does not fall within the Government plan? There may, undoubtedly, be overlapping and I should like the assurance of the Honourable Member that here the functions of his Department are intended to be purely advisory. There may be different views as to the carrying out of the plan or the plans which Government finally approve and are we to understand that it is the intention to limit enterprises privately started? We want, Sir, to know to what extent Government have accepted the recommendations made in this plan. Have the Government carefully considered these recommendations and indeed, Sir, has this House carefully considered these recommendations? We had a non-official debate raised, unofficially raised, sometime ago. It was not very satisfactory and but for the good services of the Muslim League I see no reason why we should have been able to discuss this measure in this Session; and since it is a measure (it is perhaps not a measure but a process) which is of vital concern to the future of the country, it is to me rather surprising that this House has never been given the official opportunity of a debate.

The object of planning as set out in these reports is admirable but I find reason to criticise the approach. The approach does not to me indicate any specific priority of action. The approach seems to be diverse and it seems to lack method. An attempt is made on page 3 of the second Planning Report to divide the subjects into near and a long term policy and the near reconstruction portion is defined as the "resettlement and re-employment of Defence personnel, the orderly disposal of surplus military stores, equipment, land and buildings, the conversion of industry from war to peace and the removal or adjustment of controls to suit these conditions". Now, Sir, for the purpose of immediate necessity I would have put all those four under the "conversion of industry from war to peace" and I would be inclined to add to those certain other immediate essentials.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: I thought, Sir, I would have twenty minutes, since I am speaking for my Party.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If that is so, I allow the Honourable Member another five minutes.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: First among these immediate needs, I would place ensuring purchasing power, that is to say, to do our best to see that industrial development and production generally will find a market. And, as I have previously said in this House, the most important necessity there, is stabilisation of agricultural prices. The stabilisation of agricultural prices is advocated in these reports but we have no reason to think that stabilisation is in immediate prospect. Next of course there must be careful consideration of the switch over to peace production from war production. If that is not done, we will undoubtedly encounter slump conditions and conditions of considerable unemployment. So in that order I put those two necessities at the head of the list. To adjust industrial production to meet the probable demand is equally a basic planning necessity and it is necessary for these planning groups to find out what India will need. I gather from the second report that the application of war industry to peace production has been started upon but I think the second report says that the results are poor. But clearly something has got to be done reasonably quickly. Fourth, I place the ensuring of an adequate food supply to meet

[Mr. C. P. Lawson.]

the population increase and fifth the production of adequate finance. Now, Sir, in a systematic approach to these problems I think that those particular points require prior treatment and I think that the main necessity for a debate on this subject is so that the Honourable the Planning and Development Member should have the opportunity of explaining to us just how he places these priorities, how, in fact, Government place these priorities and in what order they propose to apply to them. When those basic factors have been attended to, then the main part of this report can come into operation but those appear to me to be prior necessities.

Now, Sir, I could say a good deal regarding the position of the Provinces, particularly the Province from which I come myself. A reference to the budgets of the various Provinces shows a large number of very considerable surpluses. Bombay, seems, since the war, to have accumulated surpluses amounting to about Rs. 20 crores. Madras looks like getting up to eight or nine crores. The Punjab, U. P. and C. P. are all producing surpluses. Bengal is minus Rs. 16 crores. Now, Sir, it is clear that these various Provinces have suffered in varying degrees by the war and I am pleased to note from the report that a certain pooling of resources has been considered advisable. I know that we may be told that we do not tax ourselves enough. But I think the point will be admitted that some Provinces have definitely suffered by this war more than others and if that is admitted it must be the care of the Central Government to see that no particular Province suffers as a result of those factors.

Now, Sir, I have no more time, and I will just conclude by saying that we certainly do not wish to eliminate the Planning and Development Department. We consider it important, we consider it essential, but, Sir, we do suggest that it should be careful to stick to its brief, and, as far as possible, to avoid the particular parts of the field where angels fear to tread.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, an Englishman plans far ahead: Mr. Lawson has begun by putting many posers and questions, and the real reason why this motion has been made is that the question he has put may be answered in his favour. That is the real suspicion which moves a large part of the people of this country. Government as it is constituted today is amenable to their influence—not to use the word dictation—it is certainly under their influence, under their predominant influence. So, Sir, apart from the suspicion that industries and industrial policies and commerce and commercial policies have been guided mainly from the point of view of their profit, it is the fear that it may be so in future also, that makes us move this cut motion. It is unfortunate, Sir, that this motion should be moved against a Member who said only the other day—his words are ringing in my ears—in the Library of the House in reply to a question by a member of the Executive Council of the Government of India, that it is only a national government that can do this planning; and that is our belief too. I believe, Sir, that the Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal is still of the same view, because I see him expressing that view to the press, and it is a pity that a Member who spoke like that could not accept the Resolution which was moved in this House last Session. This I would like to make clear. I have read a portion of the Planning Report. The Railways want Rs. 397 crores, Education Rs. 300 crores, and so on. Everybody wants a few hundred crores, but the unfortunate thing is that it is not money alone that can achieve things. Money is a factor, may be an important factor, but if anybody imagines that money alone can do the planning in this country, if money can make this country a self-respecting nation which I want it to become, if money alone can give that status to this country which it deserves, we could have purchased it all outright. So, I want this Government, I want Sir Ardeshir Dalal whose motives may be good, I credit him with good intentions, to remember that mere money cannot do it.

There is something within our own experience. Sir James Grigg allotted one crore of rupees for rural development. The latest report I have read about it is in the Public Accounts Committee's report for 1942-43, in which it is stated that accounts are not available for some part of that fund. May I know if he can give me tangible facts as regards this colossal expenditure of a crore of rupees. I remember a cartoon by Shankar in the *Hindustan Times* in which he had placed various taps for this expenditure of one crore of rupees which when it came to villages came out in drops. The money had been drained off by 3", 2" and 1" taps before it reached the villages, and even the drops stopped after a moment. I want Sir Ardeshir Dalal to become wiser after this experience.

If I may give another illustration, a quarter of this amount was collected by the Harijan Savak Sangh, and today a number of institutions are working under the auspices of that Fund, and thousands of young men have been educated. If I have the time, I can give you a good report of the Sangh work. So, Sir, there is real difference and that is because people are behind this work. But it will be absolutely different when people are not behind.

So money is not the question, money may be a factor, but the main support behind any plan is the national will which is a greater factor than money and the actual planning on paper. Now, Sir, I want to put this view before this Government. Planning is necessary, we are for it. No country without proper planning can have a chance in the world of today. Our Society must become more organised, and planning is very important, but what kind of planning. The point of view from which planning must be done is not the point of view of the Secretariat, nor is it the point of view of the capitalist or of the community whom my friend Mr. Lawson represents here today. It must from the point of view of 700 thousand villages, from the point of view of the poor and hungry, of whom friends opposite have very little idea. When my friend Mr. Neogy put a question, "Are you aware that women committed suicide for want of cloth", the Member for Industries and Civil Supplies could not believe it, he could not imagine it. If the Honourable Member for Food is told that rice supplied is rotten—he looks very well—how can he know? He does not move with the people and does not know them. Sir, it is unfortunate that people who do not know the conditions of the people of the country, who are not in touch with them, who have not got any connection with them, who have not even poor relations among them, who will come and tell them that they are hungry, are in charge of planning, and that is the tragedy of the situation. The point of view from which planning should be done is that of raising the level of the country in the villages. You should make the people free, you should make them bold, you should make them strong, and that, Sir, can only be done by people who are in touch with them, who live with them, who work among them, and if necessary who will die for them. Sir, while I support this motion, I must make it clear that we need not support all the reasons which have been given by the Mover of the cut motion. The main reason for our supporting this motion is that people who do the planning must be representatives of the people for whom the planning is made. It is a larger heart that is required, it is greater sympathy that is required for planning. Knowledge is necessary, I agree—expert knowledge is necessary, but I can purchase that knowledge. But I tell you you cannot purchase that heart: you cannot purchase that sympathy and the national will of the people which is necessary for planning; and if that confidence is to be had, it must be by the people in whom the generality of the people have confidence. It is not necessary for me to say that the people have no confidence in this Government. They know it and it is no exaggeration when an Honourable Member said the other day—and I am not surprised and I hope I am correct when I say that the present Members of Government in their own families will not get many votes if they stand for

[Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar.]

election; and certainly many do not represent the nationalist views of the members of their own families. So, I say this. Planning, while it is absolutely necessary and urgently necessary and there is no time to lose—we have been in the mire and our people have suffered too long and have died in their millions from diseases, uncared for, even unwept;—we want to raise them: the matter is urgent; but it is unfortunate that it cannot be done by you. When I say that it cannot be done by this Government, I do not want to make any personal affront. There are Members there whose personal integrity is high for whose honesty I may have respect, some of them, but certainly for this purpose that alone will not do; just as a doctor cannot be an engineer, just as an engineer cannot be a financier; even so they may be eminent in their own walk of life; but they certainly do not have the will or the backing of this country and this Government does not have the backing of this country to undertake this work. And it is for this purpose that we brought forward that Resolution. It is unfortunate that that Resolution was not accepted by the Government. Not only was it not accepted by the Government, but the Government have not made it clear whether they will take this House into confidence at any stage of this planning. Even at question time, we were not given the reasons why the Government could not accept that Resolution. Today, if we support this motion, we take our stand on that Resolution which was passed on the 17th November last year by this House. We stand by every word of what we said the other day, and it is this: we want planning; we want to raise the millions of this country, but we want it to be done by people who represent them, because they alone can plan well. It is not a matter of getting into a huff with the Government of India; it is not a matter of having personal confidence or respect for anybody over there; but it is a matter of whether they have the confidence of the people, whether they have knowledge of the conditions of the people, to do the planning. In our humble opinion they do not have it; and I would request that if the plans are to be effective, if these crores of money are to be used, they must be done by the people of this country. If that is not so, you have an example before you. One crore of rupees was set apart for the rural development fund, but where it was spent, or how it was spent and how much it reached the villagers and how much uplift was done—no report is available and nobody knows anything. A few rural development officers were appointed and they drew their salaries and they worked in their offices and spent the money; and in the end accounts were not available—the Auditor General reported to the Public Accounts Committee that they were not available. If that is the record of this Government, may I ask the Honourable Member for Planning and may I also ask Sir Jeremy Raisman who wants to tax us and levy upon us another big tax so that he may provide heaps of money, may I ask him whether from this experience they are justified in embarking upon these things?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I trust the Honourable Member has not forgotten that the majority of the Provincial Governments in whose hands this money was placed by Sir James Grigg were run by Members of his party.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I do not know if that is a proper reply, but this much I know that he cannot give me a good report of the money that has been spent. That is a fact. How much was spent and how it was spent we do not know; and it only shows that this system of Government, as it is today, is really not one which we can trust.....

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: You cannot get away from it.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The point I was making before Sir Jeremy Raisman interrupted me was this: he is not justified in asking us for monies for which we think they are not fit. Plans may be made on

paper, may be made in secretariats. Such plans may be good on paper but certainly they will not uplift the people of this country.

So, before I close I would only say this. If you want your efforts at planning to be successful, if the object of your planning is really to uplift the masses of this country, then take the people of this country into your confidence. Accept the Resolution that was passed by this House unanimously, without a division, on the 17th of November. If you do that, that in my opinion will be a real sign of your earnest in this matter.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, I am afraid that there has been a mixture of motives, if one listened carefully to the three speeches made before me on this motion. As far as I am concerned any justification for this motion must come from two sources. One is extraneous to the actual demand made and another relates to figures, the contents of the demand that has been made. In regard to the reasons put forward in support of this motion while some undoubtedly are not germane to the actual contents of the demand. Nevertheless the points made by my Honourable friend from Coimbatore have a great deal relevance to the demand as a whole. If it has been sought by any group in this House to move a cut motion, which is a direct reflection on any member of the executive council who did not merit it, I would stand up to oppose it; because we have already expressed in this House our opinion unequivocally yesterday that we have no confidence in those Members who occupy the Treasury Benches collectively. But if individually they are to be singled out for censure, there ought to be very adequate reasons why we should do so. I am very pleased to hear from my Honourable friend who spoke before me that, at any rate as far as he was concerned, he felt that the Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal in his individual capacity did not merit any censure.

An Honourable Member: Question.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: You can question till doomsday but the answer will be the same.

But there is the other point which I must say, in my opinion, the Honourable Member for Planning has to answer and has to find an answer, which will have to be extremely convincing. My Honourable friend who spoke before me referred to the Resolution of this House of the 17th November 1944. The contents of that Resolution are not matters which need be discussed now. The motive of that Resolution is not a matter which need be discussed now. The feasibility or otherwise of that Resolution cannot be discussed at this stage either. But, Sir, the onus of proving that that Resolution was impracticable, that the Government were in a mood to consider some alternative, was on the Honourable the Planning Member and his colleagues. Sir, I must confess with regret that my Honourable friend has failed to perform that duty that was his in this matter. He ought to have taken the House into his confidence. He ought to have asked himself—apart from the text of Resolution, what shall I do to meet the opposition, how far can I go to meet the wishes of the members of this House since the demand in regard to the supplies to my Department will have to be passed by this House.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: For two days I had negotiations with the Leader of the Opposition on the subject. I will explain it in my reply.

An Honourable Member: What about the House?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: You would have heard something about it if I had been allowed to speak.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am very grateful to the Honourable Member for having taken us into confidence and told us that he had started negotiations with the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition. I wish he had gone a little further. I wish he had taken the Leaders of all parties and groups into

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:]

his confidence, which would have made matters much easier. But so long as that Resolution of November last stands, so long as that somewhat ill advised reply to a question put by a member of this House, made by the Honourable Member stands, I am afraid, much as I would like to support him, much as I would like to help him, he puts me in a position where he cannot command my support.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: You will wait and listen to me.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am willing to be converted by my Honourable friend, if he is going to be so persuasive. But there are the other facts having a direct bearing on this motion which is before the House. I shall not refer to the Second Report on Reconstruction Planning to which my Honourable friend Mr. Lawson referred. In my view, the assumptions contained in that report are not worthwhile, considering, nor are they worthwhile repeating in this House. The financial implications that have been assumed in that report will be brushed aside as undesirable by absolute tyro in economics. The conditions envisaged in that report will in my view and in the view of those who can speak about it with some authority will never come into being. If planning has to be started in this country, it has to be started notwithstanding the fact that the assumptions contained in the Second Report will not come into being. But, Sir, my grievance goes further. I will repeat what I said on a previous occasion that I find that so far as this planning is concerned this House is left absolutely and severely alone. The reconstruction committees of Government have been formed on an *ad hoc* basis. The Government chose convenient people of their own choice to form these committees and the Government have asked the General Policy Committee to recommend and has accepted their recommendations in the matter of selecting two representatives for the International Monetary Conference at Bretton Woods in order to assist my Honourable friend Sir Jeremy Raisman. Not that I wish to say that the individuals who have been chosen are persons who will not be chosen by this House itself should it be given the choice but the very fact that an *ad hoc* body like the Reconstruction Policy Committee has been asked to undertake a task which ought to be the proper duty of elected Members of this House, people in whom the electorate has reposed its confidence is a thing which it is very difficult for me to understand and it is a thing which does not do any credit to the attitude of the Finance Member or his Government towards this House. What I have said should not be construed as making any reflection on the work done by those two distinguished non-officials or on their capacity to handle the case of India.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Honourable Member is surely aware that the necessity for selecting those two individuals arose very urgently just after the Session of the Assembly was completed.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like respectfully to tell my Honourable friend that I am not logic chopping here. I would not be convinced if my Honourable friend wants to make out that his powers of imagination and powers of initiative are so bankrupt that he cannot find some method of obtaining the views of this House and the wishes of the Leaders of Parties in this House before he made his final choice. The same answer was given by him in answer to a question that I had put during the last Session. My Honourable friend's memory is so good that he repeats the same words but he carries no conviction so far as I am concerned.

Based on these factors alone which have been singled out as being offensive to the prestige of the House, I think the House will be justified in expressing its disapproval of the conduct of the Department of Planning, whether my Honourable friend Sir Ardeshir Dalal is alone responsible for it or he holds responsibility for it along with his colleagues. There is the second factor

which has been mentioned during the General discussion on the Budget. The matter which has been made a grievance of by many of us is this, that in the scheme outlined by the Honourable the Finance Member in regard to post-war planning, provision for an immediate expenditure finds no place. He says that post-war planning is definitely a post-war matter, I agree. It only looks logical. English language does not permit of post-war planning to be considered a matter of Planning during the pendency of the war. (*An Honourable Member:* "Or pre-war?") We have passed that stage. He has failed to notice or give due weight to the fact that this problem of transition from a war economy to peace needs careful planning. It may not be a matter of post-war planning at all, and let me say here and now that these words carry with them implications which are somewhat misleading. It is a matter of planning from a war economy to a peace economy and the decision in regard to that planning must be taken here and now, so that there will be no real hardship to the people of this country more than what cannot possibly be helped. I asked a question to the Home Member the other day, *viz.*, what was his estimate of the total number of Assistants and clerks, not including menial servants, engaged by the Government of India on a temporary footing and I also asked what proposals they had in mind in regard either to the absorption of these people in Government service or for providing employment for them in the post-war period. The answer came pat. There is only one answer to meet questions namely the time and labour involved in such an inquiry cannot be spent or undertaken in war time. It is a parrot like formula heard often which irritates the House, the more often they hear it.

Sir, this Government wants to undertake economic planning, but they would not even go through this book, the Demands for Grants, which I had gone through. I find in this book in the Departments where the Government have been willing to furnish information that there are about 15,000 Assistants, clerks engaged on a temporary basis, not to speak of the Department of Supply and other Departments, the figures relating to which are given in italics for which we have no details at all. Sir, out of a desire prompted by a very humane motive that those of our countrymen who probably have been earning a decent wage during war time should have something to live upon and should not be thrown out in the streets, also because of the fact while the Government is planning for the orderly demobilisation of those people who have gone into the army and their absorption in civil life they should not turn out those people who have tried to sustain war economy of this country by working in Government offices even if they had not gone to the front to fight. What is to happen to the people according to the Government's plan? Sir, if exigencies of war time, the fact that Government is very busy, and the fact that Government Members have got to accept invitations for evening parties, and the Secretaries and their I. C. S. deputies will do likewise, prevent the Government from furnishing this information, what kind of plan is this Government going to put out and of what use will it be?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am speaking on behalf of my party, Sir. What kind of planning is this Government going to put forward I ask. What is the utility of that planning where they neglect the elementary duty which is cast upon them to provide for those people who have served them well and faithfully during a time of stringency.

I now come, Sir, to the contents of this Demand. Sir, in regard to item I, Miscellaneous, there is a provision for the sum of Rs. 3,88,000—being the Revised estimate for 1944-45 and a provision for Rs. 5,28,000 for the next year in regard to expenditure on Reconstruction Publicity. In regard to this provision, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that

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the matter was brought before the Standing Finance Committee and the Committee have expressed its opinion. During the committee's sitting, Sir, we heard a Government official, somebody, I think, on the Deputy Secretary level, coming before us and formulating policies on behalf of Government and telling us what this Government was going to do to wipe out the sinister influence of the newspapers in the country. Is that the method of planning publicity by which you can get the co-operation of the people of this country? I think, Sir, if planning is to be successful, then my Honourable friend the Member for Planning and Development should steer clear of his Honourable Colleague, the Leader of the House and his Publicity Department. He will get no support from the people of this country so long as any publicity in regard to planning is handled by that accursed Department.

I now come to another item in the demand—Item J, involving a lump sum provision of Rs. 74,85,000 for certain schemes under consideration. Sir, I have heard of budgetting of various types, I have studied to some extent budgetting procedure, but I never heard of any proposal being made where a responsible House is asked to give Government Rs. 74,85,000 as a lump sum grant to be spent as they like on vague schemes under consideration. I can understand, if a sum of Rs. 1,000 is provided as a token demand for expenses under this item and the Government came time and again, when they needed money to the Standing Finance Committee with concrete proposals for its approval and then finally brought it before the House by way of a Supplementary Demand. On the other hand, much as I would like to respect the financial integrity of the Honourable Member who is in charge of this particular port-folio, much as I would like to say that I respect his ability in regard to handling the finances that are entrusted to him, I think, Sir, it is asking too much of the House to vote for him a sum of Rs. 74,85,000 to be spent on vague schemes which are under consideration, which probably will be schemes similar to proposals for reconstruction publicity, which would only do harm to the best interests of the people of this country. I feel sure that if on the basis of the publicity planned any reconstruction planning is to be worked, it will only do harm to the public and that is what we are asked to support.

Sir, if I had had the opportunity to move this Cut Motion, I should have straightaway asked for a reduction of this demand by Rs. 80 lakhs odd, representing these two items. That is my principal objection in regard to what is declared in the demand itself. In any event, this House cannot grant this sum of Rs. 80 lakhs odd. That is very clear to me. The second factor is, that this House has not been treated with the courtesy that is its due. It is perhaps true there has been a mixture of another motive, a motive with which people of my Party will not sympathise, that is, that planning must be deferred until the constitutional position is made sure. I do not think that is at all necessary for the reason that planning will have to be undertaken, whatever is to happen to the future constitutional position of this country. Even if this country is going to be split into eleven different independent Provinces, planning has to be made. I repeat what I expressed on the last occasion when we discussed this matter, that if the Government would be bound, if the Government would categorically say in a body that they are bound by the sentiments expressed time and again by the Honourable Member for Planning and Development when he says that he believes that only a National Government can undertake the actual work of carrying out reconstruction schemes and that all the work that he was doing merely be expiatory, that no interests would be seriously jeopardised and that only the necessary preliminary steps would be taken, if such an assurance were forthcoming then I think the House and the people of this country would be reassured about it. But, Sir, that has not been done, and the way to get the support of the House would be to take time by the forelock and give that assurance

before the Demand goes through. Even though my Honourable friend might explain away the position, the overriding fact remains that the Government have omitted to take notice of the wishes of the House expressed in a resolution of the House and I do not know how he can convince the House that what he has failed was justifiable and induce the House to vote the sum he asked for.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Sir, at the outset, it appears to me that myself and my Department are being subjected to a pincer movement, to use the language of strategy, by the Congress on the one hand under its Leader representing, say, Marshal Zhukov, and Marshal Koniev, on the other hand, in the person of my Honourable friend the Nawabzada.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Whom do you represent? A sergeant?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Well, Sir, there is this thing to be said about the Russian Marshals that they are entirely united in their aims and their ideals, but in the case of our local field-m Marshals, the unity is merely confined to attacking my Department and that attack is directed from ideals and aims and points of view which appear to me to be somewhat conflicting.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Amery is speaking.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): You ought to stop these interruptions.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The Congress believes in planning, it believes not only in planning, but my Honourable friend Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar says, it is getting too late. Well, Sir, that is what I, in my humble capacity, am trying to do. But unfortunately the Congress position is, "who are you to do it, we alone will do it, you have no say in the matter". But, may I say, Sir, that I and the Government of which I happen to be a Member are not standing in the way of the Congress; if they wish to do it, they are welcome to do it. The point is, what is to be done until they compose their differences and come here and occupy these Benches?

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): Associate us, that is the Resolution.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I am coming to that.

Another point is that if the present Government, the unpopular Government does anything which is really redounding to the benefit of the country, the credit of such a thing goes to the present Government; and that is what my friends of the Congress are not prepared to concede. Another point is the natural suspicion which attaches to every action and every individual in this Government, no matter what his motives and what his ideals might be with regard to whatever he might do.

The League point of view, on the other hand, is very different. We are planning on the basis of the present constitution; they are looking forward to fundamental changes in the present constitutional position.

Sir, I have made that point abundantly clear at the very beginning of the second report on reconstruction planning, and with your permission I should like to read it out:

"The proposals now made for post-war planning and development do not in any way affect the constitutional issue, as whatever form the future constitution takes and whatever autonomy the future provinces or States of India enjoy, they will all benefit by the measures of economic progress and development contemplated by the plan. One of the fundamental principles of the plan is regionalisation so that the different parts of the country benefit in as equal a measure as is compatible with the physical features and natural resources of each part. The ultimate political affinities of the different regions in the India of the future need not therefore stand in the way of their benefiting by the schemes of development hereunder proposed."

Thus the whole policy and the whole idea of planning has been made clear. Does that conflict with the idea of Pakistan? Personally I do not believe in Pakistan; personally I believe that the broad base of raw material and resources on which the plan is based will suffer to a certain extent. Personally I believe that both sides would suffer. But if ultimately it is the destiny of India to be divided into several independent sovereign States, that is a matter not for my consideration; and so far as my planning is concerned, it does not in any way

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interfere with it. There are very important schemes for irrigation, and various kinds of development projects for Eastern Bengal and for the Punjab. If ultimately the constitution is going to be that these parts of India separate, let them separate; they will not therefore be in any way hurt or injured by the schemes or plans which I am contemplating at the present moment. In fact, I do not see what there is in any of the schemes or in any of the plans which is in any way going to harm the country or to injure the interests of anybody. If anything it can only benefit the country.

We have had in this department only six months in which to work. Nevertheless a very large amount of work not only in the matter of planning but in the matter of execution of preliminary stages of planning has already been done. There is a Technical Power Board which deals with all questions relating to power; an Irrigation, Navigation and Waterways Board is being established; the Geological Survey has been expanded and is being further expanded; a large number of men are being sent out for technical training; a number of students—five hundred or more—are to be sent in the course of a short time to the U. K. and U. S. A.; employment exchanges have been established under the auspices of the Labour Department, a committee has been appointed to consider the establishment of a technological institute on the lines of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the States; expansion has already taken place in the Forest Institute, in the Agricultural Research Institute, in the Delhi Polytechnic. A number of provinces have already expanded their cadres, and increased their staff and made provisions for increasing very largely the number of students for agricultural, engineering and various other arts and sciences. A great deal of work has been going on in the country. It is only, it seems to me, this House which takes such a gloomy, pessimistic and an almost antagonistic view of these very beneficial activities that are now in progress all over the country.

Sir, now I come to the gravamen of the charge against this Department. Yesterday to my great surprise the Leader of the Opposition stated that we were planning in secret and that we did not want any co-operation.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): I did not say one word about secrecy. Please read my speech again: Somebody else said that; not I.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Anyhow the whole point is that I refused co-operation, that I wanted to carry on planning entirely on my own. As a matter of fact, from the day that I assumed office I have made it abundantly clear that the one thing that I want is public co-operation and that schemes and plans of this nature cannot possibly go on without public co-operation. A great deal has been made about the refusal to accept the Resolution on the last occasion. For two days I negotiated with the Leader of the Opposition to arrive at some compromise. A number of formulae were suggested; I offered a standing committee of the House to whom the whole thing would be reported. In fact, I pointed out to the Leader of the Opposition that the Resolution that he sponsored was not as good as the one that I proposed, because I said, "You only want a plan when it is ready to be put up before the House, whereas you appoint a standing committee and I will consult that standing committee at every stage in the formulation of the plans," which was a better thing than the one that he himself in his Resolution proposed. He seemed to fall in with my suggestions but later on he consulted his friends and every suggestion of mine till the last moment was turned down. Now, what is happening? I have again expressed my willingness to have a standing committee of the House and, as far as I understand, the proposal is to be accepted. Therefore, a standing committee of the House to advise me on all matters of planning and development will now be established after all this unnecessary bickering, trouble and ill-will which might very easily have been avoided. As a matter of fact, if my original suggestion had been accepted, that committee would probably have been, from the opposition's point of view, more valuable than the standing committee which is now coming. Therefore it is not that I shirk their co-operation that I

shirk publicity. On the contrary I welcome co-operation and I welcome publicity. I have gone even beyond this; I have tried to co-operate with other Members belonging to the opposite side. I wanted to enlist the services of a very well-known gentleman who performed very valuable work in connection with the Nehru Committee's report, to be on one of my committees; but after a certain amount of hesitation he refused. I wanted to appoint another gentleman of Congress sympathies in an extremely responsible position in my department; after consultation with some Congress leaders he refused. So that want of co-operation does not come from my side; it comes from the side of the Opposition.

Now, Sir, the point may be made, why was it that we did not accept the particular Resolution which was moved on the last occasion and why did we suggest any alternatives at all? I will make it clear why we did not accept that particular Resolution. The implications of that Resolution were not explained till the very last moment; and then my Honourable friend made a speech which made it impossible for Government to accept the Resolution; because he said, "You as a Government have neither the right nor the quality to frame these plans at all. It is we on this side of the House, we the Members of the Legislature who will frame a plan. You will only appear at the bar of the House; you will be the very first people who should appear before this committee to give evidence. It is we only who will frame this plan."

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Yes.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): What is wrong in that?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: If my Honourable friend will wait I will explain what is wrong with it.

That means that this Legislature of all Legislatures in the world is trying to take upon itself executive functions which belong to no legislature, however democratically constituted. That, Sir, is not possible. It is up to this Legislature to criticise our proposals, to refuse grants; these are within their proper functions. But for any legislature in the world to say that they will make a plan and do something which the executive Government is appointed to do is an impossible proposition.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Do you have this kind of executive anywhere else in the world?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Whatever the composition of the Government may be, it is a fact that no legislature in the world performs such executive functions; and if my Honourable friends try to do it they will immediately find from all sides of the House what a mess they have got into. My honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition was very sure of his abilities to perform such an operation, and why? Because alone and undaunted he said—and he was proud to say it—he wrote the minority report of the Bombay Share Bazaar Committee. Did he want any expert, did he want a Secretariat, did he want any staff? Nothing. He wrote that report, and therefore he considers himself capable of preparing a plan for a sub-continent like India. Sir, I do not for a moment claim that I am going to prepare a plan. As a matter of fact, a great deal of criticism that has been advanced in this House seems to be made on the misapprehension that I am a kind of pocket Hitler who is to prepare all the plans for the country which everybody must accept. Such is not the position at all. I am being assisted by a number of committees, by Provincial Governments all over the country and I welcome any kind of co-operation and assistance, the more such co-operation and assistance I can get, the more I will welcome it.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian, Commerce): Are your own colleagues in the Executive Council helping you?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Supply, Member): Of course.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Now I will deal with a few of the points raised by some of the speakers today. My Honourable friend, Mr. Essak Sait, seems to be under a misapprehension with regard not only to the fundamental propositions—the grounds on which he moved this motion—but also with regard to some of the details. For instance, he seems to be under the impression that the Panels which were formed by some Under-Secretaries would decide the fate of the important industries of India in the country. Such is not the case. The Panels are entirely and purely advisory.

And then I come to a very grave misconception which appears to prevail not only in the minds of the members of the Muslim League but also in the minds of the members of the European Group, and that is that I formulate the policy which is going to be actually executed. I shall describe somewhat in detail what exactly the procedure is so that any misconception that prevails in the minds of my Honourable friend, Mr. Lawson, may be removed. Policy may be initiated by a note in my department, but that is fully discussed by other departments of the Government. Then the whole matter is brought to a committee of the Executive Council—the Reconstruction Committee of the Council—of which I happen to be the Vice-Chairman. There the matter is discussed by every Member from every point of view. If it is important enough, it is further discussed in the Executive Council. At the same time, the Policy Committees which we have appointed are also consulted and their opinion is obtained and it is only after all these consultations have taken place that a final decision on policy with regard to Government is arrived at and that is the decision of the Government as a whole, so that there need be no misapprehension in the mind of my Honourable friend in the European Group that I alone will run away with and come to important decisions on policy which may in any way injuriously affect their own interests. I very much wish I could do what my Honourable friend suspects me of doing. Then the planning will proceed at a much quicker pace than at present. My grievance is that I am not able to do that.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): They are convinced!

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: What a hope!

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Sir, I will not take up much of the time of the House by going into other detailed points raised by other speakers, but there is one point raised by my honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, who now I hope is convinced by what I said:

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadian Rural): He is not.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: And that is with regard to the provision of seventy-four lakhs in the Budget. Criticism has been advanced that the Finance Member has poured cold water on the scheme by his reluctance to part with money. (Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari rose up in his seat.) I am not talking about Mr. Krishnamachari. He of course said that he has given me too much money.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Even that is not right. The Finance Member is not prepared to give the finances necessary for plans being carried out. It is not a matter of lakhs, it is a matter of crores.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Your speech is not well-planned!

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: From my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, I have received the most wholehearted co-operation. None of my plans up to now have in any way been impeded by any kind of parsimony or niggardliness displayed by my Honourable friend, the Finance Member. The real bottle-neck in connection with the plan is not going to be finance, it is going to be the lack of trained personnel, and that is the reason why we are giving first priority to the training of personnel and why we are in such a hurry to train personnel.

A great deal has been said about the National Government. As an author of the Bombay Plan I said that the Plan could only be executed by a National

Government. I am still of that opinion, and that is because when the Plan is in full operation, it will involve a number of controls—controls over capital, control over imports and exports, control over rationing, control over consumption, and various other types of controls which will interfere with the most intimate habits and customs of people in this country—and all that can only be done by a National Government which has the full support of the people behind it. In the meantime what are we to do? The war is coming to an end.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: No.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Millions of people will soon be unemployed. Two million of soldiers will be demobilized; the purchasing power which has been created by the demands for war industries will come to an end. We have to plan the transition from war to peace. Every country in the world is far in advance of what we have done with regard to the preparation of post-war plans. In the meantime, until our unfortunate political disputes and difficulties are settled, are we to stand by and do nothing and see the economy of this country collapse, as it is bound to do if nothing is done? That is the justification for the post-war planning work which has been undertaken by the present Government.

It seems to me that for the first time we are trying to do something which is positive, something that is constructive, something that is really for the benefit of the country. The Bombay Plan first drew the attention of the country and I might say the attention of the whole world by the grandeur of its conception with regard to the economic development of the country. It is on a similar basis that this Government has undertaken the planning for the economic uplift of the country. I have mentioned the various preliminary activities which have been undertaken. Is there anything in it which can in any way do any harm to any party or anybody in the country? Then, would it be too much to expect that all the parties will co-operate so far as this planning is concerned and assist the Planning Member in carrying out the plan instead of creating a very wrong impression on the rest of the world that even in matters like this, where there should be no room for any difference of opinion, which are entirely for the benefit of the country, that we cannot come to any agreement? What would the other countries think of our unity of purpose or even our common sense if a completely beneficial measure like this is thrown out on purely political grounds? But whatever the verdict of the House may be, I am sure that the verdict of the country, even in Congress circles is not going to be that pending the taking of office by a National Government nothing should be done and that the economy of the country should be allowed to collapse. I am sure that even the verdict of the Muslims of the country is not going to be that, even when the Pakistan issue is not prejudiced, nothing should be done so far as planning is concerned and the economy of the country allowed to collapse. If in spite of that an adverse verdict is passed by this House. I can only regard it as one more evidence of the irresponsibility which the unfortunate political situation in the country has brought about.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: I did not expect that the Honourable Member who has just resumed his seat would introduce topics on which he might well have been a little more wise and careful. But there are two or three matters to which I wish to refer because it is my duty.

He imagines in his wisdom that we on this side of the House and the country stand far apart and they and the country are going to be one in the near future because of the dead services they render. Such flattering function is all right in his own private chamber but an extremely poor show in a House like this.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Not being a lawyer I have no objection.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: There are only two matters to which I wish to refer. First about the negotiation of which I thought we had heard the last. The Honourable Member came to me and gave me a formula and he knows what it was. I consulted nobody. Thank God there is more confidence between us than there appears to be among the members of that group.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Very doubtful.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: I am quoting his words, Sir Cowasjee. Please, I am not giving way.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: You can interrupt, but we cannot!

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: I am not giving way.

(Cries from Opposition Benches of "Sit down, sit down: Order, order.")

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I rise to a point of order. It has become a habit of some sections of the House to deliberately interrupt.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: This is not a point of order.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I rise to a point of order.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal: Landholders): Order, order: Order, order!

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: It is for the President to decide.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Order, order. He is not giving in.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I rise to a point of order whether these interruptions are in order in this House, and if they are in order I have a right to interrupt. If they are not in order I will not interrupt.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Whether they are in order or not, it is my duty to judge and I can only judge in each case.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: The idea was that an advisory committee should be formed to work this plan and as the work went on any plans, or any part of them, when completed would be submitted to this House for approval. It was accepted by the Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal. He went back to his colleagues and said he had been advised that the word "approval" should be omitted and the word "consideration" should be substituted, and I think the House has intelligence enough to understand the difference between the two in its essential value. He says, yes we will let you discuss and we shall do what we like. On the other hand what we stipulated was that you will have our approval and then alone you can do it. So much for the negotiation and I hope and trust that at the end of this there will be no more discussion as to what took place. Some Members of this House do not know the constitution. They think that a Member has just got to speak something and the others have to toadily laugh!

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That is what they on your side are doing!

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: They are not aware that there are Committees of the House as in the American Constitution and perhaps the Honourable Member is not aware that the Resolution did not involve any executive action. The committee was to be appointed for the purpose of taking evidence and formulating a plan and recommending it.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I was going on the speech of the Honourable Member in which he said we will prepare the plan.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Of course he still does not understand. Preparing is one thing and execution another.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Making the plan itself is an executive action.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: He still does not understand, but I cannot help a man who has been a magistrate all his life. The fact remains that the committee prepares the plan and then it comes to the executive to carry it out. If there is any distinction between executive and deliberative, those are the two functions. Preparing a plan is deliberative. If you like it take it: if you don't like it, leave it. It is in the American constitution and it is done every day. If those gentlemen who in their ignorance laugh, let them go and read it if they have time and if they have any sense.

There is one matter to which I wish to refer. I confine myself to merits. Attempts were made yesterday to divide us and the country and to divide us between ourselves. It is a pitiful spectacle and I hope and trust that it won't be repeated in this House and that notwithstanding the discussion this House will carry this motion.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): My Honourable friend Sir Ardeshir Dalal has

been good enough to describe my friend the Leader of the Opposition and myself as the two Russian Generals who are out to annihilate Hitler in Germany, and he said that unlike the Russian Generals we do not agree. But let me tell him that whatever our differences may be, on one fundamental point there is complete agreement and that is to annihilate so many apologies for a Hitler sitting over there. Sir, my Honourable friend has spoken with injured innocence that in spite of the fact that he had made an offer to this House to co-operate with him we refused our co-operation, and he was further good enough to say that he had in the generosity of his heart agreed to appoint a standing advisory committee for his department. Mr. President, I think the time has come when the Government should realise what is the meaning of co-operation. Co-operation does not mean servile support of all that you say or all that you do. That type of co-operation you should not expect from any decent Indian in this country. But if you really wanted the assistance, the help, the co-operation of the non-official Members of this House, then you should have given effect to the Resolution that was passed by this Assembly in the last Session.

My Honourable friend has tried to make a point by saying that this House wants to usurp the function of the Executive and he has said that there is no legislature in the world which performs the functions that are legitimately assigned to the Executive. But my Honourable friend ignores one fundamental fact. Is there any Executive in the world which goes on merrily from day to day in spite of the fact that the Legislature of that country shows its lack of confidence every day in that Executive? If he can tell me the name of even one legislature in the world anywhere, outside India (otherwise he might mention this Assembly) then I shall accept what he has to say. Sir, the other legislatures naturally give the right of executing any plan or scheme to their Government because they know that that Government if it went wrong can be kicked out in a few moments and the legislature can put in a government of its choice—a government which will carry out the policy, the programme or the scheme which is approved by the majority of the members of the legislature.

Apart from that, let me remind him that this Resolution did not ask that the Legislature should usurp the functions which belong to the Honourable Member. He has forgotten the wording of the Resolution and only remembers some stray sentence in the speech of the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition. What does the resolution say? It says:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that an elected Committee of this House consisting of not more than 15 members be appointed for the purpose of considering the several plans for post-war economic development of India, agriculture and industry with instructions to report to this House."

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: That is execution!

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Where is it said that this Committee of 15 which was to be appointed should usurp the function of the Executive Council of 15 that sit over there?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: It was the explanation of the Leader of the Opposition.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I was saying that instead of paying attention to the words of the Resolution, my Honourable friend is hanging on to some stray sentence that was in the speech of the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition.

My Honourable friend has said that planning should not wait till such time as the future constitution of India is decided upon. I agree with him. It is not necessary that the future economic planning of the country should wait till such time as there is a new constitution but it must wait till such time as Indians themselves are able to plan the future. You are not fit to plan the future of this country economically, agriculturally, industrially and educationally. Your plans in the past have been of such a character that the people of the country cannot entrust their future destiny to your tender hands. Let me tell him that because we had realised the importance of immediate planning for the future, because we realised that the world cannot wait till such time as India is able to have an agreed constitution (God alone knows how long it

[Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan]-

may take to have a new constitution), it was because of that that we made this offer of co-operation to the Honourable Member by suggesting that a Committee of this House should be appointed to consider these plans. My Honourable friend has rejected that hand of co-operation and now I would submit that it does not lie in his mouth to come forward and say that he has always been wanting the co-operation of the people of India. After all this Legislature, constituted as it is, represents the peoples of India and therefore we as representatives of the peoples of India did offer our co-operation to the Honourable Member but he would not accept that co-operation, and the type of co-operation to which the Honourable Member is used, he cannot get from any decent Indian.

My Honourable friend has unnecessarily given expression to the views which he holds about Pakistan, whether it is to be one United India or two, three or four Indias. That is not the matter under discussion at present. The matter under discussion at present is that the future planning of the country should be done in such a way that the people of this country as a whole may feel that whatever those plans are, they are for the benefit of the peoples of this country, that those plans are of such a nature which would benefit the largest number of Indians in this country and that the plans are not made in such a way that the rich people will go on becoming richer and produce more TATAS in this country than what exist today. We do not want that the economy of this country should go into the hands of a few individuals. We do not want that the industrial development of this country should be done in a manner which would benefit only a few capitalists. We do not want that the wealth of the country should be taken and counted only in terms of the wealth of a few individuals. We want that the industrial development and the economic advancement of the country should be based on such lines that it would benefit the millions and millions of poor people and that when you talk of the wealth of the country you should take the wealth of the poor individual who is living in the villages and not those people who are living in big mansions and having the whole economic life of the country in the palm of their hands. And that, Mr. President, I submit the present Government, constituted as it is, is unfit to do. That ought to be and can only be done if they associate with them and have the real and honourable co-operation of the representatives of the peoples of this country. My Honourable friend has recognised the necessity, when these plans are put into execution, of having a Government of a type that would command the confidence of the people. That I think he has admitted and rightly so. But I submit that you cannot expect that the people should swallow whatever plans you may frame for them. You cannot expect that if there is a change in the Government in the future, then that Government should just thrust your plans down the throats of the people of India. If

the people's representatives are not associated in the preparation of these plans, then you cannot expect any Indian Government to carry out your plans. Therefore, Mr. President, all this time, all this money is being wasted and will be of no avail for the future advancement of the country. We recognise the importance of having the future planning done now, and that is why we said, taking everything into consideration, that if the plans are prepared with the goodwill, with the co-operation, with the assistance of the Honourable Members of this House, those plans have a better chance of being carried out in the country later on. Sir, I submit that the Honourable Member has not really given any valid argument in support of his contention. He has not given any argument as to why he has rejected the resolution which was accepted by this Honourable Assembly, and now let me say that as long as we on this side of the House have no share in preparing the plans for the future economic development of India, so long we shall do whatever we can not to place a single penny at your disposal to be spent as you may like.

Some Honourable Members: The question be put, Sir.

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 demand under the head 'Post-War Planning and Development' be reduced to Re. 1."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—59

Abdul Basith Choudhury, Dewan.
Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.
Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.
Das, Mr. B.
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.
Habibar Rahman, Dr.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hegde, Sri K. B. Jimaraja.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.
Kazmi, Qazi Muhammad Ahmad.
Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal.

Lalchand Navarai, Mr.
Lalljee, Mr. Hooseinbhooy A.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Manu Subedar, Mr.
Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad Muhammad.
Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
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.
Reddiar, Mr. K. Sitarama.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Satyanarayana Moorty, Mr. A.
Sham Lal, Lala.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Srivastava, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad.
Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

NOES—48

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Anthony, Mr. Frank R.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth.
Caroe, Sir Olaf.
Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardeshir.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Ghuznavi, Sir Abdul Halim.
Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.
Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.
Ismaiel Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema.
Khare, The Honourable Dr. N. B.

Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.
Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Mehta, Mr. Jamnadas M.
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.
Ram Nath, Mr.
Richardson, Sir Henry.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad.
Sheehy, Sir John.
Spence, Sir George.
Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
Sundaresan, Mr. N.
Thakur Singh, Capt.
Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
Tyson, Mr. G. W.
Tyson, Mr. J. D.

The motion was adopted.

THE FACTORIES (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, I present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

Mrs. Renuka Ray (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, May I just say that I should like to move my cut motion No. 189 on the Consolidated List of Motions under Demand No. 23 under the head Department of Labour, after Mr. N. M. Joshi's motion, during the time allotted to Unattached Members. The unattached Members, Mr. Frank Anthony and Sardar Sant Singh and Mr. Huseinbhoj Lalljee, have agreed to allow my cut motion to take precedence over theirs. I have also notified the Honourable the Labour Member accordingly. I hope you will kindly agree to this arrangement.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is that motion likely to come on today?

Mrs. Renuka Ray: On Monday or Tuesday.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Government Member any objection to it?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): I do not have any rights in this matter: the matter, I think, is entirely in your discretion, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As the Honourable Member has got the permission of those unattached Members in whose time this motion will be moved and the Government have enough time till Monday or Tuesday to be ready with their reply to the motion, I think I shall allow the motion to be entered on the agenda.

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. K. C. Neogy (One of the Panel of Chairmen) in the Chair.

DEMAND NO. 16—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 34,46,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of the 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies'."

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 34,46,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of the 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies'."

Failure of Control Permit System and Supply of Consumer Goods.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies came into existence some time in the middle of 1943. Some of us on this side, optimistic as usual, felt that this department will be of some use and service to consumers, to the poor man on the road and to an honest trader but our hopes were dashed to the ground like a house of cards. What is the achievement of this department to its credit? Profiteering, black marketing, hoarding, the utter failure of control and the lack of patronage to the Indian manufacturer of the consumer goods are to its credit. The other day, my Honourable friend Sir Henry Richardson while discussing the General Budget tried to pay a compliment to the effectiveness of the control and the price level, but in the same breath he pleaded for a liberal import policy. My friends on my left (The European Group), who are not here except one, may not be worried. After all this Government which has been disowned by all the sections this side of the House is owned by them. And the policy of this Government therefore, has always been to encourage imports and allow my friends on my left (the European Group) to establish their business connection. My friends on the opposite Treasury Benches have been professing that they are working in the interest of this country, then should they not feel it their duty to see that the imports which are brought to this country are used for defence purposes and the Indian manufacturer is allowed to make his contact with the market and

establish himself before war is over—but that is not done. There are consumable goods which are being produced in this country and are being replaced by the imports, this could have been left open to the civilian consumers but instead, it pays them to allow these goods to go for defence services, as the goods which come from abroad are not controlled or controlled only in the sense of the Department that landed cost plus 20 per cent. profit is allowed to people here, but the goods which are manufactured here are controlled. We therefore know that the profit is made there at the expense of India.

Mr. Chairman, coming to the effectiveness of the control, it remains for my Honourable friend and his Department to tell us as to how these companies have been declaring huge dividends. We are told that these companies working for the defence services are allowed only the cost price plus 10 per cent. but what we find? These companies have been making huge profits but nothing is done to check it. Let us take for example the Cotton Control Order. We find that there is a considerable increase in export, the inrush of cloth into the preparation of hosiery and ready made goods which are left scot-free from control, the lack of free and expeditious movement of cloth from the manufacturer to the consuming centre, the lack of equitable distribution of available supplies of cloth and yarn to every part of India—all these factors have tempted the traders to indulge in black marketing. It is all very well for our friends to say that control is in existence. You can buy things only in the fashionable shopping centre or living in the capital city, and boasting of effectiveness of control but all the four hundred millions of people cannot do this. They live in places where the shadow of this Imperialistic Government or their agents has never cared to pass. Go and see their conditions for yourself and the effectiveness of these controls in the villages. The other day my Honourable friend Mr. Chettiar put a supplementary question in which he informed the House that in Eastern Bengal some ladies committed suicide because they could not clothe themselves. One could see the blank look in the eyes of the Honourable Members on the opposite side as to ridicule the statement.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): How could you see my eyes, with my specks on? I said it is difficult for me to understand.

An Honourable Member: It is not difficult to believe.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: But you replied also ridiculing the statement—Leave aside Bengal. Take a province which is called a surplus province where you have got the headquarters of the Cotton Control Order. What is happening there? I will read to you a few lines from *Commerce*. It says:

"Meanwhile the shortage of cloth has become very much pronounced in this city. Nowhere could one obtain dhotis, and whatever stocks that remain with merchants have practically disappeared in the black market. It is understood that the recent order of the Textile Commissioner freezing the remaining 20 per cent. stocks with merchants has been due to the necessity of sending some cloth to up country centres which have been in great need of cloth. We are told that the present dhoti famine is likely to continue for at least two months more."

This is where your control headquarters exists and this is how you control. This famine exists not only in cloth but in fine cloth also. We find that mills have stopped producing finer cloth as it pays them to manufacture coarse cloth. Why can't the Government force these mills to manufacture fine cloth on the same pre-war average? Now, Sir, I submit this black market does exist everywhere. You cannot deny it. It is impossible for any one to say that it does not exist. One of the Directors of Civil Supplies in the course of an interview admitted that black markets did exist so far as cloth was concerned. This appeared in the *Eastern Economist*.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Who is that Director?

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: The Director of Civil Supplies in Sind.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Oh! I see.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Black market does exist everywhere. We find here in the City of Delhi cloth is not available. If one goes to the market,

[Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon.]

one cannot get a piece of long cloth or *lattha*. There is a great hue and cry from the poorer classes about the dearth of cloth, but yet nothing is done to remedy the situation. The Government have fixed the price for different qualities of cloth which are all stamped on the cloth. May I ask what check do Government have to see that the manufacturer does not stamp an excessive price on the cloth. To my knowledge there is no check at all. I have got here with me now some samples of cloth, which I can pass on to the Honourable Member and he can find out for himself whether excessive price is not stamped thereon. What are the Government going to do about that? I am sure the Government are not interested in instituting any check, because my Honourable friend the Finance Member is interested in seeing that he gets enormous excess profits tax. Of course he is only concerned with the revenue side of it.

(At this stage the Honourable Member exhibited to the House certain samples of cloth.)

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): Order, order. The Honourable Member is certainly in order in referring to these matters, but there is a limit beyond which this cannot be allowed inside the House. An examination of the samples might be usefully carried out in the lobby.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: I will give them to the Honourable Member, if he cares to have them.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I will be delighted to have them.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: I will certainly give this for the personal use of the Honourable Member because he also cannot get these materials. Mr. Chairman, coming to the new all India distribution scheme which we may for the moment call an improvement on simple movement, has its own shortcomings. It is learnt that the Government of India are trying to put this scheme into execution by licensing a few shops or in other words giving retail sale rights or wholesale selling rights to individual traders. May I know who will select these shops? They will be selected by officials. And how will they be selected? Only persons who invest in national savings certificates will be given this licence. I have got with me applications from merchants who have been trading in this line for a long time past and have legitimate right, have been left out simply because they were not able to produce evidence in their applications for licence that they had invested in national savings certificates. Mr. Chairman, these applicants who are all wholesale dealers have been completely left out of this scheme. People new to this trade have been selected for the grant of licence simply because they invested some amount in national savings certificates. It is really a pity that these things still exist and are allowed. In this new distribution scheme, the poor hawkers who used to find their livelihood by carrying cloth on their backs to the villages, have been left out altogether. There are thousands of these hawkers who are not included in your scheme and who will be starved out. What are you going to do with them? How are you going to provide them their livelihood? I suppose that will be a post war planning. Dyers and printers also have been left out of this scheme. I have got a telegram from Karachi which says:

"The Director of Civil Supplies has stopped cloth for hand dyeing printing purpose to dyers of Sind thus dealt death blow to Sind industry throwing thousands out of employment. Please move authorities concerned."

But what can I do. Can I move the authorities in this matter? It is impossible. There is another telegram from Burhanpur which says:

"Weavers condition pitiable yarn famine. Representatives want to see Azizul Huque through you. Explaining yarn position."

This relates to a co-operative society and who have also been thrown out of employment. Such a state of affairs exists in the country. This is the effectiveness of control of your Yarn Department.

Coming now to the other consumer goods, I find that the Honourable Member and his Department had declared that only 20 per cent will be allowed to be charged over landed cost. But what is done? Not only 20 per cent., not its double, 40 per cent, but 300 per cent. is being charged. When this order

came out, the consumers believed that it will give some relief. Now to the kind of propaganda that is being carried on in support of this by the Department of Broadcasting and Mis-Information: The booklet "Indian Information" dated 1st November 1944 says:

"The Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance aimed at putting down both these evils and making available to the public consumer goods at reasonable prices."

Now, let us examine the reasonable rates. The reasonable rates 200 per cent. 300 per cent. and 150 per cent. For instances on watches, they allow 115 per cent. to 125 per cent., watch materials, 200 to 300 per cent. is allowed. For radios and radio spare parts, they allow 200 per cent. All these percentages are legitimately allowed. This is not the percentage of the black market. When Government allows such high percentage of profit, why should such things go into the black market. I have got a list of 50 or 60 articles, in not even one case is the percentage below 20 per cent. Only in the case of razor blades it is 15 to 50 per cent. Then in reply to a question of Honourable Mr. Husain Imam in the other House Mr. Patel said:

"Section 6 of the Ordinance allows the trade to add to the landed cost or cost of production the profit margin allowed by pre-war normal trade practice, even though it exceeds 20 per cent., unless it is varied by the Controller General, who is empowered to examine these margins and to approve their continuance or modifications."

Mr. Chairman this entirely rules out your Ordinance of 20 per cent.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: These are the things which exist in this department as effective control. We were told by a communiqué when this department came into existence that industrial development will continue and in the interest of that the department will work. May I ask what has been done? The Hydari Mission has gone to England. When the Finance Member took the Finance deputation to England he had with him a non-official representative. Why did not the Hydari Mission take a non-official representative? But the facts are being kept a secret from this House. Why do you not come out with a statement and tell us what is being done regarding the capital goods? There has been a lot of talk about Capital Industry development and other things but we on this side are still wandering in the darkness. Sir, I move.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Sir, it is always an unpleasant and ungracious task to have to say anything against a department, the head of which is such a kindly, courteous and amiable gentleman as my Honourable friend opposite. But I should like to say on this occasion, and to warn him also, that he is unconsciously putting himself in the position of helping the Government to revert back into the East India Company. The East India Company was chartered to trade in pepper, and when it came here it took advantage of the situation and turned itself into an autocratic Government. And today it seems to me that with the help of its Indian collaborators, it wants to be both a Government and an East India Company. Government evidently want, with this department and other departments the heads of which are fellow-countrymen of mine, to get a monopoly of all possible trade.

An Honourable Member: Who is the Clive of this firm?

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I should think that the managing agent of this firm is going to be a sort of mixture of the Home and Finance Members, as Robert Clive was the managing agent of that great firm long ago!

I find that this Government is trying the control of one trade after another. And not only is it doing this recklessly; it is delegating its powers to Provincial Governments equally recklessly, with the result that the District Magistrates have now become the real traders of the country. Whenever any question is raised in this House and any complaint is made here, we are told that the power has been delegated to the Provincial Government and we ought

[Mr. Sri Prakasa.]

press it is stifled under the Defence of India Rules. The principal must ordinarily be responsible for its agents! The whole trade is being put into the hands of the favourites of the District Magistrates and is being deflected from its normal channels. Most traders have been deprived of their business; the few that retain it can only do so by questionable means; and by paying large sums of money to so-called war funds, because there is no other way of pleasing the District Magistrates except by paying into those funds. I hope I shall have occasion later on to speak on the war and what I think of it; but I do say that it is a disgraceful exhibition of executive power to force persons to contribute large sums of money before they can get licenses to do their normal trade.

Most businessmen are being killed out; new businessmen, favourites of District Magistrates, are being created who know nothing about business they are required to do. And then a most unholy class of inspectors has been let loose on society, and persons who are dishonest to the core look or are supposed to look after these shops. I myself experienced this sort of dishonesty. A friend of mine who happens to have a shop in a U. P. town, took me to that shop. Soon after came a very fat gentleman; and I was told he was an inspector. This friend of mine later on told me that he has to pay a hundred rupees a month to this inspector. If he did not pay that money it would be impossible to carry on that shop. Permits are wanted for all sorts of things. Here in Delhi the other day when a servant of mine got ill about 10 o'clock at night and I wanted some spirit of camphor, I knocked from chemist's door to chemist's door, and they would not give it to me, though I was getting very anxious about the case, because they wanted a doctor's certificate before they could part with a few drops of the spirit of camphor.

I cannot believe that there is a shortage of goods in the country because there is always the black market from which one can get anything one wants in any quantity. If there had been a real shortage, there would not be these things available anywhere. The common talk in my town of Benares certainly is that the department has its control prices for Government servants who alone can take advantage of it; has provided black markets for the wealthy, and the middle and the poor classes are left in the cold as never before. When there is any complaint against this department we are asked to give individual cases. Individual cases are always difficult to give because of the peculiar circumstances.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: What about the name of the fat inspector? That is not difficult; will you give us that?

Mr. Sri Prakasa: All right.

Then traders have told me that if they did not indulge in this kind of bribery they would not be able to carry on their business at all. We are told in this House that there are always two sides to a bribe—the bribe-giver and the bribe-taker, and that both are equally guilty. Legally that may be so, but morally that is not so, because the bribe usually takes the form of extortion.

3 P. M. The Honourable the Finance Member has asked me to give the names. I can tell him that questions in this House on Income-tax have got me in trouble with local officers; and it is not always very easy to complain because you get it in the neck in your own home. And if my Honourable friends opposite think that there is something fishy on my part in the income-tax business, they are mistaken, because everything was all right as was proved all along the line! But they can always trouble you in a thousand ways when they know that you have complained to Headquarters. That is why most of these complaints do not come.

It is the duty of Government, when there is a complaint of a general nature, to make investigations and find out where the trouble lies. When it comes to a group of non-officials, Government says the trade is all dishonest; it has done them very badly, they must all go. There no specific instances are called for, nobody says which particular trader has been dishonest, no effort is made to catch the particular trader and punish him. In that case the whole trade is

dubbed as dishonest and swept off. But when it comes to Government servants, there is always some specific instances to be given. If a trader is caught charging a little more, he is very heavily punished. When it comes to the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer who sent out an order to the effect that woollen goods are only to be given to people who pay income-tax and Government servants drawing a pay over Rs. 100, and we asked the Honourable gentlemen what punishment was meted out to the Chief Commissioner for this incensate order, he said that it was an honest mistake. Government servants always commit honest mistakes while non-officials are always dishonest. If a trader commits a little mistake because of the complicated laws and the enormous number of orders that are being passed then he is punished inordinately. For charging one pice more out of ignorance on a rubber tyre that was required by a Deputy Magistrate, a trader was fined by a fellow Deputy Magistrate to the extent of one thousand rupees, while when if he charged a non-official a little more—not only one pice but many annas more—the fine was only a few rupees. It is because the sanctity of the Government servant is so very great! I could dilate on various misdeeds of the department, but it is utterly useless to do so.

My greatest objection to the department is that it has introduced politics in its consideration; and that came out when I put questions about the *National Herald*—our newspaper at Lucknow. What has this Department to do with the politics of a per? It has only to see whether there is a sufficient amount of newsprint available or not. The Department wants to make itself an ally of the Home Department and the Provincial Governments; and they are anxious to stop the publication of all newspapers that go counter to their views. The Honourable Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, speaking in Hyderabad, said that we should all have courage to say what we feel, but evidently what he meant was that we should all have the courage, where no courage is necessary, of speaking in favour of Government; but when we have the courage to speak things that are not to the taste of Government then we should be punished heavily. I believe Government should have the courage to punish and we should have the courage to sing its praises!

I, therefore, feel that when in this Department there is favouritism, in this department there is corruption, and in this department there is a great deal of politics, then this department must be abolished. I am not satisfied really with a cut of only one hundred rupees. I should like the department to go lock, stock and barrel; and my Honourable friend to be given a task that would be more congenial to him. The case of newspapers is particularly scandalous; and permission is given to newspapers that are in favour of the Government as it is, while even old established newspapers are not being given permission to re-appear simply because their politics are uncongenial to the Government opposite. I therefore think, Sir, that it is time that the Honourable Member, if he is not able to abolish his department entirely, should take greater responsibility for it himself, to have his own officers throughout the country and not depend on provincial administrations with their prejudices and their biases.

The other day an Honourable Member spoke of a certain amount of smuggling; and my Honourable friend opposite asked him to consult his geography and to find out how widespread our frontiers are and then to realize how impossible it is to look after everything. This reminds me of a little story of Mahmud of Ghazni—it would be insulting Mahmud of Ghazni to compare him with the present Government—who was approached by an old woman who complained to him of a certain theft that had taken place in her house; and Mahmud said: "My Empire is so large that I cannot look after everything". Then the old woman said: "Why do you have such a large Empire, who asked you to get such a large Empire, and if you have that large Empire you must look after everything in that Empire". I say the same to Honourable Members opposite. They are responsible for the lives and liberties of every one of us, however far from the capital may be the place where we reside. Nobody asked them to establish this Empire, nobody asked them to come here, and if they have come here and if they have this Empire, they must look

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after us. If they cannot look after us they had better go out. It is none of their concern as to what is going to happen to us afterwards. We will see to it what happens; but I do hope that my Honourable friend opposite, the good man that he is, will no more associate himself with this Government and be a party to their wrongs.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I am quite prepared to accept the fullest responsibility for the Department, as I have been asked, but my friend will agree with me that not even superman can ever do it, unless this responsibility is also shared by this House. Sir, it is impossible in any country in matters dealing with economic commodities and controls to tackle them properly unless the Legislature, which is there certainly to criticise where there is a wrong is also on occasions prepared to give credit for what the Department has been able to do. I will not say anything more than that.

My friend Mr. Yusuf Abdoola Haroon was almost offering me a few pieces of cloth which I would be delighted to have at any time. He is a member, along with 25 to 30 other non-official gentlemen, of the Consumer's Council. Was it not his duty to bring it to my notice and then if I did not take any action, he would certainly be entitled to raise it in the House and criticise me and my department. I have not heard of one instance. In matters of these economic controls, if any matter of abuse is brought to my notice, I am prepared to take the responsibility for going into the question fully and finding out what best can be done. But, Sir, to revert back to the story, if like Mahmud Ghazni I myself established an empire and had to be responsible, then it would be different. I am speaking in 1945. Twenty years before, if anyone had said that the autonomy of the provinces should in any way be affected, he would be considered a traitor to the country. I am now in the midst of a new situation. The autonomy of the provinces is there and the Government of India have not the field staff, and I say deliberately that no amount of effort can quickly create a field staff covering the thousands of square miles of this vast country.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Then don't have it!

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: But the question is the time factor. If I have to bring down the level of the prices at a quick time remember I have to work with the existing machinery. With regard to modifications, or amendments or changes in machinery I am prepared to work with you. But in the meantime I have to work with the existing machinery and see what can be done in the circumstances.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: The existing machinery is pretty rotten!

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My friend Mr. Haroon said that this Department is responsible for all the profiteering and the black-marketing. I would like to know the logic of it. If it is because of the result of their action black-marketing has come, I can understand

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Certainly.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: But does my friend mean to say that in the year 1943 when prices were at their highest peak, it was due to the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies which was not in existence? And why was it that 550 per cent. rise was there?

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Due to inflation!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Government was responsible.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is one complete argument to all arguments in this House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is a quite correct argument.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: It is 300 per cent. even now.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I frankly admit it. But with prices 555 per cent. up, if I had made an attempt to bring it down to 100 per cent. at once, I would have brought about an economic chaos in this country. I have

been trying to reduce it gradually and if I have been able to bring it down to 250 per cent., if not 300 per cent., I at least believe that I have done something.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Abolish the Nasik Press!

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is not the concern of the Industries and Civil Supplies Department. Therefore I say, that, do give us some credit that from 1943 we have been able to reduce the peak price by half. May I ask the economic historians and the political historians whether there is any parallel in any country where price was at its highest peak, the situation had to be taken in control with supplies at an extremely low level and with success. It was an extraordinary difficulty. I do not take any credit for myself. But I give credit to all those in the department and those who have worked for the last two years to bring about this condition of things in this country. I have to work under the existing constitution and my friend knows it perfectly well. He knows the map of Sind and the map of India. He knows that if the Director of Supplies, Sind, has refused yarn to anybody the remedy is with the Ministry of his province and not with ourselves. We have been supplying the total quota for the province. I wish I could control the entire distribution system of this country. But it is physically impossible. It is not possible within the time limit and so long we have to work with constitutional position as it is today, distribution in the provinces must be through the provincial agencies. Complaints about the Director of Civil Supplies not giving yarn to a particular area or person should go to the Ministry which is responsible for the province, if there is a Ministry, otherwise to the Provincial Government.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: In the new Budget you have asked for the demand to increase your staff to 462.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I ask most seriously whether a staff of 462 can control the black marketing in this country? Is that most seriously argued? As I said, I will come to what we have done.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: An army of 20 lakhs, do you want more?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Then my friend asks how is it that companies are giving huge dividends? I am afraid my friend has forgotten the elementary principles of business. Dividends accrue from, but do not depend on the turnover but on the share capital. If my friend has made a profit of 20 lakhs, his dividends will be much more with a capital of 5 lakhs than a company with 10 lakhs capital.

As regards the question of quick movement and equitable distribution, we have been most alert about it. We have done our best. As regards the question of textiles, yarn and cloth, there is a motion on Monday next, and I propose to give a detailed reply to all these questions. Then when he understands the facts, he will understand our position.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: In the meantime the people are to go without clothes!

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not admit that it will be so.

I have before me the report of the Controller General for the last fortnight. We have tried to start enquiry posts, in some of the important towns, to which people who have complaints may come. In the Enquiry Post in Bombay 255 complaints were received and 12 complaints were made in the fortnight. In Calcutta in one post 136 enquiries were made. We have been trying to see that traders play a fair game with the producers.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: What was the result of those enquiries?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If my friend wants it, as a member of the Consumers' Council, I am prepared to place every thing before him.

As regards dehoarding activities, very recently in that fortnight (this is according to the Associated Press message) there was a big haul of black marketing and watches to the extent of about 2,000 have been found out as a

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result of dehoarding activities. 302 watches were gold and 1,500 were ordinary watches.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Have they been confiscated?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: They have certainly been confiscated in the way that they are now available to the public. There are now cases before the court.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Will they be rehoarded?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: At Ferozpur in the Punjab 1,400 five pound tins of vegetable ghee, 9 drums each containing 560 pounds of vegetable ghee, several hundred tins of boot polishes, a large quantity of various toilet requisites including some hundred jars of face creams of various brands, razor blades, etc., have been recovered from the residences and godowns of some dealers. At Amritsar woollen yarn and rugs worth approximately Rs. 70,000 were recovered from the residence of a local shopkeeper. In Calcutta, glass sheets worth about a lakh of rupees have been seized from four different firms who were selling them at black market prices. At Shillong 88 bags of soda ash and 10,000 cigarettes from different shops have been dehoarded. May I say once again that I am quoting here from only a report for a fortnight and the work has been going on every week.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: What was the report before that?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am quite prepared to send all these reports to my Honourable friend. This is a matter in which I am anxious that the people should know the amount of work which we have been doing. Public consciousness has been aroused against anti-social profiteering and black market activities and from a report published in the *Hindustan Times* towards the end of February last it appears that the New Delhi Congress Committee is going to start a campaign against black marketing. Workers will go from shop to shop requesting dealers to stop black marketing. It is reported from the Central Provinces that an effigy of black marketing was set on fire at a public gathering held under the auspices of the local Congress Workers' Assembly.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Waste of fuel.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have personally noticed a regular campaign against black marketeers in some other papers also, particularly those which have been started at the instance of the Communist Party in India. The Press has begun to take a more vigilant interest in the convictions and in a recent case in which the Managing Director and two local salesmen of a big firm in Bombay were convicted and sentenced to a fine of Rs. 1,000 and 200 and 100 a Bombay newspaper has severely criticised this light punishment. Fines in Sind Province ranged from Rs. 300 to Rs. 1,500 and from one month's to four month's imprisonment: two accused in a profiteering case were each fined Rs. 15,000 and sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment for selling an article at uncontrolled rate.

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): Imprisonment in default or in addition to fines?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: In addition to fines.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: What about European firms?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: In this matter both Europeans and Indians have been prosecuted.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: The Europeans are let off. I have given facts.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Your facts are all wrong. I am prepared to go into the question.

In the North-West Frontier Province the fines inflicted on profiteers ranged from Rs. 50 to Rs. 150. In the Punjab a leading dealer of Ferozpur was awarded one month's rigorous imprisonment for profiteering in vegetable ghee.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Have you taken any steps to check dishonesty in your department?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: There has been no dishonesty in my Department.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: That is the way of encouraging those in the Department.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I need only say that there was a complaint against an Inspector but on enquiry it was not found to be completely founded on facts. But since the circumstances were such leading to suspicion of abuse of power, we asked the man immediately to leave the Department.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Is it not a fact that the Army and Navy Stores are allowed to charge 100 per cent. profit, whereas others are allowed only 20 per cent.?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, Sir, I think it is not. I am prepared to look into the facts and give you a reply.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have you got any cases in which European firms have been prosecuted?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Let us have some instances.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The Honourable Member must take it from me that they are prosecuted. Surely I am not making a light-hearted statement when I say that it is a fact that they are prosecuted. It is not necessary for me to give the details of the convictions. We are keeping a watch over it. Our trouble has been that whereas convictions in some provinces are deterrent, in other provinces it is not so deterrent. But I must say that compared with the situation about a year ago, the convictions now are becoming more and more deterrent in its effect.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: In Delhi Province the sentences are very light.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No. I have got two cases. In Delhi a general merchant who had sold a safety razor for an unreasonable consideration was sentenced to a fine of Rs. 2,000. In another case a gramophone dealer who sold a gramophone at a high price was fined Rs. 2,500.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Give instances where sentences of imprisonment have been given in Delhi.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I would like the House to make an unequivocal declaration that in every case there should be imprisonment and nothing less. I want to be clear on that point. I have got before me three or four firms which have been prosecuted.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know the conviction given to them?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I cannot carry in my head all these details. May I say that the convictions do not depend upon me. I know that there have been heavy convictions in some cases. If you ask a question, I shall be prepared to reply.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Short notice question?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, I am prepared to accept short notice.

So far as papers are concerned, if it is a case of political views that governed this matter, I would certainly not have given permission to the evening edition of the *Hindustan Times*. The *Hindustan Times* at least has done me the honour, though I was the Member in charge of the Industries and Civil Supplies and attended the last meeting of the Indian Chambers of Commerce, it mentioned every name except mine. It is not a paper which is very kind to me, but, as I said, we have given permission to them. We have given permission to other nationalist papers as well.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What about the *National Herald*?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I was going to say that we have been trying that Indian States should also fall into line with us and I am glad to say that a quite number of States have come into line. In one Indian State an ex-minister has been sentenced to two years imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 15,000 on charges of profiteering and hoarding. I can assure the Members of the House that we have been quite vigilant. We have been getting fortnightly reports of these convictions. We have drawn the attention of Provincial Governments, but the laws delays are there. I am glad to say that in Bombay they are having a Special Magistrate or an Additional Magistrate to try these cases.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Where is the cloth in Delhi?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as cloth and yarn position is concerned, I do not want to confuse the issue today as there is a motion on Monday when I will make a full statement as to how the system is working today.

Apart from these measures, as nothing can check the present evil unless there are adequate supplies available, we have been trying out best, wherever it is possible, to find the supplies from within the country, and wherever it is not possible, we have been trying to get them from abroad. The Honourable Members will remember the statement I made the other day giving the quantities or the numbers of the articles which we are trying to get from abroad—fine yarn, fountain pens, ordinary paper, photographic materials, films, and other articles.

An Honourable Member: You want cosmetics?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My trouble is if my friend does not want cosmetics, there are others behind me who will require them, and if they want them, although I have no use for them, I have to provide them as part of the civil supplies. Then Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon wanted me to make an inquiry into the nature of the profit margin. I am quite prepared to have that matter discussed in the Consumers Council. May I say this Consumers Council is a body composed of six members and my friends opposite cannot say as usual that we have selected very convenient people. Mr. Neogy is a member, Sir Frederick James is there, Mr. Joshi is there.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Has not Mr. Neogy ceased to be a member?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: He is still a member. Mr. Hossein Imam is there. I have five editors of newspapers on the Council: Mr. Brelvi of *Bombay Chronicle*, Mr. Tushar Kanti Ghosh of *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, Sir Francis Low of the *Times of India*, Mr. Srinivasan of the *Hindu*, and Mr. Siddique of the *Morning News*. Can my friends say that we have selected men who are convenient to us? There is a member who belongs to the Congress Party and who was at one time a Minister. There are representative educationists. I am quite prepared to go into the question of profit margin as regards individual articles, but they cannot be discussed on the floor of the House. Let me however make a general proposition. If Seth Abdoola Haroon will come to us again and say that it is our duty to see that trade is not disturbed more than is necessary, then I may say that in deciding the profit margin we try to keep to the pattern of trade and profits as far as possible. Even there, where we find the profit is large, we have tried to reduce it. It is no use asking why I give 100 per cent. to crockery. Anybody who deals with crockery knows the heavy breakages in that line. It was not quite fair, if you will kindly excuse me, on Mr. Abdoola Haroon's part to read a statement in answer to a question, where the question was whether Government would place on the table a list of articles for which more than 50 per cent. is charged. And that is a list where, by and large, we have tried to reduce the profit by at least 50 per cent. We are trying to rationalise the profit on a proper basis. For example, Raleigh Cycles were sold at Rs. 320, they have now been brought down to Rs. 121-13-0.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: They are not available:

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: They are available.

Then, condensed milk, my friend can take a little.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: It is my friend himself who is taking milk.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is good for everybody to take milk. Its price was Rs. 2-2-0 per tin, we have reduced it to 13 As. per tin. Sheffear life time fountain pens were selling at Rs. 175, we have reduced their price to Rs. 52-8-0. Black Bird we have got down its price from Rs. 18 to Rs. 6-6-0.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: I want a pen.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: But you have got one in your hand, and that is my trouble. My trouble is my friend who has a pen wants more. I got one pen six years ago, and I have another which is made in this country, and I am trying to find out whether it will suit. I see in today's paper that 900 pens have arrived in Madras today. There will be similar consignments arriving in Calcutta, Bombay and other places. Similarly we have reduced the price of shirtings, suitings.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: But where are they?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My friend always goes to the wrong places. Now, taking the price of cotton, the price of 'Leopard' cloth in April 1943 was Rs. 2-14-0 per lb., in May 1943 it rose to Rs. 3-14-0, then we began reducing its price, it is now reduced to Rs. 1-8-0. We are still trying to reduce this price further if we can. But it should be remembered that the price of a finished commodity depends on the prices of articles which go into their production, and having regard to the prices of coal and raw materials, we could not do more than what we have done. I can assure you that this matter is constantly before us. We are not only doing that, but we are trying to see that supplies are made available to the people.

I do not think it is necessary for me to traverse all other points. I propose to deal with this question of yarn and cloth in little more detail next day.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): Please tell briefly in a few minutes what you can.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I want to leave it for the next day in order that I may be able fully to give the position so far as textiles are concerned.

As regards paper there is only point.

An Honourable Member: What about the Hydari Mission?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Mr. Hydari is the Secretary of the Department, but the Mission has gone under the auspices of another Department.

As regards paper we are in a difficult position. The civil consumption was roughly about 120,000 tons, and we did not have more than 44,000 tons. There was a time when universities could not print their question papers, text books could not be published, and periodicals had to stop. We had to allocate paper, and in doing so we have given slightly concessional consideration to scientific, medical, commercial, financial, and technical journals and publications. A large number of newspapers and periodicals have been diverted to newsprint; text book publishers have been allowed liberal paper including newsprint, and they now have available 130 per cent. of what they consumed in 1943. For the printing of religious books also we have given special concessional consideration and have given them more than the usual quota. Requirements of schools and universities have been looked into. May I say it is not a pleasure to us to restrict supply if we can get the quantities required. I hope the House will kindly realise our difficulty. When what we have is only enough for ten, we can not give anything to the other 190. The question is whether we are trying to distribute what we have in an equitable manner. But I must say that the black market today is

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much less; and if Prof. Ranga will really say what he feels in his mind, he will agree with me.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Why do you call it black market? Why not white?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I leave that to Mr. Sri Prakasa to deal with.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: It has been created by white people!

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not think it is necessary for me to enter into details. As I have said, if there is individual abuse, if there is an individual case where the control has not been properly done, if the matter is either personally brought to my notice or to the notice of the consumers council—and here I may say that we have panels associated with every branch of control—I and my department would be delighted to go into it; but I do hope that in giving expression to their views, they will realise the immense difficulty of our problems, the constitutional difficulties of today, and the circumstances under which we have to work these controls and the extent to which we have succeeded in bringing it to the present position.

We are something like a whipping boy. Everybody knows what the difficulties are; nobody knows what they would have been if the department was not there. We were near a precipice, we were almost near an abyss; and I claim that the measures we have taken to check inflation by control of these prices and commodities have brought about a new change in the economic situation of India. I do not want to say anything more than that. As I have said, it is because in the department there has been a band of devoted workers who have done their level best.

Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I think it will require months probably to enumerate the abuses and corruptions and the acts of omission and commission of this department. I really wonder at the Honourable Member's logic when he said to the credit of his Department, that the peak prices in May 1943 have been brought down to about 50 per cent. now. It is just like the argument if a doctor gives himself the credit and says that a certain patient of his was having a temperature of 104 and 105 degrees and he had his temperature brought down to 102, although the patient died all the same! The question is, has this Department been able to stabilise the economic conditions of the people on sound lines or not? Have you been able to give the people any relief or not? Civil Supply Department has only complicated matters, if not everywhere, in some places at least. The Honourable Member for this Department had the audacity to tell us that there is no corruption. I do not suppose there is any department of the Government of India today which is worse managed, and more corrupt than the Civil Supplies Department. I would just like to impress a few facts—in the brief time at my disposal I cannot go into all the faults and abuses which have been pointed out to the Honourable Member but in which the Honourable Member has not taken any steps. He is pleading ignorance; but the House should know that thousands of letters have been sent to him of which he has taken no notice. That is the trouble. You ignore letters and you plead ignorance of facts here.

I would first like to point out the standard cloth scandal, as I would call it. The cloth was not supplied of that yarn and of that weight which the Government asked the mills to supply; and what did the Government do with those millowners and with these big men? The Honourable Member has been trying to earn the approval of this House by saying that black marketeers and profiteers are being brought to book and they are being punished. Yes, they are being punished; but what is their percentage? Not even .5 of them—not even .1 of them; and normally when there is a punishment inflicted, it is on the lower class of servants of those merchants, who are paid for that purpose and told that one day or other they will be imprisoned and these servants do this with their eyes wide open: while the merchants have been able to earn a few thousands or a few lakhs of rupees, they do not mind allowing a pension to the

family of that servant for a few months or years. Unfortunately or fortunately I know that group, and I am associated with some Chamber of Commerce of Calcutta—I have been a vice-president of one chamber for a period of 12 years and am president of some other Merchants Association in Calcutta and I know what has been going on; I know what the merchants are doing. Do not try to tell this House and belie your own conscience by making a statement which has got no truth in it. I want to point out the attitude of the Textile Commissioner whom you call honest and to whom you have given a certificate of honesty. To come and tell me that this is fine cloth (exhibits sample of cloth) and is muslin which was priced at . . .

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): Order, order. I have given my ruling already. These samples cannot be exhibited in the House in the manner the Honourable Member is doing.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I bow to your ruling. Then I would only point out the number and say that the price . . .

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): The Honourable Member is perfectly at liberty to make his point with reference to the marked prices, but I am afraid the Chair would not be able to permit him to exhibit the samples.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: You will notice, Sir, that the marked prices in October 1944 were lower than the marked prices in January 1945 or December 1944. This is a disgraceful state of things; if a certain mill has been able to give a bribe to the Textile Commissioner, he marks prices at higher rate?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I must intervene and point out that these marks are not given in the Textile Commissioner's office.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Then I mean those who do Marking and whoever is responsible; here is the *lattha* cloth which was marked in October 1944 at 11 annas, whereas for worse quality it has been marked in 1945 Rs. 1-2-0. I would present this to the Honourable Member and ask him to satisfy himself and his conscience whether his department is doing what it ought to have done. I do not suppose this requires any further argument. I think there is still some time left with the Honourable Member to improve things and he is the best judge of these matters as compared to anybody else of his department.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If the Honourable Member will calmly tell me what he wants to say, I will certainly hear it and I will go into the matter.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: The Honourable Member has said "We are like whipping boys". Anybody can come and inflict some complaint or other but the Honourable Member forgets that he gets only the infliction of words, while other people are being inflicted in action. The infliction is much worse in their case, which they have to feel for all times.

I will mention another ingenuity by which this department has saved some big firms and particularly European firms. Woollen or silk cloths are marked for suiting purposes, say, at the rate of 10 or 12 rupees per yard; but when you go to Lilaram's or Ranken's they say "Oh, no; we are not going to sell them to you by the yard; we will sell you suits made to order and the tailoring charge for making the suit may be Rs. 200 or something like that". That is the ingenuity of this department. I do not think it requires further elucidation or much greater intellect than should have been supplied to the Honourable Member's Department to understand what we are asked to pay in total. It is all humbug—that is the one word I can say. You cannot purchase anything unless you go into the black market. Sometimes we are told that merchants cannot afford to sell at less than fifty rupees although control is at ten. Take it or leave it, is the merchants attitude. That is the whole position which has come to light in spite of all efforts of the Honourable Member.

The Honourable Member made mention of the consumers council. How many times have they met? Has the Honourable Member brought up all the complaints before that Council? Never. Again, what is the constitution of the consumers council? It is a nominated body which panders to the whim and

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman.]

humour of the Honourable Member in charge. They may be good people but the question is what is their responsibility to this House and to the people at large.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): There is too much noise in the House.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I will not talk of paper and many other things. I will now refer to the corruption that is going on in connection with the distribution of raw films. Delhi is full of all sorts of actors and actresses who approach the higher authorities of the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies and persuade them to do what they like. There is probably no quota system except on paper and permits are given at the whim of the authority in charge. That is the position so far as this matter is concerned.

I will now say a word about the general permits in the Commerce Department. What happens? There are some water tight departmental rules and if certain merchants

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: On a point of order. My friend has a right to say anything he likes about the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies. I am quite prepared to meet him there but he is now bringing in the question of import and export licenses in the Commerce Department and we are now discussing the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I would just like to impress on the Honourable Member why I wanted to discuss the question of the export licenses which are given for the export of cloth from here and in discussing it I wanted to say about the cloth supply position in India.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): Do I understand that the export licenses do not fall within the purview of the Honourable Member's Department?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: They come under the Commerce Department.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): The Honourable Member (Mr. Nauman) had better not make any mention of export licenses in this connection.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: On a point of information. Are not licenses for the supply of goods given by the Honourable Member's department? The licenses, let us say, for films or things like that?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not objecting to films. I was objecting to the question of import and export licenses being raised now.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): Any references to them would be definitely out of order.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: On a point of order. Export is directly connected with the supply of goods in the country, for instance, cloth. If cloth is not available in the country, then we have to point out why cloth is not available in the country. That is an article which is definitely under this particular department. Therefore the Honourable Member is perfectly justified in saying that the Department of Civil Supplies is not taking action to keep the supplies in the country at the required level.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): If the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies is responsible for seeing to it that there is adequate supply in the country, then certainly this is a matter which is relevant to the issue.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I find that the Nawabzada has missed his vocation. Instead of being a lawyer, he is now Leader of the Opposition. I certainly agree that so far as the retention of the civil supplies position *vis-a-vis* the export is concerned, it can be discussed but my friend was discussing the abuse of the export system.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Mr. Nauman has finished. I move that the question be now put.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—57

Abdul Basith Choudhury, Dewan.	Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.	Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.	Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.	Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.	Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.	Manu Subedar, Mr.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.	Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad Muhammad.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.	Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.	Naidu, Mr. G. Ranglah.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatchelam.	Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.	Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.	Pande, Mr. Badri Dutt.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.	Raghbir Narain Singh, Choudhri.
Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.	Ram Narayan Singh, Mr.
Das, Mr. B.	Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.	Raza Ali, Sir Syed.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.	Reddiar, Mr. K. Sitarama.
Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.	Sant Singh, Sardar.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.	Satyanarayana Moorty, Mr. A.
Fazl-i-Haq Pircha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.	Sham Lal, Lala.
Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr.	Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.	Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Habibar Rahman, Dr.	Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Hans Raj, Raizada.	Srivastava, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad.
Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.	Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.	Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.	Yusuf Abdool Haroon, Seth.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.	Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
Kazmi, Qazi Muhammad Ahmad.	

NOES—48

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.	Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.	Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.	Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.	Mehta, Mr. Jamnadas M.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.	Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth.	Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami.
Caroe, Sir Olaf.	Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N.	Piara Lall Kureel, Mr.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.	Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.	Ram Nath, Mr.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinsbaw.	Richardson, Sir Henry.
Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardeshir.	Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.	Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad.
Ghuznavi, Sir Abdul Halim.	Sheehy, Sir John.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.	Spence, Sir George.
Gwillt, Mr. E. L. C.	Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.	Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.	Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.	Sundaesan, Mr. N.
Ismail Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.	Thakur Singh, Capt.
James, Sir F. E.	Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.	Tyson, Mr. G. W.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.	Tyson, Mr. J. D.
Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema.	
Khare, The Honourable Dr. N. B.	

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 26—FOOD DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): The remaining hour is allotted to unattached Members. The first motion in the name of Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam relates to Demand No. 26.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,01,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Food Department'."

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 37,01,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Food Department'."

Supervision and Control of Work in Provinces

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surma Valley cum Shillong: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Food Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Chairman, I want to discuss the inefficiency and the irresponsibility of the Food Member in connection with food administration in the different Provinces. Sir, I am a villager coming from far off Assam and I am fully conversant with the conditions of the poor villagers and how much they suffer there. These people do not get their food because rationing has been introduced in towns and the villagers have got to go all the way to towns to get their food-stuffs and all essential commodities. On account of rise in the price of food-stuffs, a majority of these people have not got the capacity to buy the food-stuffs at the enhanced prices. I shall take one by one the essential commodities which they cannot easily get from the market. The first and foremost comes salt. The poor people suffer from many ills. They cannot secure edibles to make their dish relishing. None can do without a pinch of salt. These poor people grow rice, but they cannot consume the same without the help of salt. But salt is not easily available. This is the sixth year of war and the people in the villages are not getting salt in proper quantity and in a proper way.

An Honourable Member: Salt does not come under Food Department.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Yes, Sir, it comes under Food Department. It is one of the essential commodities of food and it is under the Food Department. The other commodity which is essential for the poor villagers is kerosene and this is selling at an exorbitant price in the villages. In many cases, it is not available.

An Honourable Member: Does kerosene come under the Food Department?

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: It comes under the joint responsibility of the Executive Councillors. I am only putting forward the difficulties which the poor villagers are undergoing at the present time. Then there is control and license for these things. These poor villagers have to go to the licensing officers and get things after many days of waiting and harassment from the control officers. This introduction of licensing and control had benefitted only two classes of people, officials and the wholesale agents. This has not given relief to the general public, to the poor villagers but it has given relief only to Government officials. These poor villagers are much hard pressed but nothing is done for them by way of relief. There are many Honourable Members in this House who plead for increased wages and dearness allowance for industrial labourers but no one speaks for the poor cultivators who with the sweat of their brow grow wheat or rice which is not even sufficient for their annual consumption. Nobody asks Government to give them some dearness or subsistence allowance. We are now under the influence of industrial ideology and we think in terms of those labourers only who work in industrial areas and not in terms of poor village cultivators who live under the worst condition of life. Every one knows that there they are suffering unmitigated poverty and hardship, death, destruction and suffering of all kinds which people living in towns cannot imagine.

The 'grow more food campaign' was there but nothing was done for these villagers. The poor villagers did not get even a loan for the purchase of plough cattle. Is this how the Government is going to develop food cultivation in future? The Government have admitted that a large proportion of the Indian people are chronically under-nourished, but still no one does anything for them. The Government think in terms of services and appointments. They do not think of subsidy to the cultivators.

Sir, we hear a lot about fertilisers and other things. If our poor cultivators could buy bullocks and cows they could grow more food and cultivate more fields and they could make fertilisers in their own homes. Cow dung is the best fertiliser. Now, Sir, crores of rupees will be spent by the Government of India for establishing these fertiliser factories; but if they could give a crore of rupees to these cultivators for the purchase of plough cattle and other agricultural implements they could all improve their condition individually; and as a result

of that, 7 lakhs of villages in our country would have been improved without the aid of these fertilisers.

I will not take much more time of the House because my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi is anxious to move his motion about labour. But I will say this, that the commodities like sugar, gur and salt are available in the black market. Sir, it is Government's responsibility to ensure the supply of these articles but it is the black marketeers who are now supplying these articles to the people; and so I think they are more powerful than Government itself. If you examine things, you will find that these black marketeers are agents of the Government itself. Salt is distributed by Government, for instance; there is no other source except the Government godowns. But how is it that the poor people do not get their salt through the official agencies but from the black markets? How do the black marketeers get it? They get it from the Government godowns by some means. Sir, bribery and corruption are prevalent in the Government—Central as well as Provincial—otherwise salt cannot go to these black marketeers because the source of supply is controlled by Government and by none else. It is true with other things also. Any essential article which has come under Government control has found its way into the black market and the responsibility lies with Government. There are inspectors and officers, but the thing goes with the connivance of these officers in charge. Sir, in our country there is a system of driving away evil spirits with the help of mustard seeds; but if the mustard seeds themselves are haunted by the evil spirit wherewith will you drive them away? Government officers themselves are haunted by the evil spirit of bribery and corruption and who will take steps for the removal of corruption. We have seen cases of even I.C.S. officers who have been hauled up before the courts for bribery and other kinds of offences. It is all due to the inefficiency of the food administration that these things have been possible.

Sir, I have spoken of Assam but it is true, I think, of other provinces as well. I will not refer to the horrible story of Bengal which suffered from a devastating famine because it is well known to all. I may say that every province has suffered from maladministration in food. And why should it be so? Our Executive Councillors say that they are all for winning the war. Is food less important than war? If the cultivators in the villages who are fighters in the food front are not maintained and strengthened and encouraged, who will solve the problem of food for the soldiers in the field? If they are war-minded, they must be as much careful about food as for the war; if they ignore food the war will be lost.

Sir, I will give you some instances of maladministration. In my part of the country there is procurement policy of Government. They have appointed contractors for purchasing foodgrains. I am now talking of the Surma Valley in Assam. It has been revealed in the course of a magisterial inquiry at Balaganj that the purchasing agents of Messrs. East Bengal and Assam Commercial Syndicate do not issue any receipts to the peasants. The vouchers which they give to the Government are not filled up in the presence of the sellers. (The Central Government work through the Provincial Government there.) They buy at the low rate of Rs. 10-11-0 and realise Rs. 15 or so from the Government. They also buy from the peasants in the weight of 84 tolas (making a seer) and effect delivery to the Government in the weight of 80 tolas. But no action seems yet to be taken against those agents or their principal.

This was reported in the local paper. I myself sent a cutting of this paper to the Food Department of the Government of India in the month of August last, and I do not yet know what has been done by the department about it.

Sir, there are other instances too. There are hoarding and profiteering and Government have not done anything to stop these things. In Dhubri one Hussen Kasim Dada was reported to be a big hoarder. The supply officer raided his firm; 200 bags were discovered. But Mr. Dada rushed to Shillong and moved skilfully among 'influential circles'. Ultimately the supply officer was transferred and Mr. Dada was appointed purchasing agent for Government.

[Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam.]

[At this stage Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

What more is wanted?—

"On the river Kusiara near Balaganj (Sylhet), 1000 maunds of salt were seized by a supply Inspector. Case was taken but it somehow fizzled out."

"On May 6, one Ganesh Das Chranjilal of Balaganj supplied 150 maunds of unauthorised rice to one Mr. A. L. Datta, Head Clerk, Fenchuganj Steamer Company. This was revealed in the magisterial enquiry at Balaganj. A notice was served on Ganesh Das Chiranjilal but the case has been withdrawn."

"250 maunds of rice which were found unaccounted for in the godown of Messrs. Ganesh Das were seized. But these were mysteriously released without filing any case. And yet these have not been delivered to the Government 'Storekeeper'."

I will read one or two more:

"There are several influential storekeepers at Sylhet who, despite repeated convictions, still continue to enjoy their licenses and permits."

Sir, there are many more, but I will not read all those. These cases were reported to the Government of India by me—I sent a cutting of this paper and requested the Government of India to enquire into these matters, and take steps, but I think nothing has been done in this respect. I do not know whom to blame—whether the Provincial Government or the Central Government. The Provincial Government has not done its duty, and the Central Government has not done its duty even when reminded by a Member of this House. Sir, this is the procurement policy and this the licensing policy and all this has led to all this corruption and yet the Central Government has not done what it ought to have done in regard to this matter. . . .

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: In putting down corruption in the provinces?

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: I am saying that they have not been able to control corruption in those departments which are under their direct control. These administrations are under them. The Provincial Governments work as agents of the Central Government in these matters.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member): You are wrong; your facts are not correct.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: I would like to be corrected. With these words I say that this Government, though they expect our appreciation and thanks, really deserve our condemnation.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Food Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde (West Coast and Nilgiris: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, there is no denying the fact that rationing which comes directly under the Central Government is one of those departments where inefficiency reigns supreme. Forty million people are covered by statutory rationing. The question remains as to what should happen to 360 million people. Therefore it goes without saying that 9/10th of the population of this country are left to shift for themselves. In answer to that I remember my Honourable friend some time back told us that informal rationing is in vogue in some places, but the less said about this informal rationing the better.

Let me first deal with the rationing itself. Has the Department succeeded in standardizing the amount of grain in different places where they have introduced statutory rationing? The Food Committee advised that nowhere the statutory rationing should be less than a pound per head per day, but what do we find? In Delhi, because we have got the Central Government here, we find that 43 tolas, which is more than a pound, is given per head per day. In Bombay one pound is given per head per day, whereas in Malabar and in my district only 35 tolas, i.e., less than a pound, is given per head per day. This includes not all rice to which people are accustomed but it includes also all sorts of grams, and most of them are unsuitable for human consumption.

Coming to the next item, i.e., sugar, I find the same differential treatment with regard to this commodity. Even in towns where there is rationing it is very difficult to get sugar. In most of the towns in South India, I find the coffee hotels, and the restaurants, are given very little sugar and they are asked to prepare coffee or tea with jaggery, and to families sugar is not

distributed on *per capita* system but it is based on the amount of house-tax or water-tax a particular household pays to the municipality. So far as villages and semi-urban areas are concerned, there is no system for adequate distribution of sugar.

Sir, even in those places where we have got statutory rationing, I find even the rules governing the statutory rationing are not uniform. In Southern India non-adult is he who is less than 12 and above 2, persons above 12 are considered to be adults, and children of two years and below are not considered to be human beings requiring foodgrains. According to the Government they do not require food. No grain is allowed for children below two years. Therefore all those children who are less than two will have to partake the food that is given to the adults or to the non-adults who are between 2 and 12. But I find the same rule is not applicable to all other places where rationing is introduced.

Now, let me refer to the places where the so-called informal rationing has been introduced. This informal rationing, wherever it is introduced, carries with it all those rules which are applicable to rationing towns, except the liability of the Government to supply grains to every individual. We find in Southern India that in all those places where you have got informal rationing in a week for not more than five days grains are supplied, and even if no rice is supplied Government thinks that they accepted no responsibility for supplying grains. In fact, I have heard Government officers saying that wherever there is informal rationing, Government does not undertake to supply grains. I would like to know from the Honourable the Food Member whether it is a fact and whether it is that sort of informal rationing the Honourable Member is proud of. I put a question on this matter in the last Session and I had the answer from the Honourable Member himself. He admitted in certain places in South Kanara about 30 tolas of rice were being given.

Then, Sir, I will come to the rural areas where our grain is produced. It is a fact, as I have already stated, that rationing is very generous in Delhi, and when you go down to South India it is not so generous. The same principle applies with regard to people who live in towns and in villages. In all statutory rationed areas you get near about a pound, in semi-urban areas you get less than a pound or you are not given at all for some days in a week, but if you go to areas where the people produce the very food which every one of us wants there is no question of rationing at all. I speak with full knowledge of facts and I am confident the Honourable Member will not be able to deny the allegations which I am going to make. Five or six districts were declared as deficit districts in the Presidency of Madras and they issued an order called the procurement order. According to that order legally allowance has to be made for consumption of the family which is producing these grains, for agricultural needs and for payment of rent to their landlord and for other customary dues which are paid in kind. The officers who are enforcing this procurement order are expected to examine the stock, the outturn by every family and find out the surplus. I assure the Honourable Member that though the procurement order is in force, the duty that is cast upon the Government officers to find out how much surplus a cultivator has is not being carried out. I personally brought it to the notice of the Government of Madras and the District Collector. It is now found that it is impossible to work this order and the result is described in the letter I just received from the Secretary of the Land Holders Association of South Kanara. The letter is as follows:

"I still feel that our food problem in the district has no definite and a clear cut plan. In most cases no surplus notices have been issued. In some cases surplus notices are issued. In other places requisition notices are issued. There is yet no uniform policy. Each local official shifts things for himself. The Bvot does not know his own position nor his obligations. It is still in a state of confusion. There is practically no black marketing or smuggling. Yet scores of them are prosecuted for non-delivery of rice which probably they never had and they are threatened to be prosecuted for non-submission of returns which is as you know is impossible to do for many of the poor and illiterate persons. Till recently in very many places they were giving only 3 days' ration in a week and that too at 1½ pawns per head per day. Now they have raised it to 5 days' ration in a week

[Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde.]

at the same rate. The position of a town dweller is considerably happier than that of a villager who toils for producing the grain. From every point of view the cultivators' life has been made well-nigh impossible. He does not get kerosene, sugar or any other requirements. No luxuries seem to have been reserved for them but all for the town dwellers. The administration has been constantly treating the cultivators as the under-dog and is required only to toil for more happily placed individuals living in the towns. The life in the villages has been becoming intolerable as the man drags on and the Government seem to think that they have done all if they have pampered the town people—sufficiently.

This letter describes the real state of affairs that is prevailing in my constituency and the picture is not very much different so far as other parts of Southern India are concerned. The question is whether the food policy is to get as much as possible from the cultivators without any regard to their requirements, for their household needs, and their agricultural expenditure. I warned the House at the last Session that it is not a wise policy of killing the goose that lays the golden egg. If at all, the distribution of food must first begin from the rural parts, then it must come to the semi-urban areas, lastly what is available should be equally distributed among the town dwellers, who are able to make noise, who have the press and are able to bring things to the notice of the Government. But the voice of the poor villager is never heard. Therefore it is absolutely essential that the Honourable the Food Member must categorically say today that he would undertake to see that the cultivator is not starved for the sake of the town dweller.

Now with regard to distribution. In big and small cities there is always a floating population. Within the statutory rationed area nobody is permitted to bring grain with him, but there is no arrangement there for the floating population to get their ration cards immediately. As a matter of fact there is not a single town in this country where a person could obtain a ration card for himself within 4 hours. It takes about 72 hours to do so. In some places there is no arrangement for ration cards for guests who come to stay with their friends for one or two days. I raised this question with the local officials but they were unable to help me.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: What part of India?

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Mangalore, Madras and everywhere.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: In Delhi you can get your card in six hours!

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Well, I did not get mine until 48 hours.

Mr. N. C. Chunder (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): That is only for Members of the Assembly; not even for Members of the Assembly when they come here for Committee meetings.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Some arrangement must be made. There must be an office where one can go and apply and get his card immediately. Last time when I went to Bombay there was no hotel that would provide me with a meal as it was past one o'clock in the afternoon. There is a clerk in the Railway station who takes cards from all those who leave Bombay but does not issue cards to all those who enter Bombay. It is essential that there must be some Inspectors who will inspect the various stores or the merchants who supply the grains. The quality of the stuff undoubtedly has deteriorated in every place ever since the introduction of control by statutory rationing and it has become a public nuisance. The stocks while obtained are purchased at cheap rates which are uneconomical to the producers. They cannot help it. They will have to give it up because there is the procurement policy. But when it is being sold in the ration shops either through merchants or co-operative stores, the price the consumers have to pay is more than what they were paying before rationing was introduced. I may tell the Honourable Member that I have heard complaints from Bijapur and Dharwar in the Bombay Presidency that the difference between the purchase price and the selling price is about Rs. 2/4 per bag. This was, I think, the case after rationing was introduced. Therefore a strict watch has to be maintained and accounts will have to be looked into to see to what rate the stocks are purchased and at what rate they are being sold and also to see that the stocks

do not deteriorate. We have heard several times that even those stocks which are snatched from the cultivators' mouth are not properly stocked. They deteriorate and as far as I know there are very few public or Government godowns built so far. No arrangement is there to see that these stocks do not deteriorate. There have been several instances when thousands and thousands of bags of wheat and rice were declared as unfit for consumption and were thrown into the sea or the river. The circumstances in which we are placed when there is a serious shortage of food in the country, it is criminal on the part of the Government, whether it is Central or Provincial, to allow the food stocks to deteriorate, especially when there are millions of people who are not getting even ten ounces of rice or wheat per day. Therefore the responsibility is certainly upon the Government and it will be criminal negligence on their part if they do not take steps to see that the food stocks which they snatched from the cultivators, with all the force of the law are not allowed to deteriorate.

The Madras Government have issued an order called the Food Grains Control Order. They say anybody who stocks more than 20 maunds must take a permit and it is only today that I read in the *Hindu* that an agriculturist who had 24½ maunds of rice, the produce of his own land, was prosecuted by the Government for not taking out a license for stocking that amount of grain. This matter should be made clear. It has become almost impossible in these days for cultivators to stock their own grains for their own consumption. Therefore in the matter of procurement the Central Government must lay down a clear policy, so that no Province may depart from it.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Sir, two speakers have participated in this debate so far. Both of them have dealt with conditions in their own provinces. I wish to assure them both that I am cognizant of a great many things that they have recounted. I have myself visited Assam recently and I made an extensive tour of that Province. My friend Mr. Dam has complained that in his Province there is a shortage of salt, sugar and certain other commodities.

Prof N. G. Ranga: Kerosene also.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Kerosene is not my sphere. I have looked into the position of sugar and salt and I wish to assure my friend that the supply position now in Assam of these commodities is much better than what it was before.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: What about other Provinces?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am only dealing with Assam.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: The others will deal with you soon.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There was a shortage of salt on account of lack of imports some months ago. As the House is aware, we get considerable quantities of salt from the Red Sea ports and for some time our supplies were stopped or considerably reduced. I am glad to say that supplies are now coming in fairly normally and the quota which we have given to the Province of Assam ought to see them through.

I am aware that complaints have been made that in some parts of the Province distribution arrangements are not as they should be. The House is aware that distribution of these commodities is not the function of the Centre. I meet the Provincial Governments. I give them what advice I can and I persuade them to get a move on, where they may not be doing so. But more than that we cannot in the very nature of things do. I am, however, satisfied that in Assam today the arrangements which the Assam Ministry has made ought to meet the needs of the case.

In regard to sugar, the quota allotted to Assam is sufficient on its pre-war consumption. There have been a few complaints about sugar but I think that on the whole you find that both in regard to sugar and salt Assam is fairly well off now.

My friend Mr. Dam has complained about the operation of a syndicate in the Surma Valley. I wish to inform him that his information is out of

[Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava.]

date. That syndicate has been abolished and procurement is now being done by the Government.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Is it not a fact that the M.L.As. who were partners in the syndicate are doing the business in their own names?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, Sir. Now Government is buying through its own agencies, its own officers. I was in Sylhet, as my friend knows, a little while ago. I tried to contact him but he was not there and if my friend will go to the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, he will tell him all the details of the procurement arrangements. The syndicate does not exist now and so there can be no real basis for his complaint.

Sir, my friend has made a few general remarks about the deficiencies of the Food Department, but I would point out to him that most of his remarks apply to the working of the arrangements for which the Provincial Governments are responsible.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is a convenient argument.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It is really very difficult, it is not possible for me to undertake all the detailed organisation which is necessary to deal with a tremendous subject like Food. With the consent of the House I have introduced the principle of all-India control and supervision. When I get a complaint from a Member of this House I take what steps I can, but if a Ministry is adamant or recalcitrant, it is very difficult for me to intervene.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What about advisers—the Madras Adviser?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Advisers are often worse. They have their own views, and I have no control over them. I do not mind confessing it.

An Honourable Member: Report to the Home Member.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Even the Home Member has no control over the Advisers. In any case Food is a provincial subject, and as I said in 1943 when I became the Food Member I introduced the principle that Centre should supervise and control the working of Food Administration in the provinces, and this has been accepted by the Provinces, but I cannot claim to run the Food Departments of the provinces from the Centre. It is not possible to do so.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Abolish yourself.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am quite prepared. My friend, Mr. Hegde, talked about rural rationing. As he knows, what Dr. Gregory Committee recommended was that in the first instance we should ration towns.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That was a mistake.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: It should not be done at the cost of rural areas.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It is not done at the cost of rural areas. It is not my conception of it. We have been trying very hard to get all the towns in India rationed, and I think we have now pretty nearly succeeded. In certain rural areas like Malabar, we have introduced rural rationing because conditions in those areas were such that if we did not introduce some kind of distribution, there would have been great distress.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What about Vizagapatam?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I believe conditions there have improved: that is what Madras Government tell me. As I have told my friend, I hope to go on a tour of the South some time after the Assembly is over, and then I shall look into the conditions there. It is very difficult for me sitting in Delhi to maintain personal contact with the whole country. I have for the last three months done a great deal of touring, and have, as far as possible, acquainted myself with conditions in every part of the country. (Interruption). My Honourable friend is enamoured of Mahmood Ghuznavi; but I am not.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: But you are following his ways?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am trying to meet conditions in every part of the country as best as I can. Now my friend has rightly complained that the amount of rice ration in Malabar is not sufficient. He is aware that till recently in Cochin the rice ration was only 5-1/3 ozs. a day which was a very small ration indeed. We have now been able to raise the ration both in Cochin and in Travancore to 12 ozs. a day, this was the maximum quantity demanded by the State authorities. We hope that we shall soon be able to raise the ration in Malabar. The House is aware that there is an over-all shortage of rice in the country, and it is not possible to import rice from outside. There is no other country in the world which can give us rice. It is therefore not possible in every case to make up the deficiency in rice with rice. We have been trying to popularise the use of wheat, and I am glad to say that wheat is taking on. Our nutrition experts advise that rice eating people, if they take also wheat, will do very well, and that their diets will be more balanced. I hope as a result of this scarcity they will get accustomed to a more balanced and nutritive diet in the end.

Lastly, my friend complained about ration cards not being available to visitors at short notice. Well, that is a matter which I have personally looked into, and so far as Delhi goes, I visited the Ration Centres and office yesterday only, and I am assured that these cards can be had at six hours notice. There is an army of clerks working at this in the main office, and I am sure that complaints in this regard will now be far less. It takes some time to perfect an organisation. We have been hard at it, and I am glad on the whole that rationing is working well all over the country. We had numerous complaints in Delhi when we started, but these complaints are not now so numerous.

Sir, I do not think there are any other points of importance raised. I hope the explanations which I have given will be found satisfactory by the Honourable Mover of the cut motion.

Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

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

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Some of us wish to speak, Sir.

Some Honourable Members: It is now 5 o'clock.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is now 5 o'clock and we must adjourn. The Assembly is adjourned to Monday next.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Monday, the 12th March, 1945.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 12th March, 1945

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. Mullath Kadingi Vellodi, C.I.E., I.C.S., M.L.A. (Government of India Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

DUTIES, ETC., OF INDIA'S AGENT GENERAL IN AMERICA

895. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

- (a) the duties of the Agent General of the Government of India in U. S. A.;
- (b) whether any books or pamphlets are published by him from time to time in U. S. A.; and, if so, on what subject and on whose instructions;
- (c) the annual expenditure of the Agent General's Office and establishment; and

- (d) whether all the expenditure of his office, etc., and the amounts spent through him are subject to normal checks of audit?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) To represent India in the U. S. A.

(b) As already stated in answer to several questions during this Session, the Indian Information Services print and circulate publications prepared from material supplied by Government which is also released to the Press in India.

(c) For 1944-45 the revised estimates amount to Rs. 8,71,772, including Rs. 4,46,172 for the Information Services.

(d) Yes.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know what is meant by representing India in the United States?

Sir Olaf Caroe: Exactly what is said.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether they have got any list of duties allotted to the Agent-General of India?

Sir Olaf Caroe: It would not be possible for me to deliver a homily or to give a complete list of the duties of the head of the diplomatic mission. It covers a very very wide scope indeed and it will take a long time to do so.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is there any age limit of this representative or will he be India's representative for ever? I mean is he going to retire or will he be the representative for ever?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I do not think that there is any age limit.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether he issues books and pamphlets on his own initiative or whether they are written here and circulated in the United States?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The Honourable Member seems to have extraordinary ideas about these books. I do not know what he means by books.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Exactly what I have said.

Sir Olaf Caroe: There is a tremendous lot of publicity material which comes out here in India and that is also made available to the Agent-General for circulation in America.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are any of these distributed free by him?

Sir Olaf Caroe: Yes, I think some of them are distributed free and some of them are sold.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Honourable Member will be pleased to lay on the table of the House some of the publications which are distributed free by the Agent General in America?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I will consider that.

COMPANY OWNED RAILWAY LINES

896. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state how many of the Indian Railway lines are still company-owned and managed?

(b) What are those lines?

(c) When will the option of acquiring them arise?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), Twenty narrow gauge Railways.

(b) and (c). A statement is placed on the table.

List of Railway Lines owned and managed by Companies

S. Nos.	Railway	Date of option of purchase	Remarks Authority empowered to purchase
1	Ahmadpur-Katwa	31-3-48 or at the end of every 10 years thereafter.	Government.
2	Arrah Sasaram Light	12-10-1951 or at the end of every 7 years thereafter.	District Board of Shahabad.
3	Bankura Damodar River	31-3-1947 or at the end of every 10 years thereafter.	Government.
4	Baraset Basirhat Light	15-5-52 or at the end of every 7 years thereafter.	District Board of Parganas.
5	Barsi Light.	1-1-1949 or 1-1-1954 or at the end of every 10 years thereafter.	Government.
6	Bengal Provincial	4-1-1952 or at the end of every 7 years thereafter.	District Board of Hooghly.
7	Bukhtiarpur-Bihar Light	21-6-1950 or at the end of every 7 years thereafter.	District Board of Patna.
8	Burdwan-Katwa	31-3-1946 or at the end of every 10 years thereafter	Government.
9	Darjeeling-Himalayan	4-5-1949 and thereafter at intervals of 10 years.	Government.
10	Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway Extensions.	31-3-1946 or at the end of every 10 years thereafter.	Government.
11	Dasghera-Jawalpurganj	31-3-1948 or at the end of every 10 years thereafter.	Government.
12	Dehri-Rohas Light	10-11-1950 or at the end of every 7 years thereafter.	District Board of Shahabad.
13	Futwah-Islampur Light	31-3-1948 or at the end of every 10 years thereafter.	Government.
14	Howrah-Amta Light	26-3-1951 or at the end of every 7 years thereafter.	District Board of Howrah.
15	Howrah-Sheakhola Light	26-3-1951 or at the end of every 7 years thereafter.	District Board of Howrah and Hooghly.
16	Jagadhari Light	11-8-1952 or at the end of every 10 years thereafter.	Local authority with previous sanction of the Punjab Government.
17	Kalighat-Falta	31-3-1947 or at the end of every 10 years thereafter.	Government.
18	Matheran (Hill) Light	1-1-50 or at the end of every 5 years thereafter	Government.
19	Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light	18-4-1948 or at the end of every 7 years thereafter.	Government.
20	Tezporo-Balipara Light	1-9-1952 or at the end of every 7 years thereafter.	Government.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know what is the last option of purchasing these Railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: 1952.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the amount of money involved in this?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I require notice of this question.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether it is not practicable for the Government of India to acquire these lines before the taking-over becomes actually due?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is a matter for consideration. In the case of a number of them, the option lies with the District Board.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether these twenty narrow gauge railways are mainly run by District Boards?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: They are mostly run by different companies.

NECESSARY NUMBER OF ENGINES

897. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) the number of mail passenger and goods engines necessary for the efficient running of the Indian Railways;

(b) how many of those are proposed to be manufactured by the locomotive manufacturing workshops proposed to be set up by Government; and

(c) for how many years imports of locomotives will be necessary and when they expect to be fully self-supporting?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I presume the Honourable Member is referring to the post-war period. The number of engines necessary for the efficient running of the Indian Railways is dependant upon the traffic offering and a precise answer is therefore difficult until the extent of industrialisation, road transport development and all other relevant factors affecting the probable load are taken into consideration. Estimates of the requirements of new engines will therefore have to be revised periodically in accordance with the forward position. The position so far as it can be foreseen today is set out in paragraph 6 of my speech when introducing the Railway Budget for 1945-46. The initial output of the locomotive building workshops at Kanchrapara and Singbhum is estimated to be 120 locomotives a year, which is approximately two-thirds of the demand at present expected. Consideration is being given to the question of a third locomotive building workshop.

(c) The date when India will be independent of imports of engines depends upon the demand, for locomotives, the progress made in the locomotive building shops now projected and the ability to construct in India such special types as electric or diesel electric locomotives.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Do I take it that approximately 120 locomotives will be manufactured in India in the post-war period, which means two-third of India's needs? Have I understood the Honourable Member correctly?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: If that is correct, he must have made some estimate on some basis. On that basis what is the number of passenger and goods engines that the Indian Railways require?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The estimate is an approximate one, and as I explained in my Budget speech, the engines which we have ordered during the war are goods engines although they can be used for passenger services. We have not ordered any special passenger engines. Therefore probably the majority of those which will be built in the workshops will initially be passenger engines.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: If I may remind the Honourable Member it is in pursuance of his suggestion that I have put these supplementary questions, and now he again does not answer them. It is rather strange. I want to know if the Honourable Member can prepare an estimate in the normal state of things and let us know how many mail passenger and goods engines are required.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have answered that rather fully.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: India being dependent in the matter of engines, may I ask the Honourable Member whether the Government of India is proposing to standardise the gauges of railways in India in order to have one standard or gauge for Railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That hardly arises out of this question. The standardization . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not arise out of the question. Next question.

NECESSARY NUMBER OF WAGONS

898. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) the number of wagons necessary for the efficient working of Indian Railways;

(b) how many of them are being manufactured in India and how many imported; and

(c) what will be the estimated number of wagons needed in the post-war period and whether any attempts are being made to make the manufacture of wagons self-sufficient for the needs of the Indian Railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). It is expected that the number of wagons referred to in paragraph 7 of my speech introducing the Railway Budget will, if delivered to schedule, be adequate for the efficient working of the Indian railways under the expected wartime load. The statement also gave the numbers to be imported and to be manufactured in India.

(c) In answer to the first part of the question, I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply already given to part (a) of his starred question No. 897. As regards the second part, it is anticipated that wagon building firms will be in a position to make India self-sufficient for the needs of her railways of all gauges in the post-war period.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In reply to my last question the Honourable Member said that the number will depend on various factors. Can he give me any approximate number as he has given about the engines?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: We have not made any definite programme for post-war orders, but we hope to keep the wagon-building firms full of orders. When I say 'full of orders' I mean we hope to keep them occupied with orders at least at the pre-war figure, if not greater, and in any case I am satisfied that the Indian wagon-building industry will be able to take care of all India's requirements of wagons.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What portion of the Indian wagons are manufactured by the railway workshops?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: None, I think. They are all built by the different firms.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member himself has referred to the fact that the supply of wagons depends upon the different gauges, may I ask him now whether he is proposing to standardize the gauges in India?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As I have said, that does not arise out of this question, but the wagon-building firms can build either meter gauge or broad gauge wagons according to requirements.

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

TIMBER CONTROL

899. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state when timber control was introduced?

(b) Is it a fact that all available quantities of timber were frozen?

(c) Have they all been purchased for the military?

(d) Are all new sources of timber taken up by Government, or is anything left for the civil population?

(e) If so, in what manner is the requirement of the civil population permitted to be met?

(f) What is the method of timber control?

(g) Are ceiling prices imposed?

(h) If so, how do they compare with pre-war prices?

(i) What is the total amount of increase in the timber production in India from forests of the Central Government, forests of the Provincial Governments, and forests of Indian States?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) There is no official general timber control. Owing, however, to shortage of railway transport for moving timber for military and essential civil purposes, most of the Provincial Governments have, at the request of the Central Government, issued orders restricting the movement of private timber by rail except under permits issued by the Provincial Forest Officers. The only special control order that has been issued is contained in the Supply Department's notification No. SS/317, dated the 8th January, 1945, which extends only to the Presidency town of Bombay and applies only to timber brought into the port of Bombay from other parts on the west coast of India.

(b) No.

(c) The question does not arise.

(d) All the timber is not purchased by Government. The percentage varies in different parts of India. In the U. P., Government purchases amount to 60 to 70 per cent. of the timber available, whereas in other Provinces, and States the average is 30 to 40 per cent.

(e) The civil population obtain their requirements from the trade in the usual way.

(f) I would refer the Honourable Member to answer to part (a) of the question.

(g) There is no official general price control on timber.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) No definite figures are available.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government cared to see that this war time denudation of our forest wealth is not causing serious inroads into the economy or continuity of the forest wealth of this country?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I understand that the Department represented by my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson is taking full note of this fact and taking adequate steps towards it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government consider the acute shortage of timber for civilian population and would they consider methods of relieving that?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Yes, subject to war necessities.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the Adviser for Forests, Mr. Howard, has expressed grave concern about the inroads that are being caused by war time destruction of this forest wealth?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I understand it is not a fact; and I read it somewhere authoritatively stated that not more than 5 per cent. of the existing timber has so far been removed.

PROGRESS IN METALLURGICAL INDUSTRIES

900. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state what progress has been achieved in India during the war in metallurgical industries, particularly in non-ferrous industries?

(b) How many new factories have been set up?

(c) Which of them were set up with direct or indirect Government help?

(d) For how many of them have Government assisted in securing material, plans or technical personnel and which are these factories?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) It is only possible to indicate the main lines of progress. In the steel industry, productive capacity has been very greatly expanded during the war and many new types of steel and high grade products have been produced for the first time in India, such as wheels, tyres and axels made from Indian acid open hearth steel manufactured from Indian raw materials. In the non-ferrous industry the production of antimony, lead and aluminium from Indian ores

has been established. Tin smelting from imported ore has also been started. Considerable progress has been made in the field of processed non-ferrous metals where practically no production existed before the war and India now produces sheets, strips, wires, rods (rolled and drawn) and tubes and other non-ferrous sections. Finally the alloying of non-ferrous metals and the refinement of scrap to specification have been developed by new firms.

(b) Ignoring small firms with little or no equipment, some 29 new factories have been set up in the non-ferrous industry. Additional plants have been installed by six old non-ferrous concerns and by eight pre-war steel concerns, as well as at 2 Ordnance Factories.

(c) All the new factories received some form of direct or indirect assistance from Government.

(d) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement

Assistance has been given to 15 firms as follows:

1. Aluminium Corporation of India Limited Calcutta
2. M/s. Tata Iron and Steel Company
3. Indian Copper Corporation Limited, Ghatsela

Materials, plant and technical personnel.
Assistance in erecting a refining furnace.

4. M/s. Venesta Ltd., Kamarhatti
5. M/s. Steel Corporation of Bengal
6. M/s. J. K. Iron & Steel Company, Cawnpore
7. M/s. Singh Engineering Company
8. M/s. Mukand Steel Works
9. M/s. Hume Pipe Company, Bombay
10. M/s. National Iron & Steel Company
11. M/s. The Mysore Iron & Steel Works
12. M/s. National Rolling Mills

Materials and Plant.

13. M/s. National Tube Manufacturing Company
14. M/s. Indian Steel & Wire Products
15. M/s. Jemco

Plans.
Technical personnel.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: From where do the Government get the raw material for tea tin?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I should like to have notice of that.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know if Government will give an assurance to this House, that in the case of non-ferrous metals, for security reasons, Government will see that every one of these factories which has been set up with their assistance, as the Honourable Member said, will not be permitted to go down immediately after the war?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I do not think Government can give any assurance that every one of these factories set up during the war will be given assistance. It depends upon the business efficiency and capacity of the firm; but Government are seriously considering if steps might have to be taken to safeguard them during the transition period, during which time industry will take steps to improve their quality, their technical establishment, and above all their machinery, after which I hope according to the best advices that I have received that there would not be any serious question of their being unable to compete with the best products from overseas.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government see that India is not short of these materials in the event of another war and they are not sent out for security purposes and will

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not think we need consider now about the next war.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if the Government will consider the advisability of stopping all non-ferrous scrap from being exported from this country?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: At present there is no question of exporting any metals from this country.

†901*.

WITHDRAWAL OF RECOGNITION OF NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY ACCOUNTS UNION 902. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the North Western Railway Accounts Union was recognized by the General Manager, North Western Railway, Lahore;

(b) whether it is a fact that this recognition was withdrawn; if so, for what reasons;

(c) if for misbehaviour, whether the Union Executive was chargesheeted; if not, why not;

(d) if the recognition was withdrawn for the so-called merger talks of Unions on the North Western Railway, whether such a recognition was withdrawn from other Unions, such as North Western Railway Recognized Union; if not, why the Accounts Union was differently dealt with;

(e) whether it is a fact that the North Western Railway Accounts Union has protested against the withdrawal of their recognition; if so, how the same was disposed of; whether the Railway Board also considered the matter; if so, with what results; and

(f) whether it is a fact that the Accounts staff are asked to refer all matters pertaining to their Department even of general nature through or to their Chief Accounts Officer acting as a Principal Officer of North-Western Railway Agency; if so, how Accounts employees are assured of any redress of grievances in the absence of non-recognition of their Union?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The North Western Railway Accounts Union was recognized formerly by the Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer, previously known as the Chief Accounts Officer, North Western Railway, and not by the General Manager.

(b) to (d). The Union lost its identity by voluntarily merging into the United Union. As regards the latter part of part (d), the unions, other than the North Western Railway Accounts Union, constituting the United Union were not previously recognized. The North Western Railway Recognized Union did not join the merger.

(e) Government are informed that subsequently, the Accounts Union seceded from the United Union, and then raised the question of its recognition. They were advised by the Railway Administration to consider, in consultation with other Unions, the possibility of combining into one Union with branches at large stations. As regards the last part, the Railway Board have not yet had any occasion to consider the matter, and the question will only arise if and when a representation is submitted to them against the final decision of the Administration.

(f) Accounts staff, like other railway staff, represent their grievances through the usual official channels, while the existing unions recognised by the North Western Railway provide for the representation of all staff, including Accounts staff. Non-recognition of the North Western Railway Accounts Union does not, therefore, place the Accounts staff at any disadvantage as compared with other staff.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the heads of the other Unions are non-officials?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I should require notice of that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the United Union been recognised?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think there are three unions recognised and I believe that is one of them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are all the office-bearers of these three Unions employees of the Railways?

†This question has been postponed to be answered on the 20th March, 1945.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I shall require notice of that question but two members of the Accounts Staff, which is the staff concerned, are office-bearers of the United Union.

MUSLIMS ABSORBED AS WIRELESS OPERATORS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†903. ***Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that the number of Muslims absorbed was short of communal quota in the newly created posts of Wireless Operators on the Bengal and Assam Railway in the years 1943 and 1944?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state (i) the number of posts, and (ii) the number of the Muslims and non-Muslims absorbed?

(c) Is it a fact that two Muslims were reverted ignoring the deficiency in the Muslim quota?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The question of applying the communal reservation percentages for Muslims to the posts of Wireless Operators on the Bengal and Assam Railway does not arise, as these posts were not filled by direct recruitment.

(b) and (c). Do not arise in view of the reply to part (a).

MUSLIM APPOINTED AS WIRELESS SUPERVISORS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†904. ***Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the newly created posts of Wireless Supervisors on the Bengal and Assam Railway in the year 1944 Muslims were not given their due quota?

(d) If the reply to (c) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of all the Supervisors who were taken as stated in part (a) above?

(c) Is it a fact that all the Muslim Wireless Operators possess the requisite qualifications for the said posts?

(d) If the reply to (c) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the qualifications of the Muslims and non-Muslims who were not made Supervisors and of those who were appointed Supervisors, and why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the affirmative. I understand that there were no Muslim candidates for the post of Chief Wireless Inspector and of the two Muslim applicants for the post of Wireless Inspector, only one presented himself at the interview and was not found suitable.

(b) and (d). I lay a statement on the table of the House giving the results of the advertisement and selection by communities.

(c) Government have no information but apparently they could have applied for the posts advertised.

Statement showing the number of candidates who applied for the posts of Chief Wireless Inspectors and wireless Inspectors and were selected.

	Chief Wireless Inspectors					Wireless Inspectors				
	Hindus	Muslims	Scheduled Castes	Anglo-Indians	Others	Total	Hindus	Muslims	Scheduled Castes	Anglo-Indians
Number of applications	9	..	..	1	1	11	33	2	..	1
Number selected for interview	9	..	..	1	1	11	32	2	..	1
Number actually turned up for interview	6	..	..	1	1	8	24	1	..	1
Number selected	2	..	..	..	..	2	5	..	..	..
Number offered employment	1	..	..	..	..	1	4	..	..	..

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

MUSLIMS APPOINTED AS CIPHER OPERATORS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†905. ***Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that Muslims were not recruited to the advertised posts of Cipher Operators on the Bengal and Assam Railway in the year 1944 according to their quota given to that Railway Administration?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of the Muslims and non-Muslims who were appointed as stated in part (a) above?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the affirmative; suitable Muslim candidates were not available in sufficient numbers.

(b) Muslims 14, Non-Muslims 27

MUSLIMS APPOINTED AS RADIO cum WIRELESS MECHANICS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†906. ***Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that Muslims were not appointed according to their quota in the advertised posts of Radio Cum Wireless Mechanics on the Bengal and Assam Railway in the year 1944?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Muslims and non-Muslims appointed as stated in part (a) above? If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, what are the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Only one Muslim candidate applied and he was absent at the interview.

MUSLIMS APPOINTED AS TELE-PRINTERS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†907. ***Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of Muslims and non-Muslims who were selected in response to the advertisement for tele-printers on the Bengal and Assam Railway in the year 1944?

(b) Is it a fact that Muslims' case went by default?

(c) Is it a fact that advertisements were made in such terms as to exclude Muslims?

(d) How is Muslim quota proposed to be filled in there?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government are informed that in view of subsequent arrangements having been reached with the Post and Telegraphs Department regarding the maintenance of tele-printer equipment, recruitment to the advertised vacancies of teleprinters was abandoned.

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

(c) The reply is in the negative.

REVERSION OF MUSLIM DISTRICT TRAIN CONTROLLERS (CALCUTTA); BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

908. ***Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the Calcutta District, Bengal and Assam Railway, in the year 1944, Muslim District Train Controllers in the Scale of Rs. 300—10—350 who possessed the following qualifications were reverted to the posts of Section Controllers:

(i) passed all the departmental examinations,

(ii) completed all the theoretical and practical trainings in the transportation side,

(iii) worked as District Train Controllers for about three years even during the war without any blame, and

(iv) approved as District Train Controllers by the Traffic Selection Committees?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Muslim District Trains Controllers in the Calcutta District in the year 1944 who were reverted subsequently, and the number of those Non-Muslims who replaced them?

(c) Is it a fact that no enquiry was made before the reversion of Muslims?

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

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

MUSLIM SUPERVISING ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

909. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of Muslims and non-Muslims on the posts of Supervising Assistant Station Masters in February, 1945, on the Bengal and Assam Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that there is an inadequate representation of Muslims in this category, if so, what effort has been made to make up the Muslim quota?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I regret I cannot undertake to collect the information under present conditions.

(b) Government have no information, but no percentage can be reserved for Muslims in this category, as it is not open to direct recruitment.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know if there is nobody in the administration to look after the communal percentages?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Do they not send any report to the Railway Board even for a year?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Regularly.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Why cannot the Honourable Member get a statement of that fact? Probably it must be in the office.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not prepared to ask for this large amount of detail under present conditions when the railways, and particularly this railway in question, are at war.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Does the establishment section of the Railway Board get this detailed information or not? That is the point.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No; not as a regular thing.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is there any communal proportion maintained among those who are in charge of communal proportions?

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: May I ask my Honourable friend—he said that he gets a report from the officer who is looking after these matters—whether he will kindly make that report available to such Honourable Members as ask for it?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No; it is a confidential report to the Board; but as the Honourable Member knows, the general statistics are published each year, and it is the function of the Home Department to see that the recruitment percentages are fulfilled. In the case of the Muslim community they have been fulfilled with a deficiency of 1 per cent.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: The question is about these recruitments which have taken place through the Department indirectly.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not quite follow.

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

REVERSION OF CERTAIN MUSLIM SUPERVISING ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

910. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that on the Bengal and Assam Railway Muslims who were promoted as Supervising Assistant Station Masters by the District Traffic Superintendent, Katihar, in the month of September, 1944, are now being reverted without any fault of theirs?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the established charges or disqualifications justifying their reversion?

(c) Is it a fact—that the promotions were made unconditionally?

(d) Is it a fact that the non-Muslims junior to them are now required to replace them?

(e) If the reply to (d) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the comparative seniority?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (e). Government are informed that one Muslim holding the post of Crew-in-Charge—a category which is not the avenue of promotion to the post of the Assistant Station Master—was temporarily promoted by the District Traffic Superintendent, Katihar, as Supervising Assistant Station Master in September, 1944. He was replaced by an employee selected by the Traffic Selection Committee held in October, 1944.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Was he given a chance to appear there and to be condemned for this purpose?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I shall answer that in the next question.

IGNORING CLAIMS OF RECOMMENDED MUSLIMS OF KATIHAR BY TRAFFIC SELECTION COMMITTEE, HEAD OFFICE, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

911. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that, on the Bengal and Assam Railway, senior, qualified and efficient Muslims who were tried and recommended as Supervising Assistant Station Masters by the District Traffic Superintendent, Katihar, were not called for interview and examined by the Traffic Selection Committee Head Office, Bengal and Assam Railway, on the 31st October, 1944? What were the reasons for not allowing them to appear before the Selection Committee, referred to, on the 31st October, 1944?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Muslims from Katihar examined by the said Committee?

(c) Is it a fact that the same Muslims were asked to appear before the Traffic Selection Committee for the posts of Junior Transportation Inspectors on the 27th January, 1945? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I understand that one Muslim Crew-in-Charge, referred to, in the reply to Question No. 910, was not called for interview owing to the fact that the post of Supervising Assistant Station Master is not the avenue of promotion for a Crew-in-Charge.

(b) No Muslims were called from Katihar.

(c) The Muslim Crew-in-Charge referred to in the answer to part (a) was so called, as the post of Junior Transportation Inspector was within his avenue of promotion.

IGNORING CLAIMS OF MUSLIMS BY TRAFFIC SELECTION COMMITTEE, HEAD OFFICE, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

912. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether on the Bengal and Assam Railway in the year 1944-45 Muslims were not examined by the Traffic Selection Committee at the Head Office in the same manner as non-Muslims were examined for the different posts controlled by the said Committee?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state (i) the number of meetings of the Traffic Selection Committee held during the said period, (ii) the names of the posts for which selection was made by the Traffic Selection Committees, (iii) the number of the Muslims and non-Muslims examined and (iv) the number of the Muslims and non-Muslims selected?

(c) Is it a fact that efforts are made not to recommend Muslims according to the quota of 45 per cent. from district for any selections to be made by the Committee referred to above? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No differential treatment was accorded to any particular community by the Traffic Selection Committee at the Head Office of the Bengal and Assam Railway during the year 1944-45.

(b) I lay on the table of the House a statement giving the required information.

(c) Government have no reason to believe that any discrimination is shown. I would, however, remind the Honourable Member that promotions are not made on communal considerations and the percentage referred to by him.

relates to the reservation for Muslims in direct recruitment to subordinate services.

Date of selection	Particulars of posts	Candidates interviewed		Candidates selected	
		Non-Muslim	Muslim	Non-Muslim	Muslim
11-1-1944	Head Clerk Wire Section	7	..	2	..
	Guard 'B' Class S. M. (Imp.) Class 'A'	2	..	1	..
12-5-1944	G. Y. S. R.	2	..	2	..
	G. S.	4	..	1	..
	Jr. G. S.	1	..	1	..
	Sr. Inspector, W. and W.	1	..	1	..
	Jr. Inspector, W. and W.	5	..	3	..
	Trains Clerk 'E' Class	4	1	2	1
	Head Instructor, CA Training School.	2	..	2	..
	Tele. Inspector	1	..	..	..
	Signaller Spl. Class S. M. (Spl.)	1	..	1	..
	Shed Inspector	5	1	3	1
31-5-1944	C. I.	11	..	5	..
31-5-1944	Tracer Clerk	74	18	39	13
2-6-1944	Office Clerk 'B' Class	14	5	6	5
24-7-1944	Asstt. C. I.	19	1	14	1
5-10-1944	Tracer	2	1	1	..
20-10-1944	Yard Master	2	1	6	..
	Yard Inspector (Asstt. Y. M.)	6	1	9	2
	Asstt. G. Y. S. R.	9	7	1	1
	G. S. R. Class 'A' }	11	3	7	..
	A. G. S. R. Class 'B' }	..	..	..	..
	Asstt. Instructor (B. S.) and Claims Instructor.	15	1	12	1
31-10-1944	T. I.	17	3	17	3
	S. M. (Imp.) Class 'B'	12	..	12	..
	A. S. M. (Imp.)	21	9	20	9
	Y. F. Class 'C'	9	5	9	4
	S. M. (Spl.)	2	..	2	..
30-1-1945	Clerk 'F' Class	1	..	1	..
31-1-1945	T. C. Spl. Class	1	..	1	..
	Hd. B. C.	1	..	1	..
	Passenger Guide/SDA	17	4	5	2
	Asstt. C. I.	77	24	23	4
		363	93	210	48
		i.e. 23 per cent.		i.e. 23.66 per cent.	

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Is it not a fact that in this case Muslims were not even asked for. I referred that matter to the Honourable Member through a letter from Calcutta.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not aware of that.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I wrote a letter and in reply I was told that the matter will be looked into.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I receive a great number of letters on these subjects and I cannot recollect this particular one.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Things have not improved and that is why we have to bring up this matter again.

FUEL ECONOMY ON RAILWAYS

913. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) the steps taken by the Railway Administration for fuel economy;

(b) if Government have a definite scheme for fuel economy; and, if so, whether Government will place a copy of it on the table of the House;

(c) if it is a fact that a special Department in charge of new officers has been created on all Railways to deal with this question; and, if so, the number of these officers and their salaries and the total expenses of this Department on each of the Railways;

(d) if the answer to the first part of (c) is in the affirmative, what result has been achieved since these Departments were created; and

(e) if the management of any of the Railways has received suggestions from their Labour Unions for saving fuel and increasing production; and, if so, what action has been taken on them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraph 64 of Volume I of the Report on Indian Railways for the year 1943-44, in which the steps being taken by railway administrations to ensure fuel economy are clearly enumerated.

(b) There is a Fuel Economy Organization under the Coal Commissioner, which maintains close contact with the major industries, studies their fuel consumption and co-relates the data with the object of determining the minimum quantity and the right quality and size of coal required by the various consumers. The Organization is also printing and distributing a number of pamphlets and posters on the subject of fuel economy. The assistance of Provincial Administrations was sought in Supply Department letter No. 2-CD-(2)/44, dated the 18th October 1944, a copy of which is placed on the table of the House. The response to this letter has been good.

(c) No. The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative, and the second part does not therefore arise. I would, however, add that the fuel economy organisations, which have for a long time existed on railways, have been strengthened. On the nine principal railways, 10 Fuel Officers' posts have been temporarily created at a cost of Rs. 5,500 per month.

(d) Does not arise. For the Honourable Member's information, I would add that the average figure of coal consumption per thousand gross ton miles for goods and passenger train working on Class I railways has been materially reduced between January and September, 1944, as the result of economy measures.

(e) Government have no information but I may state that all practical suggestions received from whatever source in respect of fuel economy are welcomed and given full consideration. Responsibility for increasing coal production does not lie with the railways.

Copy of letter No. 2-CD(2)/44, dated the 18th October 1944 from the Government of India, Department of Supply (Main Secretariat), New Delhi.
SUBJECT:—Fuel Economy.

As a result of war conditions and war expansion of industry in India, the amount of coal at present available is, as your government is/you are aware, falling short of demands by a considerable amount.

(i) A survey of the usage of coal throughout the country carried out during the past 10 months by the technical staff of the Coal Commissioner and certain reports submitted by Provincial Officers leave no doubt that a very large quantity of coal is being wasted owing to insufficient attention being paid to economy. It is believed that by taking only elementary precautions a saving of at least 500,000 tons of coal per annum can be effected and that more elaborate precautions might in the course of a few years very well treble this saving.

(ii) In consequence the Government of India have decided to proceed at once with a Fuel Economy campaign and will constitute a Fuel Economy Section in the office of the Coal Commissioner to run it. It will, however, be appreciated that it is impracticable to engage sufficient trained fuel technologists to staff a Central Organization capable of covering the whole country effectively. For this reason it is proposed to delegate responsibility for carrying on fuel economy campaigns. So far as organized industry is concerned the Coal Commissioner is already in negotiation with the responsible Associations and other (e.g. the Jute association, the Tea Association and the Textile Commissioner). There are many consumers, however, who are neither members of any recognised association nor working under the aegis of any department of the Government of India, and in the case of these smaller consumers, whose requirements are at present collated by Provincial Governments the scope for the exercise of economy is at least as great as among organized industries. I am according to request the assistance of provincial Government/Your assistance in this important matter and to suggest that a suitably qualified officer elected from the office

of, e.g., the Directorate of Industries, Boiler or Factory Inspectorate should be placed on special duty for the purpose of the campaign among consumers with whose coal requirements the Provincial Government is/you are concerned. It is considered that an officer with considerable experience of boiler or industrial furnace practice will be required to organise the details of such a Fuel Economy campaign.

2. Reports received by the Coal Commissioner suggest that the first line of attack in this campaign will lie in the direction of the lagging in an adequate way of all steam pipes and boilers, the stoppage of steam leaks in steam pipe lines and of air leaks in furnace brick work and the provision of suitable means of water softening. The Coal Commissioner is arranging to ensure that supplies are available of the materials necessary for remedying such defects.

3. I am to request the Provincial Government/you to give their/your early consideration and, if they/you agree to the scheme, to advise the Government of India of the name of the officer that they/you will appoint or if an officer has already been appointed for fuel economy duties, the name and designation of such officer.

4. I am to add that it is proposed from time to time to call into conference all Fuel Economy officers, whether appointed by Provincial Governments organized industry, or any department of the Government of India, in order that full advantage may be taken of experience gained and efforts may be suitably coordinated.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether among the measures taken to ensure fuel economy one of the measures was the closing of some railway stations? May I know whether this is a war-time measure and whether the stations will be reopened at the end of the war?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is a war-time measure but it may have to continue so long as fuel shortage continues.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Is it not a fact that on the South Indian Railway a special department has been created under a highly paid officer, with assistants and staff to deal with this question of fuel economy?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: To my certain knowledge, from my personal experience of the South Indian Railway, I know that they have particularly studied coal economy for many years, principally for the reason that they are so far away from the coal fields and their coal problems require special study in the interest of economy. What precise steps they have taken recently in this regard I am not aware but I do know that they have in the last year achieved a very substantial economy of coal.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I know whether the expenditure involved in creating a new department for fuel economy is compensated by the result?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have not the slightest doubt that in the present emergency the saving in coal fully justified the expenditure.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the extent of the coal saved by the economy campaign?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have some figures with me to show that between January, 1944, and September, 1944, the direct savings have been of the nature of 43,000 tons per month.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What percentage?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is about 5 per cent of the fuel consumption and there have been further indirect savings amounting to 4,000 tons per month.

MEDICAL AID FACILITIES TO FAMILIES OF RAILWAYMEN

914. ***Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) what facilities for medical aid are provided to the families of Railwaymen particularly with regard to the need for maternity and child welfare; and

(b) if the Railway Authorities have reserved wards in all Railway hospitals for women, and, if the staff of these hospitals include women doctors; and, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Facilities for medical aid are given to Railway employees and their families in accordance with the provisions of Section II of Chapter IX of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. Maternity and child welfare activities vary from railway to railway and are mostly financed by the Staff Benefit Fund under rule 1208 (d) of the Code referred to. Some railways have well-organized centres with ante-natal and child welfare clinics where trained Nurses and/or Midwives, Nurse Dais and Dais are provided to

the extent possible. In certain instances, railways contribute to Municipal or Government Maternity Centres for catering to the needs of families of railwaymen.

(b) There are female wards in some hospitals, but not in others, and there are women doctors on some railways but not on others. Government are, however, considering an expansion of maternity and child welfare activities on Railways as a facet of post-war planning.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I know, Sir, if Government have taken care to see that all the measures mentioned by the Honourable Member are being applied by all the railway authorities?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. Government do their best to see that it is done.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: With regard to part (b) of the reply, may I point out that great hardship is caused to the families of railway employees by lack of proper facilities for medical aid in Railway hospitals in many places?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: In certain places the facilities may not be adequate but as I have said Government are considering the expansion of maternity and child welfare institutions.

REVISION OF SCALES OF PAY OF SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS (RAILWAYS)

915. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) With reference to the Honourable the Railway Member's answer to supplementaries to question No. 541, asked on the 21st March, 1944, stating that the question of revision of scales of pay of Sub-Assistant Surgeons was under consideration of the Medical Section of the Indian Railway Conference Association, will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the Resolution passed on the subject?

(b) Is it a fact that this resolution was approved by the required majority of the General Managers of the Indian State Railways?

(c) If the reply to (b) above is in the affirmative have the revised scales, as proposed in the Resolution, been put into effect? If not, why not?

(d) Is it a fact that the Sub-Assistant Surgeons on the North Western Railway have resigned *en-masse*? If so, on what grounds and how many have resigned?

(e) If the reply to the first part of (d) above is in the affirmative, is it proposed to accept their resignations? If not, do Government propose to meet their demands?

(f) What is the total strength of the cadre? How many of the total are serving at present?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The rules of the Indian Railway Conference Association do not permit of the publication of the proceedings of the Association for public use. I, therefore, regret my inability to comply with the Honourable Member's request.

(b) The reply is in the affirmative.

(c) It is not the Government's policy to undertake a wholesale revision of scales of pay during the war. Pending a more comprehensive post-war consideration of the terms of service of Railway medical personnel, Government have, as a temporary measure, raised the maximum of the scales Rs. 65-5/2-85 and Rs. 100-10/2-120 to Rs. 120, by increments of Rs. 5, and to Rs. 170, by increments of Rs. 10, respectively.

(d) and (e). Government understand that a large number of Sub-Assistant Surgeons submitted a representation, stating that if they were not given the benefit of fixation of pay, with due regard to length of service, in the scales of pay recommended by the Indian Railway Conference Association, their representations should be regarded as resignations from service with one month's notice. The question of accepting these conditional resignations does not arise in view of the Government's action mentioned in the reply to part (c).

(f) The total sanctioned strength of Sub-Assistant Surgeons on the North-Western Railway is 116, including 18 temporary posts. 111 Sub-Assistant Surgeons are actually serving at present.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if it is a fact that the resignations were given by all the Assistant Surgeons serving in the North-Western Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is it a fact that they have been threatened with prosecution under the Defence of India Rules unless they withdraw their resignations?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am unable to say so. They come under the Essential Services Order but I do not know whether that has been applied to them. Action has however already been taken by Government.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If most of the people attending the Indian Railways Conference Association meeting are Government servants, what is the objection to the proceedings of that conference being made available to Members of this House?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Some of them are States servants and I may remind the Honourable Member that some of them were until very recently Company servants. The subject raised by my honourable friend is a matter for consideration, but speaking offhand, I should say it is undesirable to make these reports public because we want the officers to speak freely in their individual capacity. Otherwise it might be embarrassing to them and to Government if the proceedings were fully published. I should say myself that the balance of advantage lies in keeping these proceedings confidential, because thereby they can be made fuller.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that the States' representatives do not play a leading or very important part and that the Companies are now gone, will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of placing before Members of this Legislature such portions of the conclusions reached by this Conference which may be useful to Members of this House?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have nothing to add to my previous reply.

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

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS PERMITTED TO JOIN INDIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

916. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that several Sub-Assistant Surgeons serving on the North Western Railway applied for transfer to the Indian Army Medical Corps? If so, how many applied and how many were spared?

(b) What was the basis on which the individual candidates were spared?

(c) Is it a fact that the present scales of pay of the Sub-Assistant Surgeons on the North Western Railway are not remunerative? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to allow employees to better their prospects in military service? If not, do Government propose to revise their present scales of pay to induce them to stick to service on the North Western Railway? If not, why not?

(d) What benefits will be allowed to the Railway Sub-Assistant Surgeons permitted to join the Indian Army Medical Corps on their reversion to the Railway after the War, and will these benefits also be conferred upon those who were not spared to join the Indian Army Medical Corps? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b) 18 Sub-Assistant Surgeons applied for commissions in the I.A.M.C. and 13 of these, who applied first, were spared. The remaining five, who applied subsequently, could not be spared owing to the difficulty in securing medical personnel to replace them.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to part (c) of the preceding question.

(d) No special benefits, are being granted to Railway Sub-Assistant Surgeons, permitted to join the India Army Medical Corps, on their return to the Railway after the war. The latter part of the question does not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it that their representation for higher scales of pay was considered as their resignation?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am afraid I have not followed the Honourable Member?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is that their representation for higher scales of pay was considered as their resignation and their services terminated?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I still do not quite understand.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member said in answer to his reply to question 915 (d) that their representation for higher scales of pay was considered as their resignation.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then what did you say?

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

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is your ruling?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You are not entitled to go on, interrupting.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am not interrupting anybody. I am asking for information.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has given his reply and he is not going to repeat it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I asked the Honourable Member to speak loud enough.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member did speak loud enough. Next question.

+917.*

SURPLUS MOTOR VEHICLES SOLD

918. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state how many motor vehicles were sold in the year 1944 which were treated as (i) surplus, (ii) obsolete, and (iii) salvage?

(b) Were they sold in public auction or by private sales?

(c) Is it a fact that orders were placed for the import of large number of small cars from United Kingdom?

(d) Are these cars going to be paid from the sterling balance?

(e) What is the price per unit?

(f) Are similar orders being placed in U. S. A. for big cars? If so, how are they going to be financed?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) It is not possible to furnish the information in the manner required by the question. Under the scheme for the disposal of used motor vehicles those accepted as 'potential runners' are given to reconditioners in the motor trade for reconditioning and subsequent disposal in accordance with control orders issued by the War Transport Department. All vehicles not accepted for reconditioning are made over to the Army Salvage Organisation for break-down to component parts and scrap.

(b) 26 vehicles were sold by auction in Calcutta, under special circumstances. These vehicles had been completely cannibalised by the military authorities and in most cases engines, wheels, etc., had all been removed. They were, therefore, immobile and were disposed of *in situ*. There were no private sales.

(c) The Government of India hope to obtain a certain number of light British cars for the use of essential users some time during the year. The number of cars expected is about 2000, most of which will probably be 10 H.P. Austins, but it cannot be stated even approximately when they will arrive.

(d) Payment for these cars will *pro tanto* reduce the sterling balances.

(e) There is no information yet as to what the price per car will be.

(f) The possibility of obtaining some higher powered cars from the U.S.A. or the U.K. is being explored. The question of finance will be considered after the availability has been ascertained.

Sardar Sant Singh: What is cannibalising?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Just as one man eats another, so one machine eats another by getting the parts from the other car so that it may be a whole by itself.

*This question has been postponed to be answered on the 20th March 1945.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Does the Honourable Member refer to such cars in the same way as one human being eating another?

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

HIGHER INITIAL PAY OF FEMALE TELEPHONE OPERATORS.

919. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if the initial starting pay of Engineering Supervisors, Telegraphs, Telephones and Electrical Supervisors is Rs. 80? Is it also a fact that the initial starting pay of the female Telephone Operators is Rs. 90? If so, what are the reasons for the discrepancy in the initial pay?

(b) Is he aware that the female operators drawing higher salaries than their supervisors cause good deal of embarrassment in maintaining the discipline of the department? What steps do the Department propose to take to remove this grievance of the supervisors?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the other parts, the initial pay is Rs. 90, only in the case of female Telephone Operators employed in the Delhi Telephone Division on a temporary basis for the duration of the War. Higher initial pay is granted to them in this Division in view of the special conditions prevailing there.

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

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know what is the initial pay of the temporary hands employed as telephone operators so far as males are concerned.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: There is another question of the Honourable Member a little later. There the figures are given.

RAISING THE PAY OF ENGINEERING SUPERVISORS, WIRELESS

920. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state the initial pay of Engineering Supervisors, both telegraphs and telephones and Electrical Supervisors and also that of Engineering Supervisors, Wireless?

(b) Is it a fact that the status and grades of pay of both are the same in the Department?

(c) What are the reasons for raising the pay of the latter while maintaining the pay of the former at the existing level?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The initial pay in the revised scales is Rs. 80 p.m. for all branches.

(b) Yes.

(c) The minimum starting pay for Wireless Supervisors has not been raised generally, but it has been fixed at the point Rs. 140 for those Wireless Operators on the revised scales who have qualified in the lower and higher proficiency examinations, and are in receipt of special pay on this account, in order to protect them from loss on promotion as far as possible.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask Government to substitute the word "woman" for "female"?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The Honourable Lady is referring to a previous question.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: That is better language

DIFFERENT SCALES OF PAY OF TELEPHONE OPERATORS.

921. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that Telephone Operators are paid at the following scales:

(i) permanent male operators Rs. 40—3—85,

(ii) temporary male operators Rs. 60—4—80, and

(iii) temporary female operators Rs. 90—5—120?

(b) Is it a fact that all the three above categories perform the same kind of duties and have the same responsibilities? If so, why is there difference in scales of pay, and why are the female Operators paid 50 per cent. more than the male Operators?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) This is generally correct in the case of Delhi only. But even there, for permanent Telephone Operators there is a first gr

Rs. 95—4—115, and the scales of Rs. 90/120 and Rs. 60/80 are applicable only to staff employed on a temporary basis for the duration of the War.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, increased rates are granted in view of the difficulties experienced in obtaining suitable staff on the usual scales. Higher rates are granted to women as the difficulty of recruiting them is greater in their case.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know why temporary operators are getting 50 per cent. more than permanent hands?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Permanent operators have the benefit of earning a pension. Temporary operators have been taken only for the period of the war. In view of the very large demand for men from all Departments, if the service has to be run, we have to pay a little more, considering that they are going to be discharged from service at the end of the war and are not going to get any pension.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Does the Honourable Member suggest that the difference of Rs. 20 is pensionary contribution?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir, that is the inference which the Honourable Member is drawing.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: It is not a wrong inference: it is exploitation if you pay Rs. 40 to a permanent hand because he does not leave.

TELEGRAPHISTS WORKING AS ENGINEERING SUPERVISORS, TELEGRAPHS IN FIELD SERVICE

922. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state the number of telegraphists working as Engineering Supervisors, Telegraphs in field service? How many of them are Hindus, Mohammedans, Sikhs, Parsees, Anglo-Indians and others?

(b) Is there any proposal to raise them to the grade of Deputy Assistant Engineers, Telegraphs, Class II, on their return from Field Service?

(c) If so, will it be done in accordance with the seniority or is it contemplated that Anglo-Indians alone should be accorded special treatment in the case of promotion?

(d) How will the Department compensate those members who have been serving in India under similar war conditions, if their seniority is affected by such promotions?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) None at present. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(b) No.

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

SAVING DUE TO REDUCTION IN PETROL RATION, ETC., IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY

923. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport be pleased to state the saving per month effected in reducing the petrol basic ration to one third of the civil consumers in the Madras Presidency?

(b) How much more petrol is being consumed per month by public transport vehicles including commercial trucks in that Presidency over the consumption in the year 1940?

(c) What is the saving effected per month by the introduction of charcoal gas plants for public transport vehicles in that Presidency?

(d) How many public transport vehicles and commercial vehicles are running now on petrol only?

(e) What is the average consumption of petrol per month of a commercial truck in that Presidency?

(f) Is it not the policy of the Government of India to encourage the fitting of gas plants to commercial trucks and transport passenger vehicles to save petrol?

(g) Is it not possible to increase the basic ration of civilian consumers by the saving effected by fitting gas plants to at least commercial trucks? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (e). The information asked for by the Honourable Member is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(f) Yes.

(g) No. The need for the maximum possible economy in civil consumption of petrol by every means possible still continues.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Has not an additional supply been made available from the Middle East after the easing of the war situation in that area?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That may be so, but the requirements of this country for military purposes have also increased.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it not the case that Americans are producing enormous quantities and are willing to offer to the Government of India for civil consumers a larger quantity, but that Government will not have it?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have no information on that, but there are of course many other difficulties arising.

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS VEHICLES

924. *Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state if there is any scheme under contemplation for the disposal of surplus vehicles—military and civil?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, what is the percentage of vehicles which are going to be dismantled and auctioned off to the buyers of waste materials?

(c) What percentage has been found serviceable after repairs and renewals?

(d) What are the agencies through which Government propose to make these vehicles road-worthy?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) It is presumed that the Honourable Member is referring to motor vehicles. A scheme is in operation for the disposal of used motor vehicles no longer required by the Defence Services. It does not cover "civil" vehicles, which are not likely to be many and which have not so far come up for actual disposal. When vehicles owned by Civil Departments are reported, such cases will be considered on its merits.

(b) and (c). As the scheme has not been in operation sufficiently long, it is not possible to estimate any percentages at present. The number of vehicles hitherto accepted for reconditioning has been comparatively small; the greater proportion are unfit for any purpose other than scrap, and are, therefore, being broken up by the military authorities.

(d) Approved registered dealers of the motor trade.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetty: Are Government still requisitioning private cars for their use?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I have no information on that subject.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetty: Will Government consider the advisability of sale by public auction?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: At the present time reconditioned cars are sold only to persons who are given a permit by the War Transport Department as essential users. It is therefore not possible to have them publicly auctioned.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Can the Honourable Member give any statistics with regard to the number of cars cannibalised and the number of cars reconditioned and used by the Department itself?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The total number of vehicles accepted for reconditioning by the various Regional Committees are: Cars—49, Trucks—71, Total—120.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Members of the Assembly be eligible to get them when they are disposed of?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Those who are essential users.

DISPARITY IN PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS AT GRAIN SHOPS OF DIFFERENT RAILWAYS IN A CITY

925. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is disparity in the prices of food-stuffs supplied at the grain shops of different Railways in the same city and that this causes a difference in the dearness allowances to employees on these Railways; and, if so, the reasons for maintaining the disparity;

(b) if it is a fact that the Officer-in-Charge of the Bengal Nagpur Railway grain shop in Nagpur is the Assistant Works Manager and that representations have been made to the Bengal Nagpur Railway authorities that the employees dare not complain about the management of this grain shop and the poor quality of the stuff sold there for fear of incurring the displeasure of their Assistant Works Manager;

(c) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of (i) a uniform policy of placing the grain shops in the charge of officers who have no connection with workshops, and (ii) charging uniform prices at least in the same city or locality?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, grain shop prices are based on the prices prevailing in February 1943 in territories served by each railway. Presumably the reference is to Nagpur which is served both by the Bengal Nagpur and G. I. P. Railways. The Bengal Nagpur Railway prices are based on the prices prevailing in the areas served by that Railway and will therefore vary from the prices fixed by the G. I. P. Railway based on those prevailing in the area served by the latter.

(b) Government have no detailed information, but will communicate this part of the question to the General Manager, Bengal Nagpur Railway, for such action as he may consider necessary.

(c) (i) This is a matter of detail which is within the competence of each Railway Administration and Government do not propose to interfere.

(ii) This does not arise in view of the reply to part (a) above.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Do not Government realise that it is important to have these grain shops in charge of independent officers, independent in the sense that they have no connection with Railway employees in workshops?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that different prices are charged by grain shops in the same city, will Government of India take steps to see that prices are made uniform in at least the same city?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If the Honourable Member will consider the situation he will realise that there are difficulties. These prices are fixed by Railways and not on an All-India basis. There are therefore differences between two Railways. If you make prices uniform in the same city different servants of the same Railway will be receiving different benefits, and while it is desirable that you should have uniform prices in one city, it is also desirable, in fact more desirable, that the servants of the same Railway should all receive the same benefit. At the same time I agree that it is desirable to increase uniformity, and where possible that is being done.

CLOSING DOWN OF THE BAILLY MUNITIONS FACTORY, NAGPUR

926. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if and since how long the Bengal Nagpur Railway Muniton Factory in Nagpur, known as the Bailly Muniton Factory, has been closed down and its staff quarters have remained vacant;

(b) the loss of revenue per mensem to Government caused by keeping these quarters vacant;

(c) how many Railway employees could be accommodated in them; and

(d) if Government are aware that housing problem is very difficult in Nagpur, and the Railway employees find it hard to secure accommodation; and if so, what steps do Government propose to take to help them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Enquiries are being made from the Railway Administration concerned and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

STOPPING OF BOOKING OF CLASS IX TIMBER AT JAGADHRI

927. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that booking of class IX timber had been stopped at Jagadhri, North Western Railway; if so, since when it was stopped; and

(b) whether Government are aware that a large quantity of class IX timber is lying there; and when the booking for class IX timber is likely to be reopened?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The booking of traffic of all kinds in priority Class IX was stopped at all stations on the North Western Railway on 19th January 1945 as there are insufficient wagons available to move all traffic offering and it is necessary to give preference to the more essential traffic.

(b) Government are not aware of the exact quantity of timber lying at Jagadhri. I cannot forecast when booking in priority Class IX will be resumed on the North Western Railway but this will be done in full or in part when the wagon position improves.

DISCONTINUANCE OF TRAIN HALTS AT SITAMPET AND KAVUTARAM RAILWAY STATIONS

928. *Mr. A. Satyanarayana Moorthy: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the great inconvenience and hardship caused to the travelling public residing in and around the villages Sitampet and Kavutaram on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway by suspending the train halts?

(b) If so, does he propose to reconsider the desirability of opening the halts at the two places mentioned in (a) to facilitate conveyance to thousands of people who go up and down to Bezvada?

(c) Was there any complaint about the inadequacy of the width of the platform size of the passenger sheds at the two places above-mentioned by the Andhra Desa Passengers' Association on or about the 10th February, 1942?

(d) Is it not a fact that the above halts referred to came into effect on the 1st May, 1942?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Any curtailment of transport facilities which have been in existence for some time must necessarily cause a certain amount of inconvenience and hardship to the travelling public.

(b) This is a matter which should be represented to the Railway Administration through the L. A. Committee. I am, however, bringing the matter to the notice of the General Manager, M. & S. M. Railway.

(c) I have not been able to trace the receipt of any such complaint.

(d) I understand one of these halts was eliminated on the date mentioned but have no information about the others.

LOW LEVEL PLATFORM AT PALAKOL RAILWAY STATION

929. *Mr. A. Satyanarayana Moorthy: (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware of the extreme depth of the platform from the Railway foot board at Palakol Station (Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway) of the West Godavary?

(b) Is he aware of the hardship of old men, women and children who find it difficult to ascend or descend from the train on the platform? If so, does he propose to make the necessary arrangements to raise the platform without causing any inconvenience to the travelling public?

(c) Is he aware of the large number of passengers going up and down from Palakol as it is one of the most busy centres for trade in the district?

(d) Why is there no Waiting Room for higher class passengers? Do the Railway authorities propose to provide a Waiting Room at the station of Palakol?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Palakol station has a rail level platform.

(b) Yes. Provision has been made for a high level platform to be provided at this station in the Post-war Reconstruction programme of the M. & S. M. Railway.

(c) There is a fair amount of passenger traffic.

(d) An upper class waiting room is not provided as there is no upper class accommodation on trains serving this station. The answer to the second part is in the negative.

SHIPS BUILT IN INDIA

930. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state how many ships have been built in India since 1940; and

(b) how many of them have been built in the Vizagapatam Harbour and, what is their tonnage?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) A considerable number of naval vessels not exceeding 1,500 tons each have been built but it is not in the public interest to give the exact number.

(b) None.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether attempts have been made to build ships of a bigger capacity than 1,500 tons?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Yes; attempts are being made.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have they been built in Government dockyards or in private companies dockyards?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Attempts are being made by private companies also.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have they all been built in Government or private companies dockyards?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Both.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are these ships being built on Government account?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: For Government purposes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the nature of assistance that Government gives?

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

85. Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) the hours of employment of the Waiting Room bearers at Ambala Cantonment, Amritsar and Lahore Stations on the North Western Railway;

(b) the number of those bearers for each room at those Stations;

(c) whether they enjoy weekly rest without performing twenty four hours' duty in relief;

(d) what period of inaction they have on each day; and

(e) the reasons for not treating them as continuous workers when they are always attentive at the place of duty?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (e). Government have no information regarding these details; a copy of the question is, however, being sent to the General Manager, North Western Railway, for information and such action as he may consider necessary.

86. [Cancelled]

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

COMPOSITION OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION TO SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh who wishes to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the selection by the

Governor General in Council of Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar and Sir Firoz Khan Noon as India's representatives to take part in the Conferences to be held shortly in London and San Francisco.

There is another adjournment motion notice of which has been given by Mr. Krishnamachari to the same effect. He wishes to discuss the composition of the Delegation chosen by the Government of India to represent India at the San Francisco Conference to the exclusion of the non-official representatives of the people of this country.

Is the delegation sent by the Government of India?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The Press Communique today says that the Governor General in Council has chosen the Delegation.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is it not their responsibility to choose the delegates?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: The Press Communique says that the Governor General in Council has selected and that is why this House is competent to express an opinion on it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then, is it the case of the Honourable Member that he is entitled to question the selection?

Honourable Members: Yes, Sir.

Sir Olaf Caroe (Secretary, External Affairs Department): Sir, may I call your attention to a ruling or an interpretation of a ruling which you gave on the 2nd November, 1944, when a somewhat similar matter was moved on a motion for adjournment before this House, about the World Monetary Conference. You drew a distinction on that occasion between the selection of delegates, when it was the definite responsibility of the Government to select the Delegation and the selection of non-officials and you said, Sir,—“If there has been any misunderstanding that the admission of that motion (this was a previous motion about non-officials) meant that it is not the responsibility of the Government of India to make the selection in such cases but that they are bound to consult any particular representative bodies, then I must make it clear that I did not mean to lay down any such proposition. It is the primary responsibility of the Government to make the selection”.

You then went on to say—

“though in a proper case it is the right of this House to call in question any action taken by the Government in this respect.”

I would submit that in a case like this which refers to an International Conference it is widely recognised that it must be the responsibility of the constitutional Government to make the selection.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Who are the representatives sent by the United Kingdom Government?

Sir Olaf Caroe: It is the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Eden and Mr. Attlee, Deputy Prime Minister, and also a member of Government. The whole background of this Conference is that the delegation should be official, that is to say, official in the sense that it should be on a ministerial level. They should be Ministers or Members of the Government and little purpose would be served by debating in this House a suggestion that India should act differently from any of the other Governments in the Commonwealth and should send a delegation which was not made up of members of the Government.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): That is a matter for discussion.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): I have got another ruling of the 8th November, 1943, on an adjournment motion which I had made. The concluding portion of that ruling is

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is the non-official delegation sent to explain the war effort?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid, in regard to the question of interpretation of this ruling, the position is not on all fours with what happened in

November 1944. My proposed motion refers to the composition of the Delegation chosen by the Government of India to represent India at the San Francisco Conference to the exclusion of non-official representatives.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Where is the obligation on the part of the Government to choose non-official representatives for this Conference?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: The obligation may or may not be there. The position is that the House is competent to express an opinion on the second question raised by the Member speaking for Government. What the Honourable Foreign Secretary said is not quite true so far as the United States of America is concerned. There, the delegation has been chosen in such a manner that all parties even the party in opposition, the Republican Party is being represented. So, I do not think that the assumption of the Honourable Member is at all correct.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I understand that the British Government have chosen two Ministers.

Sir Olaf Caroe: I referred to British Commonwealth Governments. I do not think we should get ourselves involved in discussions about the constitutional differences between British Governments and the United States. As the Honourable Member probably knows, the Senate of the United States has a very special position in matters of foreign affairs. If we start debating them in this House, it would not be really relevant and we shall not get much further. What I said was that the British Commonwealth Governments are sending delegations on the ministerial level and the delegation from the United Kingdom consists of the Foreign Secretary and the Deputy Prime Minister and that is the general principle which is to be observed by the Dominions also.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What happened after the last War?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: At the conclusion of the last war, the 1919 Act was not in force. The United Kingdom Delegation referred to is composed of two different parties, though they form members of a Coalition Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is no such thing here. This motion raises a very important question. But the 12 Noon motion is not in order because it is entirely the responsibility of the Government of India to choose their delegates to this Conference. I further understand that in doing so, they are following the practice of the British Government in this matter. It was undoubtedly open to the Government of India to choose non-officials to assist the delegation or form the delegation themselves, if they so desired. But under the constitution, it is impossible for me to hold that in selecting Members of the Government of India to represent the Government at this Conference, they have departed in any way from what has been the practice in this country or Britain in a matter of this sort. I am not aware of any convention of this House by which the Government of India would be required to choose non-officials to represent them in the Conference. I hold that the motion is not in order.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS

DEMAND No. 16.—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES—*contd.*

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Today is the turn for the Nationalist Party. Cut Motion No. 5, relating to Demand No. 16, Department of Industries and Civil Supplies. This Demand has already been moved.

Cloth and Yarn Position

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

“That the demand under the head ‘Department of Industries and Civil Supplies’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal: Landholders): I rise to a point of order. So far as I remember, there was a debate on a cut motion last Saturday

[Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury.]

which was not concluded. Can the present cut motion be taken up before that debate is concluded?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That motion related to Unattached Members and that will come up again this evening during the time allotted for Unattached Members.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Sir, under this Motion, I want to discuss the cloth and yarn position in the country. The cloth situation has become really very serious in many parts of India, in fact the whole of India is suffering from an acute shortage of cloth. It is no exaggeration to say that such a situation of absolute want of cloth is unprecedented in the annals of India, both before and after British rule. This calamity is not confined to one Province, it is applicable to all the Provinces. The difficulty is experienced in Delhi and the Centrally Administered Areas, in the Provinces of Bihar, Bengal, Madras, U. P. and several other States; of course the acuteness of shortage varies in degrees in different Provinces. So far as the degree is concerned, I find the situation described in this way in the *National Call* of the 9th March. With your permission, I shall read a short extract, because it applies more or less to the position in many other Provinces. It says:

"The Public of Delhi in general and its cloth trade in particular are faced today with a serious situation. Apparently there is so acute a shortage of cloth these days that hundreds of men, women and children after fruitlessly waiting for hours together return disappointed from market to their houses. *Bhotis, saris, long cloth, mulmul, shirrings* and other such cloth of daily use have completely disappeared from the market. Pathetic scenes are every day witnessed in front of different shops where women with children in their laps uselessly cry for two and half yards of *mulmul*. Long queues sometimes formed before the rise of the Sun are everyday seen and sometimes police help is secured to keep them under control."

Now, Sir, that is a description which applies to Calcutta as well. There in order to regulate big crowds which appear daily in front of approved Government shops for a *dhoti* or *saree* police help is necessary to regulate the crowd. It is reported that an unfortunate incident occurred one day. The rush of crowd was so great in front of a shop in Wellington street, that a young man of 20 or 21 years received a *lathi* blow on his head from the police and an old woman of 60 was run over by a lorry. That is a description which applies to some other Provinces. The position is so bad that as far as the Province of Bengal is concerned—I am speaking of Bengal in particular, because I am not acquainted with details of other Provinces, but I am sure the position is equally bad in several other Provinces—the position in Bengal is so deplorable that many women almost go naked. The position is so bad that womenfolk cannot go out of their houses. It is reported that some women committed suicide being unable to go out for want of cloth. This was brought to the notice of the Honourable the Commerce Member the other day in this House. (Interruption.) I do not think he said he did not credit it. He said he had heard such reports. I do not know whether he since made enquiries and found out the truth or otherwise of that allegation. At all events the position is this. Dead bodies are dug up from graves for taking away the cloth to be found on them. From the burning ghats, the cloth of dead bodies are removed and taken to the bazaar for sale. From this you can deduce the acuteness of shortage of cloth in that Province. In my own District, there is a Bar consisting of sixty Members. And between the sixty members of the bar only ten pairs of saris were distributed for six months. And these poor people unable to distribute them among themselves held a lottery. There were only ten pairs of saris for sixty families for six months; that is the position there. I find that the situation is so acute in Calcutta that on the 10th March last a "cloth day" demonstration was organised by the leaders of the different parties in order to emphasize their difficulties. It is a sad state of things, specially for women, because saris and dhotis are not available at all. As regards the other varieties of cloth, they may be available in different degrees, but so far as dhoties and saris are concerned they are not available at all in Calcutta. And as regards Delhi I have read an extract, and I can bear personal testimony to

this fact, that in Chandni Chowk you will not get one sari or dhoti to purchase. I need not discuss this position or elaborate the point. Sir, it is not correct to say that in Bengal there is shortage of cloth or even acute shortage; it is literally famine in cloth. There is no exaggeration in that description. We had a famine there in the matter of food; now has come another famine, and this time it is in the matter of cloth. There can be no controversy about this; it is admitted by the Provincial Government, though I do not know whether it is admitted equally by the Central Government. In Bengal the Minister in charge said that he was powerless to do anything because he was not getting proper supplies from the Centre and it is the Central Government that is responsible. And here in the Centre we were told the other day by the Commerce Member that he had sent more supplies to Bengal than they were entitled to get under the quota system. This again is the same unseemly controversy between the Centre and the Province, one blaming the other. So far as we are concerned, it is very much like the common experience of lawyers in criminal cases that when there are two accused and the prosecution case is irrefutable, one accused lays the blame on the other and says he, the other one, is guilty and not he himself. The same thing happens between the Centre and the Province. That was the controversy at the time of the food famine, and that is being repeated now in this cloth famine. Our case is that both the Centre and the Provinces have to share the blame equally. Why should there be this shortage of cloth? My case is that as the food famine was a man-made famine, so is this cloth famine a man-made one. Sir, the House will excuse me if I deal particularly with the case of Bengal because I know the position there more than in other provinces.

My submission is that the internal production is insufficient. The quota given by the Central Government is very unfair, and whatever cloth or yarn is available it does not reach the people. Therefore insufficient production and insufficient supply from outside are responsible. But there is other important reason to which I shall refer later on. As regards the quota my complaint is that the quota given to Bengal is very low; it is almost half of the quota that is given in other provinces. But I should not be misunderstood; I do not complain about the quota to other provinces. My only complaint is that an insufficient quota has been given to Bengal. The Bengal quota has been fixed on a double basis, the first being the pre-war consumption and the second being the population basis. My contention is that both of these are wrong. The pre-war consumption has been taken to be 10 to 12 yards, but that has been challenged from many quarters, and up till now we have not been told how that basis was arrived at. It was stated the other day in very guarded language by the Honourable the Commerce Member that it is "believed" that 10 to 12 yards were the pre-war consumption, but the data for that belief have not been given.

As to the population basis, calculation has been made on the last census figure of 61 million; but it is well known that the population of Bengal is no longer 61 million but it is now 65 million. Therefore necessarily the quota is inadequate.

That is about the quota of cloth. As regards the quota of yarn, that again is very insufficient. The estimated production of Bengal handlooms is 9,000 bales per month; the yarn required is 8,000 bales per month, but what has been allowed is only 5,442 bales. Then there is a large number of mills there which are only weaving and not spinning; and their production is handicapped owing to lack of supply of yarn. Of the supply of yarn now available a portion goes to non-weaving mills for manufacture of nets, belting factories, bandage-cloth makers, bookbinders, and others like the Bata Shoe Factory, etc. So that actually the handloom's share of yarn is not 10 p. c. but very much lower.

That, Sir, is one reason for the unsatisfactory state of things there. Another reason is the very heavy purchases made by military people, purchases for the requirements of the Red Cross, hospitals, etc. You have to remember that Bengal is a war zone, and therefore in all fairness there should have been

[Mr. Akhil Chandra Dutta.]

special allotment given to Bengal for this purpose. It was admitted the other day by the Commerce Member that there was this necessity for a special allotment, but that was not done. We have been told that the matter is now under consideration. But why was not this obvious fact taken into account at the time when the quota was fixed? And then when the injustice has been pointed out why was no immediate decision taken? Why is so much time taken to give relief in a matter of this kind?

Then, Sir, there are other reasons for this acute shortage. There is export,—export to China, to Tibet, to Burma, to Africa and to the Middle East. Exports are both legitimate and illegitimate. Smuggling has been going on for a long time. Government has not taken any proper measure to prevent smuggling into Tibet and smuggling into China. As regards what are called legitimate exports, I wonder why export should be at all allowed from Bengal where there is so much inadequacy of supplies. It is like the food question. The difficulty is aggravated by exports.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Where does this available cloth go? How do you explain the mysterious disappearance of cloth? The only explanation is that it goes from the open market to the black market, and that is not only due to dishonesty and greed of traders, which is so much emphasised, but it is also due to Government machinery of distribution which is not only inefficient but also corrupt. Why should not the Government be able to fight the black market? They can fight the terrorist movement, they can fight the Congress within a few hours—on the 8th of August they could hunt down the whole Congress within a few hours—but they cannot fight this black marketing.

Some suggestions have already been made. Another suggestion is that rationing should be introduced and the recommendation of the All-India Textile Panel should be carried out, namely, that mills should sell 10 per cent. of their output direct to consumers through their own retail shops.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Just one word more, Sir. What is the remedy? The remedy at the present moment is the production of *khadi*. Bengal Ministers are going out into the villages to preach *khadi*. I hope Members of the Central Government would follow suit. That is the only remedy for the solution of this problem, and I hope that the Government of India will carry out an honest and vigorous drive to preach *khadi*. Sir, with these few words I move this motion.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan (Central Provinces and Berar: Muhammadan): On behalf of the Muslim League Party I beg to support the cut motion moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta.

Sir, I believe the Honourable Members in this House remember that in the last Session I moved an adjournment motion to draw the attention of the Government of India to the pitiable and miserable condition of the handloom weavers of Nagpur, Jubbulpore, Kamptee, Burhanpur and other places in the Central Provinces and Berar which are inhabited by the weavers. Sir, this state of affairs does not affect any particular community, but it affects Hindus and Muslims alike who are in the profession. My Honourable friend Haji A. Sathar Essak Sait, the Honourable Mr. Husain Imam and myself went in a deputation to the Honourable the Commerce Member. He was very sympathetic and promised to write to the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, to give immediate relief to the sufferers. He also announced that in the near future

he was going to appoint an All-India Handloom Weavers Board to safeguard the interests of handloom weavers. But, Sir, the sufferings of these poor people are not over, because yarn famine still exists in many provinces in general and in my province in particular.

In the last month representatives of handloom weavers came to Delhi and several telegrams and representations were received by us. These people were given to understand that if they form co-operative societies their difficulties will be solved. Accordingly in Nagpur and Kamptee they formed co-operative societies. In Nagpur they formed the Ansar Co-operative Dyeing Society, Limited. The membership of this society is about 1,000 and the number of handlooms of these members is about 2,500. The society was so efficiently managed that on the recommendation of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Nagpur, it began to obtain yarn direct from the Textile Commissioner, Bombay. This continued for about two months but since December 1944 it was abruptly stopped without assigning any reason. This will be corroborated by a telegram which I received in the second week of February; it has been sent by Seth Abdul Raoof Sardar, an influential and revered Momin leader of my province. He says:

"Yarn famine in Nagpur. Weavers starving. Industry being ruined. Monthly quota Ansar co-operative dyeing society withheld by Director Industries Nagpur. No supply for last three months."

Very recently my Deputy Leader, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, also received a telegram from Burhanpur. It reads thus:

"Another deadstop in supply of yarn to weavers in Burhanpur since November last. Provincial Government totally indifferent. Maintaining mysterious silence. Situation once again causing anxiety. Earnestly appeal urgent Central Government direct Textile Commissioner Bombay release immediately sufficient quota of yarn monthly to Burhanpur weavers for hand and powerlooms."

Sir, it is evident from these telegrams that handloom weavers are starving and are put to a lot of trouble. I approached the Honourable Member again. His department, in reply to my letter, expressed its inability to interfere in the matter and advised me to take it up with the Central Provinces and Berar Government. I find from the letter that the Textile Commissioner, who is fortunately amongst us today, is responsible only for the allocation of yarn quotas to the different provinces. When you go to the province, the authorities say that the quota allotted is not enough to meet the present demands of the weavers. Fine yarn which is badly needed by the weavers is not available in the open market, but if you pay an exorbitant price, that is double the price of the control price, you can have it in the black market. These profiteers are making money while the poor weavers are starving. It has been said that the yarn distribution scheme is to be introduced. We are also told that the All-India Handloom Weavers Board will be formed shortly. God alone knows, Sir, when this heavy Government machinery will begin to move and when the sufferings of the poor weavers will be alleviated. Sir, let us hope that it may not be a case of:

"Ta Tiryag As Iraq Awuda Shawad Mar Guzida Murda Shawad."

When translated it means: By the time the antidote is brought from Mesopotamia the man who has been bitten by snake dies.

I have another complaint against the Commerce Member. The handloom and powerloom weavers are not adequately supplied with shuttles, dyes and chemicals. Sir, my province manufactures a large quantity of handloom cloth of different kinds and it used to be sent to Bombay, Ahmedabad, Sukkur and Shikarpur. But since the control order came into force the Textile Commissioner has prohibited the despatch of this handloom cloth by post to these markets and there is also the transport difficulty in the despatch of these goods. Thus the weavers have been deprived of earning their livelihood.

In the end I would suggest that the Honourable Member should (1) supply fine yarn and necessary things to the weavers and direct the Textile Commissioner to permit the Ansar Co-operative Dyeing Society Limited to obtain its

[Nawab Siddique Ali Khan.]—

yarn direct from Bombay until the new distribution scheme comes into force: (2) allow handloom cloth to be transported to established markets; (3) take drastic measures against the profiteers; and (4) form an All-India Handloom Weavers Board.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): The profiteers form the control board. How can they take action against them!

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: I do not know what the Honourable Member has to say in defence. That is his lookout. An All-India Handloom Weavers' Board should be formed immediately and it should consist of the real representatives of the handloom weavers.

Sir, I support the cut motion.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): There is no denying the fact that the position of cloth is as bad, if not worse than the position of food in this country. But at the same time I cannot withhold my tribute to the officers of the Textile Control Department for the very herculean attempts they are making in order to see that the black market is eliminated, that as much yarn as is necessary for handloom weavers is sent, that each province gets its quota of cloth and all that kind of thing. I am afraid, Sir, that in the early stages of the promulgation of this order the mills themselves were not quite prepared to co-operate with the department. They were long used before that to very high profits, both in yarn and cloth and they felt it was rather a raid on private rights that this Control Department should now come and exercise control over them. The matter of cloth and yarn being somewhat of a technical nature, the Department concerned had to face no doubt a number of difficulties before they were able to tackle these mills. No doubt, even now (though many mills are said to be co-operating with the Department) with very few exceptions, the mills are co-operating only half-heartedly with the Department.

If I may take some pride in my province, I must say that the Buckingham and Carnatic Company have set an example of how best they could co-operate with the Government in the matter of proper distribution of their cloth. I must say that the other mills have not up to this day gone to that length of co-operating with the Department in the matter of distribution. I know also, Sir, that if there is one section of the present multifarious departments of the Government about which I do not hear of corruption and inefficiency, I must admit that it is this Textile Control Department. But at the same time they are up against a number of factors over which they do not seem to have proper control. In the first place, I still doubt whether they have removed all the sons-in-law and brothers-in-law between the manufacturer of goods and the wholesale dealer and I feel these relations still remain on as *binami* persons.

Next, is the question of the wholesalers. In Madras in regard to B and C goods the wholesalers were given specific instructions how to distribute their cloth which they got from the mills. The wholesalers by themselves have no choice whatsoever to vary the proportion or the quantity of cloth to be given to the retailer. Each retailer has got his quota fixed by the mill, but the quantity passed through the wholesaler and the wholesaler got some sort of commission for distributing to the proper retailer, and sending back the money. That system is not followed in other provinces. What the wholesaler is now doing is that he sits tight upon the quantities that are delivered to him and will not part with them even to the regular authorised dealers unless there is some competition amongst the retail dealers in order to make higher offers of prices over which I am afraid the Department has not been able to exercise proper control.

Now, Sir, another factor which contributed to the cloth not reaching the proper consumer is the very confusing orders of the Department itself. Whether out of ignorance or out of want of information they issue fortnightly or weekly orders, which are very often directly contradictory to each other. I

know a few months ago, about November or December last, many Madras merchants were asked to buy their quota from wholesale dealers in Bombay. They bought, paid the money but no permit was issued for export or booking of the consignments to their respective stations. The result was that the Chief Controller or Provincial Controller went from one place to another, from Bombay to Madras and *vice versa*, to issue the orders for booking. I wonder why there should have been such a delay. This delay which was caused by the issue of contradictory orders resulted in a scare and in the wholesalers asking for better rates from the Madras dealers and it culminated in a modified form of black market. I understand the same position is prevalent in Delhi. I am told that the wholesalers in Delhi were asked to enter into transactions with up-country people, in Rajputana and some other States and in U.P., and yet they are not permitted to export those goods out of Delhi. I do not know whether it was by design or merely by accident the Provincial Officers seem to be enthused for not issuing permits for booking on the ground of safety of their areas regarding this commodity. This is what is happening every day so far as food is concerned and I think it is happening even in matters of piecegoods and yarn. The District Magistrate of a particular place thinks "I have got so much goods in this district. I do not want my people to starve. Therefore I won't issue permits whatever might be the orders I might have received for distribution of cloth to some other place. I won't permit its being exported to other places at the expense of my district". Then the Central authority is at its wits' end to find out whether their orders should supervene over the provincial order or *vice versa*. This arises on account of a good deal of confusion and I think much of the confusion is due because the Department though in the matter of textiles, they have got a sort of non-official co-operation, they have not listened to their advice as to what is it that they have got to do in respect of such confused situations.

The Railways act as a great impediment in the proper transportation of goods from one place to another. The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall is a very cheerful man. He appears to be quite unconcerned about this thing but much of the mischief either in regard to food, cloth or yarn is due to the lack of facilities for transport, perhaps just as much as the indifference of the manufacturers themselves. With regard to the distribution of yarn, even there the distributory system is not well conducted. No doubt you give yarn to some dealers to distribute it to handloom weavers but there is no guarantee that the handloom weaver who receives or is expected to receive the yarn from the distributor would turn that yarn into cloth and bring it to the market. Why is it that you have not stated that unless he turns the yarn into cloth and sells it to some dealer he would not get the yarn. Very likely many handloom weavers might make a profit of Rs. 2 or 3 per bundle without turning out cloth at all and this yarn might easily go into the black market. There is no check over the production of the handloom weavers nor did the Department make any serious attempt to organise these handloom weavers. In certain parts of the country, where handloom weavers are accustomed only to produce cloth out of fine yarn, Government have taken no great care to see that it is supplied with fine yarn, because the mills are consuming more of fine yarn and would not like to spare it for outside market. You cannot also deny, whatever you might say in public, that the demands of the War Department or the Defence Department continues to be quite as large, if not larger than what it was a few months back apart from exports which this department or some other department of the Government allows. Therefore it is that the mills are not able to give you all the cloth that is required for civilian consumption and even if it comes to civilian consumption, at any rate the mills have not used their agency system properly in order to see that the cloth does reach the consumer and the consumer only.

The Textile Department of the Government sometime ago made a show of helping the people by asking the mills to manufacture what is called Standard Cloth. The standard cloth scheme worked only in Madras Province and in no other. Why? Because your authority over those licensees and over those

[Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty.]

mills was so slender and the people also did not care to co-operate with you. It must be said to the credit of Madras that it did co-operate with you and sold their standard cloth but how did you treat the Madras licensees? I will give you an example. You allowed the mills to manufacture similar cloth and mark the price almost about the same as that of the standard cloth, if not a little less. The mill standard cloth and the authorised standard cloth were sold to the wholesalers along with fine materials, a portion of this at a slightly lower rate and the wholesaler got more commission than he would get under the standard cloth licensed by the Government. Thus to the licensees of the standard cloth you gave 3 per cent., whereas the wholesaler got from the mill for the same kind of standard cloth as much as 20 per cent. He reserved 10 per cent. for himself and passed on the other 10 per cent. to the retailer. That is the way you worked the standard cloth system.

I do not see why you should not organise hand-spinning and hand-weaving also. Now is the time when you want all sorts of cloth and if your neglect due at the expense of another you are bound to suffer.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: Sir, I am speaking on behalf of my Party and as such I am entitled to a little more time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not know whether any such arrangement has been definitely arrived at that anyone wishing to speak on behalf of his Party should have more than 15 minutes. I allowed that yesterday because I was not quite sure as to what the arrangement was that the Parties had arrived at on this point. The suggestion was made and I said that if any such arrangement was arrived at I should be informed beforehand. Is it the desire of the House that any Member speaking on behalf of his Party should have 20 minutes? If that is their desire I have no objection.

Some Honourable Members: We agree.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: So far as Bengal is concerned, I really want to know whether it is the want of money or the want of cloth that is the trouble. If it is want of money, certainly Government have no excuse whatever, whether it be the Central or the Provincial Government to keep the people starving for want of cloth. And if it is only a question of want of cloth, where has the cloth gone? And what was the control which was exercised by Government in order to see that the cloth was received by the consumer?

An Honourable Member: It has gone underground.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetty: If that be so, I know if Government decide to ferret it out, they can do it. There is no denying the fact that they have ample powers under the Indian Penal Code, and they have got more powers under the Defence of India Rules, and anything can be done. I am surprised that people should die because they cannot cover their nakedness, and Government sit quiet here. Sir, if we criticise today this Department so far as cloth and yarn are concerned, it is in order to tell them that they have not been able to understand the whole process of manufacture and distribution and make proper arrangements for distribution for civilian needs. I am not so pessimistic as to suppose that the quantity of cloth is not quite sufficient. At least for the period of the war rationing must be introduced, your standard cloth must be reintroduced with greater vigour, and the sale at a cheaper rate of unauthorised mill-made standard cloth should be stopped. You may raise the commission for the standard cloth that is sold by licensees. Another point which I want to mention is with regard to the delivery of the standard cloth. In a number of bales I have seen damaged goods which I suppose were included by the mills in order to discourage the manufacture of standard cloth. These damaged goods were returned to the respective Government Departments and money demanded, but although it is now nearly more than 18 months since the claim was made, payment has not yet been made. In any case it will

be most criminal on the part of Government if a single man should complain that he has not the cloth with which to cover his shame.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association, Indian Commerce): Sir, I am not standing here to defend my constituency or to show to the House the amount of co-operation we have given to the Textile Control Department. The Honourable the Commerce Member, if he is so inclined, will tell the House the amount of co-operation which we have given in the matter of introduction as well as of enforcement of the control order.

I shall speak first, Sir, about Bengal. I am not disputing the facts which have appeared from time to time in the press or which have been given to the House by the Honourable the Deputy President. Now the figures which I have with me were obtained by me in response to a request by my friend Mr. Neogy who had warned me that this motion was coming. These figures tally with the figures which appeared in a press article in Bombay some time ago. According to these figures the population of Bengal was entitled to receive for the 7 months ended January 1945, 1,20,050 bales. Actual shipments to Bengal were 1,79,034 bales. They were also allowed to keep their own manufactures which amounted to about 20,000 bales.

Now, there are various reasons why the cloth did not reach to the consumer. According to information we have, cloth is being increasingly smuggled to China where I understand one yard of cloth is being sold at the very attractive price of Rs. 10. Until recently I understand there was no ban on the export of cloth to Tibet, and large consignments, according to our information, have gone across the borders via Kalimpong.

In May 1944 a Committee was appointed to suggest ways and means as to how cloth could be made to reach the consumer. I was a member of that Committee, and the Textile Commissioner was also present at our meetings. There was a general measure of agreement between all my colleagues that unless provinces were brought under the control of the Textile Commissioner, it would be very difficult to enforce the control order. Our suggestion was, it has not been accepted by Government—that unless Provincial Controllers are brought under the supervisory control of and made subordinate to the Central Commissioner, as Income-tax Officers are under the control of the Central Board of Revenue, there will be chaos and no proper enforcement of the control orders. By a unanimous vote of the Control Board when we met two months ago we reiterated our view in a resolution which we have submitted for the consideration of the Central Government.

Yesterday the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies talked of constitutional difficulties. I ask, if constitutional difficulties in the matter of the introduction of the Estate Duty Bill can be removed, can they not be overcome in order to supply people with one of their essential requirements? Are Government going to sit in Delhi and say, 'We have got to respect provincial autonomy, we cannot interfere?' In a similar emergency even in regard to self-governing municipalities there is a provision. Bombay Municipality is one of the most independent and self-governing municipalities in the country, but if the Bombay Government find that there is danger to public health and life, and the Municipality is not carrying out its duties, they have the right to interfere and take such measures as are necessary and debit the cost to the municipality.

I submit the control of food was a failure at first because the Central Government was vacillating; cloth has also been a failure, because all the Provincial Controllers have not been placed under my friend the Textile Commissioner. I was present by the kind invitation of the Textiles Commissioner at a conference where all the Provincial Controllers were gathered. Then mentality seemed to me, why should I sacrifice my Province for the sake of other Provinces? So long as this mentality is there—my Province first and the devil for others—I am afraid that whatever measures you may pass or take, whatever co-operation you may get from the millowners or from the dealers, it will be difficult to bring the goods home to the consumer. The bottom man

[Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar.]

has got to be tackled, merely tackling the top man by, say, restricting sales of the mills, directing the mills to sell the goods to quota holders or freezing the goods in the hands of the mills will be of no avail. There are large stocks lying in Bombay as a result of the new distribution order, because it takes time to evolve measures for enforcing a new distribution scheme. There is a general impression that we dominate the Textile Control Board which is not correct as there are only three or four members who represent mill owners in the Distribution Committee of the Textile Control Board. The other members are representatives of distributors interests, consumers interests and provincial interests. I am not a member of the Distribution Committee. Various schemes have been brought forward and discussed informally between the Secretary to Government and ourselves, but when an agreement is arrived at and the scheme is passed by the Control Board it is said we are the makers of the scheme. Last time we insisted that the Government scheme for distribution should be submitted to us in writing, and that was done. Therefore the scheme of distribution which is now before the public is a scheme for which the Honourable the Commerce Member is responsible and not we nor anybody else. Now it is up to them to enforce that scheme. If statistics are to be believed, 4,800 million yards of cloth are available for civil consumption after providing for exports and for military requirements. This gives an all India average of 12 yards per head on 1941 census basis as against the pre-war figure of 16 yards per head. Now Bombay where the normal consumption was 25 yards per head before the war is getting 18 yards per head. The Punjab is getting 18 yards as against 22 yards. Bengal which was getting 12 yards per head before the war is allowed to buy 10 to 10½ yards per head.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): That is wrong.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: I am giving the figures which we have. The Honourable Member will correct if they are wrong. For all-India the average on 1941 census basis ought to be 12 yards per head. As the Honourable Member from Madras pointed out, there are bottlenecks everywhere: as a result of the freezing orders there are bottlenecks in manufacture, and we have the transport bottlenecks. A friend of mine who is manufacturing standard cloth on a large scale was complaining bitterly that more than 2,000 bales of standard cloth were lying in his godowns awaiting despatch. That is the position, and therefore before the House draws any adverse inference against us—I am not here to defend myself because I do not accuse myself—they should consider the facts. We are anxious that goods should reach the consumer.

On the export question—I am told that in my absence questions were put and our attitude has been misrepresented. Our attitude has been since the

1 P. M. —scarcity started that our first duty is to the native of the soil. Secondly, if Government for political reasons want to export, then the export should be allowed to countries from whom we get reciprocal advantages in the matter of food imports, etc. Thirdly, our contention is that if exports have to be made, then they should be made only to countries with whom we hope to continue these exports after the war is over. We do not want fair weather friends; we want to get friends who will be with us, whether in fair or foul weather. But what is the Government doing? For political reasons, at the request of H.M.G. they have been asking us to export goods to the middle east countries where there are no controls. I understand that one country in the middle east takes all the goods that are sent from India at controlled rates, and they have a state monopoly there and they sell it at 75 per cent. or 100 per cent. profit. Whatever the need might have been when the war was going against us to bribe these countries into neutrality, now that we have practically won the war there is no need to bribe these countries of the Middle East into neutrality. Government must see whether they should not say to them now—"We will not give you cloth, because you do not give

us anything back". That is our attitude; and I think Mr. Neogy is in a position to confirm that attitude, because it was enunciated by a colleague of mine at one of the earlier meetings of the Textile Control Board.

Before I sit down, I would like to urge upon the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies this fact: I tell him he may go on passing orders, he may go on promulgating Defence of India orders; but until the whole country is treated as one in the matter of distribution, until all the provincial controllers are placed under the control of the Textile Commissioner—the Provincial Governments should be asked to help, but the general policy should be that once the order is issued, the Provincial Controllers should be made accountable to him and nobody else; in any question of conflict between the Provincial Government or the Textile Controller, the Textile Controller must prevail; and unless that is done and unless questions are tackled in this way, I am afraid all these present anomalies will continue.

As far as yarn is concerned, I will state the position. The textile directorate placed before us figures based on the average of September 1944, and they showed there was a great shortage of yarn. We produced certain figures and they have not been challenged. There is according to some of us no physical shortage of cloth or yarn. What is happening, as my friend, Mr. Chetty, indirectly hit the nail on the head, is this: handloom cloth is not controlled or tex-marked, and it is profitable to make handloom cloth today and I do not grudge that profit to them. A lot of yarn is going there and people are hoarding that yarn, because yarn does not deteriorate by being kept for some time. Yarn is hoarded by these small power loom and small handloom owners.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Not handloom weavers.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: They are not peasant weavers but they are master weavers who are doing this thing: they have the capacity to buy yarn, and if Government were to carry out a proper investigation and employed trained statistician, instead of asking some person who may be an expert in selling machinery but who is not an expert in preparing correct statistics as regards cloth and yarn, I am sure they will find that as far as yarn is concerned, there should be no physical shortage. Why do we not increase production? I tell you the reasons as regards dhotis and sarees . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Production has gone down; a large number of looms which were manufacturing dhotis and sarees have been working for Government orders; there is also a shortage of colours for borders; there is a shortage of double yarn for borders: we cannot import doubling and winding machines. These disabilities are there and we have been pressing on the Textile Control Board to allow us to import a larger number of doubling and winding machines for these purposes. If the Supply Department were to release a certain number of looms for these lines, we can go on to the manufacture of dhotis and sarees and thus relieve the shortage in them.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, at the very outset I must acknowledge the help and co-operation that we have received from the textile industries; and yet with all that I have my fundamental difference of opinion with Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, I have not so far agreed that the handloom products should be tex-marked. For decades past the handloom weavers of this country have had to live under miserable conditions. I took the fullest responsibility on me when I decided, in spite of many efforts made, that if the handloom products are able to rehabilitate themselves in the midst of the war, it will be a gain to the country at large; and therefore I took the responsibility of settling that handloom products should not be tex-marked in any way.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Continue the good work.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am quite aware of the present distressing position. My friend asked me, why there should be shortage in Bengal. It is better that he may not ask me that question. (*An Honourable Member:* "Why"?). If I were to give the reason I would have to go back to the economic and political history of Bengal for the last thirty years: ever since I was a little child I have seen in my province more of politics than of economics; and even now I am not certain if life in the province is not dominated more by political than by economic considerations. I remember a day when the whole of Bengal boycotted foreign cigarettes: I know at least two districts of the province which grow a large amount of tobacco and I ask my friend Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, who comes from the same province as mine as to why it is that not even a single factory was started to utilise the raw tobacco leaves for the purpose of manufacturing cigars and cigarettes. My friends can read the history of the development of the sugar industry in Bengal and find out why it is not in the hands of Bengalis. It is no use asking me the why and wherefore—I am dealing for the time being with established facts; I admit the difficulties of the present situation.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: It is not a recent event?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The recent events are due to the unhappy and unbalanced life that we led in the past. We thought that life was going to be as easy and as picturesque as we had in the past. But things have changed. One of the difficulties of the present Bengal position is that Bengal is the largest consuming centre in India but it is the least productive centre so far as yarn and textiles are concerned. My sympathies, as they must be not only as one who comes from that province but as it should be for every one else, must go to that unfortunate province in the present situation. Following the most distressing and tragic situation in that province, I realise that there have been immense difficulties in the matter of supply of cloth and yarn to that province. I myself come from a town which for centuries past has been reputed to produce the finest products of textiles almost with an international reputation; but when I go to my home town I find that there is difficulty of fine yarn. We were happy in the past because we imported fine yarns from other countries; and the penalty has to be paid some day for our own acts. It was because we did not visualise the future that we are now in this difficulty. Depended more on others, we cannot find out how to live today . . .

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: It is only sympathy that goes there, not cloth, is it?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I may say that if I was a practising lawyer I would have argued that. (*An Honourable Member:* "You are".) But I have left the profession some time back and therefore I will deal with facts rather than with arguments of that nature. So far as Bengal position is concerned, before I deal with it, I would like to deal with the all India cloth and yarn position. I have been criticised more on the ground that I have not been able to take charge of the provincial distribution, not on the ground as to what we have done so far. The present system is this. We find out the total quantity of available cloth and yarn and try to distribute it on an equitable basis. Here again, unfortunately, reliable statistics as to the quantity of yarn and cloth needed and produced are not available, specially with reference to the handlooms. The only report which we have had is the report of the Fact Finding Committee and it is on the basis of the report of the Fact Finding Committee as also with such materials as are available in some of the economic reports that the question of allocation was decided upon and this allocation was based on the fact that we went by the number of looms that are existing at the present moment.

Let me speak first about the yarn. Compared with 1935-36 which I have taken to be normal years, the production in 1943-44 and in subsequent years has increased by at least 60 per cent. The total quantity of yarn available in 1935-36 was roughly about 1087 million yards. As against that, India in 1935-36 was roughly about 1,087 million yards. As against that, India is

producing today roughly about 1,500 to 1,600 million. We are not in a static condition of life. We are in a country where standards of living are gradually rising up and therefore in spite of 60 per cent. increase in production, we are not able to meet the demands of the country. (*An Honourable Member:* "Export?") No. I hope my friend will kindly wait for the facts. So far as fine yarn is concerned, there has been practically no exports from this country. As against about 86 millions, only 2 thousand yards were exported in 1943-44. If my friend says that 2,000 yards out of 85 million will affect the situation, my friend can interrogate till doomsday. It is not a fact. Then again so far as the total export is concerned, the coarser yarns have been exported to the extent of only 15 million out of a production of 1,616 million. The export there also has been infinitesimally small. A large quantity of yarn is consumed by mills themselves for their own purposes, particularly the finer yarns. Naturally, only what is left over can be available for the purpose of distribution among the handlooms in this country. Here I have my fullest sympathy with Prof. Ranga but I am on the horns of a dilemma. I have got the total quantity fixed. Either the mills will consume it or the handlooms. If it is not consumed by the mills, then the production of the total quantity of textiles will be reduced.

Mr. President (*The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim:* The Honourable Member can continue his speech after Lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, as I was explaining that as a result of constant pressure and efforts on the part of the Department, we have been able to get more production of yarn in the country both fine and coarse yarn, and also textile in general. But unfortunately, that is not enough for the existing needs of the country. As I have said the pre-war consumption of textile was roughly between 10 to 12 yards per head. The total amount which is now available for distribution to the whole of India is also approximately about 12 yards per head. Therefore, we have been able, in spite of defence needs, and a small quantity for export, by increased production to get 12 yards per head for the whole of India. But as I said before, there is a rise of a consuming class, in their purchasing powers. That is the difficulty. I should only say one word more about Bengal position so far as yarn and cloth are concerned. I think the controversy about yardage should not be there. In spite of the fact that a quota was fixed at ten yards, as I had explained, in actual fact we have tried to supply to the Province more than that quantity. In Bengal as against ten yards per annum for the last seven months we have at least given at the rate of 13.9 yards per annum. Therefore we have not really stuck to ten yards and hence to criticise us on the ground that we are supplying only ten yards is not entirely correct. Again, I can assure the House that we will try to keep up, as much as we can, over and above the ten yards quota for the special needs of Bengal or for any deficit area which is in the country.

As regards yarn, the total available number of bales is roughly about 68,000 bales for the whole of India after consumption by the mills. My friend says why don't you take more from the mills. That is a very good suggestion. You have two cows, take away the cows and give the milk to others. That is a very nice proposition. You do not want to leave anything for the mills. These mills started their looms for their own consumption; over and above that they are producing and that quantity is available. You ask me to take more from them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: They are consuming much more than before.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If they are consuming more, they are also producing more. They do not eat yarn. They do not make yarn sometimes as we make it in politics.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Let the handloom weavers use them.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: They are utilising yarn for the production of textiles. Out of these 65,000 to 68,000 bales, we have distributed *pro rata* on the basis of facts available to us. Let me here say that after doing that, we knew there might be difficulties here and there. We have written to the different Provinces so that they might give us actual facts on the basis of which we can allocate. Two months before we wrote to the Provinces. As far as my impression goes, excepting from one Province, no reply has come from others. Whatever that may be, for the time being we have allotted as quota for Bengal roughly about 6,143 bales out of 68,000 bales, that is roughly about one-eleventh and we will try, because we have got a little surplus at our hands, it may be possible we will get a little more, we will try to supply specially to Bengal, C.P. and other places more.

I will just now try to recapitulate what happened. It was towards the end of May 1943 that the first Conference of Provinces and States was convened to discuss the entire cloth situation. At that time, we had to face two problems, one the cloth famine, but with enough cloth in the country, and secondly, high prices. Sir, we simultaneously took two measures, the first measure was to put all the hoarded stock into the market. We declared a date within which all the clothes were to be sold but at that time we had practically no data. We made an approximate estimate of stocks, a guess and an estimate and we gave roughly about four months times for their sale. As soon as we did that, then within the course of a month or two those who pleaded that there was no stock available in the country said that there was so much stock that they would not be able to sell them in four months. We took figures for stock of the entire quantity available in the country. At the end of July, we found that there was lying with the dealers, quite apart from the continuous mill production, a quantity of cloth equal to 2,700 million yards. It would have been a mistake on our part if we had forced the sale of that huge quantity in four months. Therefore, we decided that the quantity in view of the special conditions and the conditions before that, ought to be consumed within the following six months and we fixed 31st December as the last date of sale, and we stuck to the date. We ordered that quantity to be sold, and if it was not sold, then it was frozen or distributed in such a way as the Textile Commissioner decided. Along with that, we also introduced the scheme of standard cloth. The standard cloth production required fixation of price, its production, then distribution and to a certain extent reduction of categories. For a time it went off well, but then came inevitable difficulties in distribution in some areas. May I here state that we did not despatch cloth of any kind except on indents and indents from the different local areas failed to equate to their needs. Supposing a man wanted five or six yards sized cloth, he did not really indent as much as he needed. There were difficulties and they were rectified. Then came a certain falling off in the demand for standard cloth. I know there were some Provinces who asked us not to send any more standard cloth.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Because of its bad quality, was it not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, that is the danger of stating a fact without knowing.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Let us know the true facts.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not a fact. The standard cloth was not the entire production of the country. There are other varieties and this was left to trade adjustment with over-all profit margin fixed.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadian Rural): The Honourable Member has not given the reason why certain Governments refused to take standard cloth.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Because as I said there was a new consuming class in the country who having enough purchasing power in their

hands were not prepared to use the coarser variety but were anxious for the finer variety. I am quite prepared to state these facts because that was the reply given to us. On the other hand, I have seen with my own eyes in some Provinces, particularly in Bihar, in rural areas, there was a very wide demand for standard cloth and I have seen how standard cloth did sell. Well, Sir, the circumstances under which one Province did not want standard cloth and another Province wanted such standard cloth as we could supply were all due to local conditions. In any case, so far as the rest of the cloth is concerned, it was left to trade. As my Honourable friend Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty said there came a new body of wholesalers who took away the entire margin of profit, 20 per cent. intended for the entire chain of distributors. We left the margin of 20 per cent. between the mill and the consumer and we thought that the trade will play the game and that the 20 per cent. would be equitably distributed. Last year, when I went on tour, I found that some of these wholesale dealers in some areas played havoc with the system. They took away the entire 20 per cent. and with this 20 per cent. profit in view, though I do not know personally, sons-in-law and relatives and others crept in. As I said, I have heard about it from different areas. In any case, the fact remains that a section of these wholesale dealers played havoc with distribution system almost in every part of India. Naturally the licensing system had to be introduced in some of the provinces. Licenses were cancelled in cases of malpractice. Then we thought that the state of affairs in which the retail trader and the consumer are at the entire mercy of the wholesale dealer is not a satisfactory system. I saw with my own eyes that a man in Calcutta who is a wholesale dealer was not prepared to sell it to a retail dealer in the mofussil without taking less profit than 20 per cent. Naturally what could the poor man do? If he has to keep to the letter of the law he must pay the transport charges, he must pay from his own pocket the godown charges, the railway freights and then sell with no profit. That state of affairs could not continue, and we thought that a new distributive system should be devised. We discussed this with all Provinces and States and we are just about to introduce a new system throughout India with the unanimous agreement of all the distributing agents, part of which has been introduced in Bombay, Ahmedabad and the rest of the part, I expect, to be introduced throughout India in the course of the next few weeks. Under this system all wholesale purchasers from mills, that is to say, those persons who actually take delivery of goods from mills, will constitute into a number of groups according to the area; that is, the Ahmedabad group or the Bombay group or the Calcutta group, etc. And they are not to sell cloth to anybody except under the authority of the Textile Commissioner of the Central Government. In other words, any sale by any of these wholesale direct dealers will be under the authority of the Textile Commissioner. After that the Textile Commissioner will allot the total quantity available to the provinces and States; and then come the provinces and States. The provincial authorities will select and give licences to their own distributing dealers and allocate the quantity which has been allotted by the Textile Commissioner among the distributing dealers in different parts of the province. The result will be that only those licensed dealers who have been licensed by the Provincial Government.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi (Dacca *Cum* Mymensingh: Muhammadan Rural): Is it subject to your approval?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as the provinces are concerned, we will certainly keep a watch over it, but the licenses are to be granted by the provinces; because, in the first place, neither I nor the Textile Commissioner can possibly know, in 450 or 480 districts of India, who the actual dealers are. But the Provincial Government will distribute among its own dealers, and none except one, who is licensed by the Provincial Government will be able to purchase any cloth from these wholesale units.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Will the Central Government issue any instructions to the Provincial Government to whom to give licenses, or will previous trade interests be taken into consideration?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I consider myself that the Provincial Government and their authorities are as much responsible and as anxious to do the best to their own people as I am, and I do not, except when there is gross abuse of power, wish to butt in upon any matter which lies entirely with them. Sir, I know there are troubles; I know there is likely to be abuses. But can you devise any human system (except God himself) which can take all the power in one's own hands and consider that every one else must necessarily make abuses? For a country like India you cannot. You have to think out of more devolution, more distribution, more responsibility; and I consider that my Honourable friend Sardar Sant Singh is as much competent and responsible as I myself in a matter of this character. The position today is this that the Provincial Government is responsible for distribution, but I must frankly admit that they have not much control over the dealers.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): They have no experience; why don't you take control?

An Honourable Member: And there is a lot of corruption too.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: Why should the Provincial Controllers come into this scene if the wholesaler of that province who takes delivery of goods from the mills is made responsible for the distribution over retail dealers? Why should these men come in?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is a system which we have tried to our dismal cost. We thought that the wholesale dealers will take delivery and equitably distribute it. They did not do it and that is why we have to change the system.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: Are you aware that the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills are following that system?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: They may do it, but I cannot say the same thing of other areas.

Now, therefore, the system will be that the Provincial Governments and States will not only be responsible for the distribution of cloth but will actually control the people who will distribute the cloth, and therefore they will be able to keep a firm hand over the whole situation. And, as I say, the Provincial Governments and States will make their own distributive arrangements. Here I might say that the margin of profit has now been allocated. Those who take directly from the mills will be allowed only 3 per cent. out of the 20 per cent. margin, and out of 17 per cent. our general direction is that the actual retailer in the village or in an outlying town must have at least 8½ to 10 per cent. of the profit in order that it may be worth while for him to take this cloth to the villages. In other words, we have not left it as before to the discretion of any section of the trade, but we have allocated the share of the man who takes from the mill to 3 per cent., the man who is the wholesaler in the metropolitan towns to about 8½ per cent. and the man in the village to 8½ to 10 per cent. according to circumstances.

This is the position which we have come to so far. I know that no human system can be perfect. I know that whether it is administration by the Central or by the Provincial Government, there can be abuse; and I myself do not claim any virtue, specially because I am a part of the Central Government, which cannot be equally claimed by those who are responsible in the Provinces.

Sir, we have done so far that there is today not a single piece of cloth coming out of a mill anywhere in India which has not the stamp of the month of production, a stamp of the wholesale price, a stamp of the consumer's price, and in addition a legal liability that every one of these cloths must be sold out within a date, which is six months in so far as the wholesaler is concerned and 12 months so far as the retailer is concerned. I know there have been quite a number of cases in which cloth has been hoarded and the men have been prosecuted because cloth which was to be sold out in six or twelve months has not been sold. At the same time the system is not too rigid. If there is a bona fide case where the cloth could not be sold for good reasons, we have

ourselves given permission to have it sold out in later months and we have given special permits. This stamp of the date of production and of the price are given by mills and not the Textile Commissioner's office. But it is in accordance with a schedule—a schedule of over 30,000 items and in every case we had to assess the price on consideration of varying component factors coming into the question of production. There have been cases of malpractices found, and in any case where there has been a malpractice we have immediately arranged that there should be no more direct stamping by these mills except under our pre-inspection. We have put our inspectorate and supervisory staff there, and as soon as a malpractice has been brought to our notice we have placed our men there. Sir, in addition to that owing to various malpractices we have taken charge of the entire distribution of cloth of twelve mills in Bombay, Ahmedabad and other places. Some of them are very big ones but we have not hesitated to take immediate action in taking charge of the entire control of distribution of these mills. But surely my Honourable friends would not ask me that simply because one holds a certain particular doctrine he must take command of all the mills in India, even though they are not guilty of malpractices. Again we have not only taken charge of distribution, but we have taken charge of the entire production and distribution of two big mills. We have started prosecution against three other mills for malpractices, and whenever any case is brought to our notice, I can assure the House, that we take immediate steps to find out, and if necessary, have followed it up by the necessary steps in the matter.

The price today, as I said yesterday, is just half of what it was in June, 1943. And here when the discussion turns round the question of 10 yards and 12 yards per population, I will only say that I hope it will be realised that when the total distribution is on the basis of 10 or 12 yards it does not necessarily mean that every purchaser should have that quantity. It is well known that if there is a population in a town of, say, 10 thousand—everybody does not go to purchase cloth: quite a lot of women do not go, quite a lot of children do not go, men who are not in good means do not go to purchase—and if one out of three on the average goes to make purchases and when there is ten yards of cloth per head for distribution, every purchaser should have a quota of about 30 to 40 yards.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan Rural): But not more than 10 yards is sold to one individual.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I have said, if the new system is introduced, that question will be looked into.

Then, Sir, we have suffered to a certain extent owing to difficulties of quick transport and also because our finer quantities are not available to the fullest extent. Sir, war means sacrifice, and if the only sacrifice we have to do is to forego the use of fine cloth. I believe we have got over very cheap. I personally do not think that the absence of fine cloth as we need is such a penalty which we should not be prepared to pay in the midst of difficult conditions all round.

Sir, my Honourable friend yesterday demonstrated a piece of cloth. I am required to have in my command the production of every mill in India and I have to take command of the most efficient mills as also of the most inefficient mills. Sir, supposing I fix the price on a general level, then it may be that the man in the margin is not getting enough or that the man at the top is getting more than he should, and that being so we have tried to assess the value of cloth in accordance with the actual cost of production plus such margin as we have uniformly allowed to all mills. If my friend's mill produced the finest cloth at a certain rate and I produce the coarsest cloth at the same rate, what would my Honourable friend ask me to do in the general interest of the country?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I appreciate the explanation given by the Honourable Member. My only point was that the department should also see which mills are prepared to do at cheaper rates. In October a certain class of

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman.]

muslin which was far better in quality was produced at a price of annas eight per yard, whereas a coarser muslin is selling at eleven annas a yard in January 1945. So I said, was the trend going up?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I can quite appreciate that point, but I was trying to explain that it is just possible that whereas the fine cloth of one mill is fixed at eight annas, the coarse cloth of another mill is also approximately of the same price, and if I am to control all the mills I must allow a margin for cost of production and profit. Sir, at the same time if I am to be told that Indian or any society has come to such a position that we have got the millennium, we have got heaven in earth, that five-thousand-million yards of cloth distributed in thousands of people is being sold without some loophole somewhere, I, for one, cannot believe it. At the same time, if my Honourable friend would again turn over his old pages of inductive logic, he will find that it is a most dangerous thing to come to a conclusion on one isolated fact. That isolated fact may be an exception, may be an abuse of authority, and I would be very glad, as I have said before, if such matters are brought to my notice. Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal from Bhagalpur drew my attention to one such case six months ago and I took immediate action, and I do appeal once again to Members that if I can get that co-operation from every section of the House, and if Members would write to us of cases where there is a likelihood or suspicion of abuse, I can assure you that we will take prompt steps in the matter.

As regards dyers and printers of my Honourable friend, Mr. Yusuf Abdulla Haroon, I think he knows where the fault lies and I know where the fault lies.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: So it is mutual understanding!

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Mystery!

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I have said before, I am aware of the difficulties of the present situation. We are trying our level best to overcome those difficulties, we are trying to struggle with the situation, and as I have said if a man can get two morsels more and it is within my power to give, I will certainly do it. But, Sir, unfortunately, I have not got it.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have now spoken for about 36 minutes.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I will finish in two minutes, Sir.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan-Rural): No supply of minutes!

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): But he is spinning a yarn!

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: There are two points more. A suggestion has been made about rationing. Sir, with too many sartorial habits and designs as is sometimes reflected in our own surroundings, it is extraordinarily difficult to come to a conclusion on a general formula as to what should be the sartorial rationing. But all I can say is that I am looking into this matter and I can assure you, Sir, that if something is possible I will try to do it.

So far as punishment is concerned, I entirely agree. We will very soon have the need of strengthening the hands of law in certain areas in order to weed out the hoarders and black-marketeers of cloth. I can assure you that we will very soon be looking into the question of what we can do in this matter.

There is one point more. I hope you also realize that we have been trying to get as much import of fine yarn as possible and we are trying to encourage the production of cottage industries in handlooms. As soon as the Handloom Board is constituted—a letter has gone to the Provinces for the names of representatives—we will do our best in the matter.

I am sorry I had to condense all the points but if my Honourable friends want to know our point of view on a very vast question like this, I have to

beg your indulgence that I have to be so inordinately long. I have to deal with a few more points which I hope to do when I next get a chance to speak on this subject.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): My Honourable friend in his usual eloquence referred to the political and economic history of the past half a century which has got to explain the peculiar situation that at the present moment obtains in Bengal. In the course of his speech, the Honourable Member instanced the case of his own native town which was deservedly famous for its handloom products and which, unfortunately, has dwindled for want of adequate support. Sir, if I were to refer to one kind of textile article which made my native place famous, I would have to go back to the economic and political history of a few centuries. But Sir, there is no time for that, nor, as far as I can see, the past history, either of the economics or politics of this country, is at all relevant to the consideration of this question. We are concerned with the circumstances that have led to this unfortunate position.

Sir, my Honourable friend did not, unfortunately, refer to some of the general points which I take it would be welcome to the House for the purpose of understanding the situation.

The present production in the country if every yard of it were available for consumption within the country by the civilian population, would not be adequate. That is an admission which I think was made by the Honourable Member in reply to a question some time ago in this House.

The next fact that is important to remember is that in spite of this position, we have to find 900 million yards for Defence Services even during this year, and 600 million yards for export abroad. Now my Honourable friend omitted to mention the nature of our obligation in regard to the export market, but before I come to that I would like to say a word with regard to the Defence Services requirements. When I talk about the requirements of the Defence Services it must be made clear to the House that the requirements of certain semi-military organisations, or organisations that owe their origin to the war in very many ways are cutting into the civilian quota. Their demands and needs are not being met at the present moment from the Defence Services allocation. Take the case of the Red Cross, the hospitals, then the A.R.P. organizations and things of that character. All of them take their quota from the civilian allotment.

Then, Sir, coming to the export market. On previous occasions erroneous impressions were sought to be created in the House as regards the nature and extent of our commitments in this regard. We were told at one time that the industry wants the export market to be maintained for their benefit. Later we were told that it is not so much in the interest of the industry as that of the export traders in seeing the export market maintained. Thereafter we had a statement, which is rather illuminating, from the Honourable Member to the following effect:

"All foreign countries do not state their requirements to the Government of India as regards their quota. But quotas are determined in accordance with global planning scheme which is discussed with His Majesty's Government and subsequently considered by the Combined Production and Resources Board at Washington. The types of goods licensed for export against quota are controlled by the Government of India in the light of supply position in the country."

So that what this country is to have for the purpose of meeting the internal requirements is ultimately determined at Washington. And what is it that the Government of India does in this matter? "The types of goods licensed for export are controlled by the Government of India" after the quotas are fixed at Washington. This at least shows that the political and economic history of this country at the present moment is very relevant to the consideration of this issue.

Another factor bearing on that point is the preference given for instance to the jute mill industry in the matter of coal supplies. It is a fact that the cotton mills had to go idle to a certain extent in Bengal, and to a larger extent

[Mr. K. C. Neogy.]

perhaps in some other parts of the country, for want of adequate supplies of coal, and it has been admitted authoritatively that during December the country has lost 25 million yards of textile production for this reason alone, and in January, 23 and odd million yards, in all over 48 million yards have been lost to the country in two months because of coal shortage: and all the while coal which was not originally intended for the jute mill industry was being diverted by the help of Defence of India Rules and Orders for the benefit of the jute industry. That also is an admitted fact, admitted on the floor of this House by the Honourable the Supply Member a few days ago. That also is a point bearing on the present-day political and economic history of this country.

In a reply which my Honourable friend gave to my question the other day, he said all this shortage of production has to be borne by the civilian consumer in India and that the present quotas for export are not going to be affected by this shortage. Of course he said that the matter would be taken up for consideration in the future for seeing as to whether the future quotas for export could be reduced.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: On a point of explanation. I hope my friend would understand what I stated that in fixing the next export quota this would be considered. With regard to the future.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Yes; I know, so far as our present troubles are concerned, they would have to be borne with fortitude, and we will have to live in the hope that those who determine our destinies in Washington will have the good sense to allow a reduction being made in the export quotas in the next allotment. That is all that my Honourable friend's interruption amounts to.

Then I come to a few small points which my Honourable friend made and in regard to which he is not wholly accurate. My Honourable friend made the point that not much of fine yarn is being exported. Now, Sir, whether it is fine yarn or cloth made out of fine yarn that is exported, does not make much difference.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No!

Mr. K. C. Neogy: My friend had better wait till I give him the fact I have in mind. This is what I find in the *Indian Textile Journal* for January 1945 on page 262. This is a speech made by Mr. Thackersey, Chairman of the Textile Control Board in Bombay, at a meeting of that Board on Thursday, 25th January. He says:

"The Export Committee have further recommended that the quota of fine cloth of 48s warp and over at present exported out of India, should be substantially reduced."

My Honourable friend tried to make out there is no considerable export of fine yarn and by his recent interruption tried to make out that much of fine cloth also was not being exported. I will leave my Honourable friend to read that particular extract which I have placed before the House and tell us as to whether he is correct in his assumption.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, I am correct.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Now, Sir, another serious inaccuracy into which the Honourable Member had fallen was in regard to the pre-war *per capita* consumption of cotton textiles. This is a very important point, because all his theories, all his calculations are based upon the pre-war *per capita* consumption. Now, Sir, I have in my hand the report of the Fact Finding Committee dated February 1942. It is Dr. Thomas's report. If my Honourable friend were to refer to page 291 of this report, Appendix XXI, he will find that in the year 1938-39 the *per capita* consumption was 15.4 yards; and it was not a singular thing. If my Honourable friend were to go into the figures for several other previous years, he would find that 15 was reached or

exceeded in several years. That much for my Honourable friend's calculations of the pre-war consumption rate per head.

I do not want to take up more time of the House, because the time allotted to this Party is getting very short. I want to know from my Honourable friend whether, apart from devising a new scheme and leaving it to be administered by the Provinces, the Textile Commissioner, Mr. Vellodi, in whom, I believe, there is general confidence in the country, will have any actual supervisory authority over provincial distribution agencies. That is a point which was raised by my Honourable friend Sir V. Chandavarkar, and that is a very important point. I should like to say this on behalf of this side of the House that whatever scheme Government may adopt, the Central control over it should be real and not illusory. I do not want to say anything hard about our Provincial Ministers, but the general impression is that if you were to leave things entirely to them, having regard to our past experience, the situation may be very seriously mismanaged. That much I am bound to say. Beyond that I am not prepared to go.

My Honourable friend said that war means sacrifice, and in this instance the sacrifice that was wanted of the people was that instead of having fine cloth they should be satisfied with coarse cloth. There could be no greater travesty of the present situation, when, as reported in the papers, women folk have committed suicide for their inability to clothe themselves. My Honourable friend certainly does not intend to say that it is because of the fastidiousness of the people that they have to come to this pass.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I was not saying that at all. I made it quite clear that I was aware of the shortage position in regard to coarser yarns but I was merely arguing about the shortage of fine cloth.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: As to what my Honourable friend is going to do about increasing the supplies, I am not going to repeat what my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar has said on this point. I have here in my hand a letter, which was not intended to be used in this House in connection with this debate, written by a very well known mill-owner. This is what he says:

"This serious situation is the direct result of a considerable number of spindles being diverted to Government orders and Defence requirements in addition to the stoppage caused to a number of mills through shortage of coal and fuel supplies."

This mill produced very large quantities of yarn. So far as these Coimbatore mills are concerned, they are happy in this that they do not have to depend on coal supplies as they have hydro-electric power made available to them from Pykhara.

Now look at the difficulties which these people have to encounter. The writer says that "it is possible to work the factories for longer hours and thus increase production and make a reasonable quantity of yarn available for handloom consumption. But there seems to be no encouragement"—I address these remarks to the Honourable the Finance Member, who luckily for us is present just now—"to work longer hours, because the Income-tax Department allows a statutory depreciation of 10 per cent. for single shift and only 15 per cent. for double shift on machinery irrespective of the number of hours worked and that too on the basis of the original cost, which has no relation to the replacement cost". The House will thus realise that we have more than one Department of the Government to be held responsible for the *impasse* in which we find ourselves.

Some Honourable Members: The question be now put.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the question be now put".

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—58

Abdul Basith Choudhury, Dewan.
Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Absan, Mr. Muhammad.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachalam.
Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.
Das, Mr. B.
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.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Habibar Rahman, Dr.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
Lahiri Chandhury, Mr. D. K.

Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Manu Subedar, Mr.
Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad Muhammad.
Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
Naidu, Mr. G. Rangiah.
Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Pandey, Mr. Badri Dutt.
Raghubir Narain Singh, Choudhri.
Ram Narayan Singh, Mr.
Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Ray, Mrs. Renuka.
Raza Ali, Sir Syed.
Reddiar, Mr. K. Sitarama.
Satyanarayana Moorthy, Mr. A.
Sham Lal, Lala.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Srivastava, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad.
Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

NOES—45

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.
Caroe, Sir Olaf.
Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Daga, Seth Sunder Lal.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardeshir.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
Ghuznavi, Sir Abdul Halim.
Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.
Haider, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haider.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.
Ismail Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shajns-ul-Ulema.

Khare, The Honourable Dr. N. B.
Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.
Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
Piare Lal Kureel, Mr.
Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
Richardson, Sir Henry.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Shakiban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad.
Sheehy, Sir John.
Spence, Sir George.
Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
Sundaresan, Mr. N.
Thakur Singh, Capt.
Trivedi, Mr. G. M.
Tyson, Mr. G. W.
Tyson, Mr. J. D.
Vellodi, Mr. M. K.

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 39.—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Mr. Deputy-President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The next Demand is

39.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,62,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Geological Survey'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,62,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of Geological Survey."

Government Policy re Mineral Resources of India

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Geological Survey' be reduced by Rs. 100."

As indicated in the notice, my desire is to discuss Government's policy with regard to the mineral resources of India. But, having regard to the hour: I should like my Honourable friend to have as much time as possible for making a statement, which we all desire. I have already indicated to him the various points which I would have liked to deal with had I the time to make a speech on this occasion. As it is more important that we should have a statement from him than that I should make a speech, I should very much appreciate it if my Honourable friend could make an informative statement.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Geological Survey' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Mr. Deputy President, I am indeed very glad that Mr. Neogy should have thought of such a cut motion as the one he has moved, because the cut motion gives Government the opportunity to explain its mineral policy which it had not got so far. There is so much ignorance and so much misunderstanding about the matter that I think it is in the interest of everybody that so important a matter as the mineral policy of the Government of India should be explained fully to the House. Sir, I regret, and I have no doubt that there are other Members of the House who will share that feeling that owing to the exigencies of the time-table, Mr. Neogy did not have the opportunity of making a verbal statement explaining the points he wanted to make. I quite appreciate, and indeed I am very grateful to him for having cut short his speech and gave his time to enable me to make a statement.

Sir, this is a matter in which I think it is better to be very candid and say that the Government of India so far had really no mineral policy. It may be a ground for complaint. But it need not be a ground for surprise. The responsibility for the absence of a mineral policy has been sought to be placed in certain quarters at the door of the Geological Survey of India. I am sure that that is a wrong charge; and I propose to devote the first few minutes that I have in order to dispel such an impression.

I think it will be admitted that the mineral policy of any government is necessarily dependent upon the industrial policy of that government. Minerals necessarily play a great part in the industrial development of the country and if the country has no industrial policy, obviously there cannot be a mineral policy at all. This House is aware that until the Government of India decided to have as its aim and object the reconstruction of the economic and industrial life of this country in the post-war period Government in this country played very small part in the industrialisation of the country.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: What a pity!

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Whether it is a matter for pity or whether it is a matter of anger is not for the moment my concern. All that I am trying to show is that if there has been no mineral policy, the fault is not of the Geological Survey of India. The fault lay with the Government of the day; the fault perhaps lay with the Legislature and, it may be, with other organisations which were interested in the economic and industrial life of the country.

The second reason why the Geological Survey did not play the part that geological surveys in other parts of the world do play is largely due to the fact that this is one of the departments which has always been under-staffed. I would like to tell the House a little history with regard to the staffing and the provision of the technical personnel of the Geological Survey of India. In 1920 sanction was obtained for an increase in the superior gazetted staff of the Geological Survey. Unfortunately there was much difficulty in getting a trained personnel that it took practically nine years to fill the required number. The pity of the matter was that as soon as this number was filled, the Legislature in 1931 carried a motion for economy and almost all

[Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.]

these men who were recruited had to be axed. I point that out in order to show that if the Geological Survey Department did not play its part in the mineral policy of the Government of India, the legislature to some extent is responsible for that result.

In the limited time that I have, I do not wish to dwell more on the past. I wish to speak about the future. I am glad to say that the Government of India has now accepted the need for a definite mineral policy. That is largely due to the fact that the Government of India has taken a decision to have a drive in favour of bringing about the industrialisation of the country. The mineral policy of the Government of India has been set out in section 14 of the second report on Reconstruction and Planning. I have no time to read section 14 or even to give the gist of that paragraph. I have no doubt that the Members of the Legislature who are interested in the matter will look up section 14 and see for themselves what exactly that policy is.

To summarise the matter briefly, the mineral policy of the Government of India and the action which the Government of India propose to take in furtherance of that policy falls into two parts: in the first place, we propose to reconstitute the Geological Survey of India in order to make it a more potent instrument for the furtherance of our policy. Accordingly, a detailed scheme of expansion of the survey has been drawn up and administratively approved. The new branches of the Geological Survey which we propose to set up will deal with engineering geology, industrial utilisation of minerals, central mineral development, geophysical work, oil development. It will include the establishment of a natural history museum, and a publicity section in order to keep the public informed of what is being done.

The second part of our mineral policy consists of legislation, which the Government of India propose to initiate for the purpose of establishing control over minerals. In defining the limits of legislative control over the minerals, we propose to take into consideration the following circumstances. One, the importance of the mineral from the defence point of view on all India mineral development; two, the technical nature of the mineral; three, the purposes for which the mineral is used; four, the value of the mineral or of the products into the making of which the mineral enters. Our legislative provisions will fall into two classes, or rather divide the minerals into two classes: those which will be subjected to general control; and under general control we propose to confine ourselves to the granting of prospecting and mining leases, the terms and conditions of such licenses and termination thereof. Then there will be other minerals, which will be selected for more detailed control. The number of such minerals which are suggested for more detailed control are about 28. I do not propose to detail them here. The detailed control will include besides the power to grant licenses, the power to control the method of mining, of processing, of grading, of standardising, to direct improvement of mining and procuring methods, and also the power to initiate research for increased utilisation and for other necessary purposes.

I have stated as briefly as I can within the time available to me the general policy which the Government of India propose to adopt in regard to minerals.

I propose now to turn to some of the specific points of which Mr. Neogy had given notice to me. The first point to which he has referred was the export of minerals. I would like to assure the House that in the contemplated legislation there will undoubtedly be provisions for dealing with the export of minerals outside India. The question really is whether we can completely stop the export of our minerals. The answer to that question must necessarily depend upon another question, namely, shall we be able to import those minerals in which India is deficient if we completely stop the export of our own minerals? As Honourable Members are aware, India is in fact deficient in such important minerals as oil, copper, lead, zinc, tin and

sulphur. Consequently the question of export has to be considered in the light of the effect it may produce on our ability to import things of which we have a deficiency. The course which appears safest to the Government of India is to regulate the export of those minerals of which we are in short supply and which are necessary for the industrial development of the country, and secondly to see that our minerals are not exported in a raw condition but that we establish in our own country such industries as will enable us to process the raw material before it is exported to other countries. Another point to which Mr. Neogy has drawn my attention is with regard to the oil concessions. As Mr. Neogy knows, and as I believe other Members of the House know, there exists at present a moratorium on oil concession—moratorium on the granting of mining and prospecting licenses. That moratorium was introduced mainly because the Government of India did not desire that various oil companies should dissipate or engage for their own prospecting purposes technical personnel which is so deficient in its supply in this country. That moratorium will last till the war and some time thereafter. Now, Sir, so far as the question of granting licenses is concerned, the matter, since the passing of the Government of India Act, is in the hands of the Provincial Governments; but the Provincial Governments have been so far following the rules that the Government of India have made under the 1919 Act under which this was a matter for the Central Government to deal with. Under these Rules there is already in operation the policy of what is called 'closed door' against non-British subjects. The rules framed by the Government of India lay down that a company before it can obtain such a license must show that it is a company which is Indian in its personnel or that the majority of the members of the Board are British subjects. I do not know whether Mr. Neogy had in mind the further question, namely, the distinction between Indian subjects and British subjects. I have no time to enter into that. All I can say is that this is a matter which is closely connected with another important matter, namely, the provisions contained in sections 111 to 118 of the Government of India Act and which is being debated in the House on a separate Resolution. With regard to the question of coal, that again, as I said, will have its place in our new legislation. As my friend will understand, it is rather a difficult question. It covers matters such as mining, grading, marketing and utilisation of inferior coal. It will require a good deal of co-operation of the owners of mines and all those who are in the trade in order that our legislation may be fruitful. I may assure the House that we propose to take the matter up as part of our post-war policy.

I have said in a general way in the short time that is available to me what the policy of the Government of India is. I would say only this in conclusion—that an all-pervasive and dynamic mineral policy would depend upon three circumstances. It would depend upon the industrial drive in the country. If there is industrialization, this country will undoubtedly have to undertake a more vigorous mineral policy than it has done in the past. Whether our mineral policy will be successful and will be used for the benefit of the many will also depend upon two other considerations, namely, the constitutional position, the distribution of authority between the Provinces and the Centre and the role the State is allowed to play in this matter. I believe I have said enough to enable the House to appreciate what the Government of India proposes to do in regard to a mineral policy for this country.

An Honourable Member: I move that the question be now put.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is that the question be now put.

(Several Honourable Members: "No, no.")

I take it that the opinion of the House generally is that this motion should not be put.

An Honourable Member: You can adjourn the discussion.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Under the arrangement that has been arrived at and that has been circulated.

[Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait.]

the time allotted to the Nationalist Party is over. It is a sort of guillotine. Now, the other Party must come in. It is not for the House now to express an opinion on it.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The position now is this that this cut motion cannot be put to the House.

DEMAND No. 26—FOOD DEPARTMENT—contd.

Supervision and Control of Work in Provinces—contd.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): As regards Mr. Dam's motion on Saturday, I find that the position is that a closure motion was moved. It was accepted by the Chair but it was not put.

An Honourable Member: It was not accepted by the Chair.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I find from the proceedings that it was accepted by the Chair. He was about to put it. He started putting the closure motion. In fact he said—The question is It was 5 o'clock at this stage. The position now is that the closure motion has to be put before the House.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Don't waste time.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Food Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—57

Abdul Basith Choudhury, Dewan.
Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Ahsan, Mr. Muhammad.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.
Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.
Das, Mr. B.
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.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Habibar Rahman, Dr.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.

Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal.
Lalchand Navajrai, Mr.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Manu Subedar, Mr.
Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad Muhammad.
Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
Naidu, Mr. G. Rangiah.
Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
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.
Reddiar, Mr. K. Sitarama.
Satyanarayana Moorthy, Mr. A.
Sham Lal, Lala.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Srivastava, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad.
Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

NOES—43

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.
Caroe, Sir Olaf.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardeshir.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
Ghuznavi, Sir Abdul Halim.
Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.
Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.
Ismail Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.
James, Sir F. E.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema.

Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.
Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
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.
Sheehy, Sir John.
Spence, Sir George.
Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
Sundaresan, Mr. N.
Thakur Singh, Capt.
Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
Tyson, Mr. G. W.
Tyson, Mr. J. D.
Vellodi, Mr. M. K.

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 15—HOME DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,81,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Home Department'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,93,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Home Department'."

Paucity of Scheduled Castes in Government of India Services

Mr. Piare Lall Kureel (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Home Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

My object in moving this motion is to raise the question of the under representation of the scheduled castes in services under Government of India. I am really grieved to say that the representation of the scheduled castes in Government services is notoriously inadequate, specially in the superior services. It is almost negligible. Any man who takes the little trouble of examining the communal composition of these services will have not the least doubt that the scheduled castes have been rigorously excluded from these services. In spite of the various attempts that have been made from time to time on the floor of this House to secure a due representation of the scheduled castes in Government services, to our greatest disappointment, we find that Government have not moved in this matter at all.

The question of the entry into the public services is a very important one, so far as the minorities are concerned. To the scheduled classes it is a vital question, a question of life and death. It is only in Government services that they can find a career for themselves. Trade and industry are the monopoly of the caste Hindus; Trade and Industry as opening for a career, are all blocked for the members of the scheduled castes. They cannot themselves start trade and industry for want of capital, and in fact they have no chance of success in trade and industry.

Sir, it is extremely painful to speak of the indifferent attitude of the Government in the past. The Government by their Resolution of 1934 assured the Depressed Classes that they would not be deprived of fair opportunities of appointment. Let me read out the words of the resolution itself.

"In order to secure fair representation of the depressed classes duly qualified members of those classes may be nominated to public services, even though recruitment to those services is made by competition."

[Mr. Piare Lall Kureel.]

What a beautiful and flattering statement! Sir, I have got a very serious grievance against the Government. During the period between 1934 and 1943 not a single member of the scheduled castes was appointed to any responsible post under Government of India. Sir, my intention in speaking about the indifferent attitude of the Government in the past is to make the wrong-headed Government realise the blunders that they had been committing in the past. I wish that in future they should not repeat these blunders.

An Honourable Member: Why are you always supporting Government?

Mr. Piare Lall Kureel: I will let you know later.

Sir, the indifferent, hostile and unjust attitude of the Government is mainly responsible for the paucity of the scheduled castes in Government services. Let me take the recent measures adopted by Government to secure the representation of the Scheduled Castes in Government services. I will refer to the Home Department Resolution of August 1943. According to that Resolution a percentage of 8½ was fixed for the members of the scheduled castes in all central and subordinate services. In spite of this Resolution no special measures were adopted by Government to secure due representation of the scheduled castes. If I refer to the past I will show that the scheduled castes have always been treated in a very indifferent manner. I will take only one specific case. In the year 1941 a vacancy was reserved in the Indian Civil Service for a member of the scheduled castes. It was advertised in the papers. I put a question in the Assembly the other day and the answer that I got from the Home Member was that seven candidates appeared in that competitive examination and one of them had qualified. I was told that he did not qualify in the *viva-voce* but qualified only in the written tests. Sir, I have with me a chart published by the Public Services Commission. It shows the results of the competitive examination for the I. C. S. in 1941. On page 21 it is stated that under rule 24 of the rules for the examination the Federal Public Service Commission fixed as the minimum 585 qualifying marks for the written examination and 100 marks for the *viva-voce*. This candidate secured the 163rd position out of 428 candidates who appeared in the examination. He not only qualified in the written tests but also qualified in the *viva-voce*. In the written tests, while the minimum marks for qualifying in the I. C. S. are 585, he secured 607 and in the *viva-voce* he secured 100 marks; but he was not appointed.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Really it is a matter of great regret that the only Scheduled caste candidate who qualified for the I. C. S. in this examination was not taken. In this connection I should like to make two points clear. The first is that if no opportunity is afforded there will never be a beginning. There is no school for education in political and administrative matters where people should first go and qualify themselves in the abstract before they are put in charge of a district for administrative purposes. If people are sufficiently advanced and if they are educated in a general way they can safely be entrusted with the duties of administration. Administrative efficiency is really the result of experience and practice; and if you give no opportunity to the scheduled caste people there will never be a beginning. The second point is that the scheduled castes have taken to education very late and it will be long before they are in a position to compete with members of other communities with any reasonable amount of success. In India by reason of social habits and training for centuries certain communities like the Hindus and the Muslims had acquired the genius of passing examinations, and if the Government are going to depend only on results of competitive examinations I think they will perpetuate the monopoly of the communities like the Hindus and Muslims, to the exclusion of various minorities who cannot compete with major communities.

Sir, with regard to the Resolution of 1943, no directions were issued no special attempts were made by the Government to secure due representation.

In spite of the Resolution, referred to above, we find that scheduled castes are not fairly represented in Government services. I will put before the House the meagre representation that has been given to them in various services.

I will first take up the Indian Civil Service. The total strength of the Indian Civil Service on the 1st of January 1944 was 1073, and out of this only one post is held by a member of the scheduled caste. It is said that this one scheduled caste man, who is in the I. C. S., was nominated in the year 1944. This candidate, in fact, was nominated during the years 1940-1942 from England while a student there. He was sent for training in Dehra Dun, and when he passed the Probationary Course he was nominated again in 1944. Sir, you can fool all people for some time, some people for all time but you cannot fool all people for all time. Does the Honourable Member want to show that this candidate was nominated in 1944? The other day when I put a question in this House, the Honourable Member replied that this man had been nominated in the year 1944. It was only to whitewash the sins that they have committed in the name of justice and fairplay.

In the Indian Police and Indian Medical Service the representation of scheduled castes is absolutely nil.

Now, let me take some of the local offices. I will first take up the Directorate-General, Indian Medical Service. Out of 29 Gazetted posts, there is not a single post held by a member of the scheduled caste. If we come to non-gazetted officers, we find that out of the total of 304, there are only four members of the scheduled caste.

Now I come to the office of the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs. Non-gazetted staff:

Chief Superintendents—there is not a single member of the scheduled caste;

Superintendents—One.

This gentleman has put in 29 years service. He has been officiating as Superintendent for the last three years. There is no adverse remark against him, and yet he has not been confirmed. This shows how our people are unjustly treated in government offices.

Accountant Superintendents—Nil.

Stenographers—Nil.

Accountants—Nil.

Assistants—Nil.

I come to the II Division clerks where no specialized knowledge is needed; only matrices can be taken. Out of 103, only one 2nd division clerk is a member of the scheduled caste. In III Division Clerks, out of 92 there are four members of the scheduled caste.

Draftsmen—Nil.

Tracers—Nil.

Building Overseers—Nil.

Assistant Secretaries—Nil.

Sorting Inspector—Nil.

Motor Driver—Nil.

Carpenter—Nil.

Engineering Supervisor—Nil.

Then I come to the gazetted staff. Out of the total strength of 46 there is not a single member of the scheduled caste. Even in the inferior staff we find that there is not a single member belonging to my community. And, Sir, here is a statement made by the Director-General, P. & T.:

"The Government's recruitment policy has been implemented and the returns of fresh recruitment during the year show that out of the 2,924 new recruits appointed during the year 877 were Muslims. . . ."

It comes to 4.9 per cent. above the prescribed representation for this community, whereas out of 2,924 only 47 were scheduled castes. These figures are a matter of great concern to the scheduled castes.

[Mr. Piare Lall Kureel.]

Now I come to the office of the Chief Controller of Supply Accounts, New Delhi. One gazetted post is held by a member of the scheduled caste.

Superintendents—Nil out of a total of 6.

Assistant Superintendents—Nil out of 4.

Clerks—Nil out of 36.

Office of the Controller of Supply Accounts, New Delhi:—

Gazetted Officers—Nil out of a total of 18.

Superintendents—Nil out of 57.

Assistant Superintendents—Nil out of 46.

Clerks—there are 2 out of 470 clerks.

Office of the Controller of Supply Accounts, Bombay:—

Gazetted Officers—Nil out of 12.

Superintendents—Nil out of 32.

Assistant Superintendents—Nil out of 23.

Clerks—Only two are members of scheduled caste out of 274.

Office of the Controller of Supply Accounts, Calcutta:—

Gazetted Officers—Nil.

Superintendents—Nil.

Assistant Superintendents—Nil.

Clerks—There are 8 clerks out of 495 who belong to the scheduled caste community.

Coming to other offices, I find the same state of affairs. In the Department of External Affairs I find that out of 17 gazetted posts there is not a single one held by a member of the scheduled caste. Out of 178 non-gazetted posts, only four have gone to my community.

Similar is the case in the departments of Planning and Developments, Food, Supply, and so on. The representation of the scheduled castes is absolutely nil. Only a few posts of clerks have been given to them. There is only one gazetted post occupied by a member of the scheduled caste in the Food Department.

Now I come to the Railway Service. Here is the latest Report—1943-44—of the Railway Board on Indian Railways. If you turn to page 27, you will find that the scheduled castes are sufficiently represented, but if you turn to page 28 you will find that in the State-managed Railways 57 appointments were made to the Superior Railway Service by direct recruitment and none was appointed from the scheduled caste community.

Engineering Department—none.

Accounts—none.

Transportation—none.

Commercial—none.

Mechanical Engineering—none.

Other departments—none.

No member of the scheduled castes was taken by direct recruitment.

By promotion—14 officers were promoted from the lower gazetted service to the superior service during the year. Not a single man was promoted from the scheduled castes.

Now I come to the Company-managed Railways. I find only one member of the scheduled castes in the Engineering Department by direct recruitment, and I do not find any scheduled caste member in the Departments of Administration, Accounts, Transportation, Commercial, Mechanical, Stores, and other departments. Fifteen officers were promoted from lower ranks to the superior service. No scheduled caste man was promoted.

Sir, it will be clear from the figures on page 30: "Statement showing gazetted officers both superior and lower on State and Company-managed Railways."

State-managed Railways—I will show the progress in their representation from 1934 to 1944. In 1934, I find that in none of the Railways any member of the scheduled caste was appointed as gazetted officer. In 1943 I find the same position. In 1944, I find the same. There is not a single member of the scheduled caste appointed on a gazetted post on any of the State-managed railways.

I come to the Company-managed Railways. I find only one member of the scheduled caste appointed in the year 1944.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. Piare Lall Kureel: If you see the percentage you will find that whereas the Hindus have been given 35.60 per cent. representation in State-managed Railways, the depressed class percentage is "nil". In the Company-managed Railways the percentage of the Hindus is 39.91 and that of the scheduled castes per month. Out of 8,654, only 17 posts are held by the scheduled castes. 0.21.

Now I come to the inferior services in the scale of pay rising up to Rs. 250 per month. Out of 8,654 only 17 posts are held by the scheduled castes.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. Piare Lall Kureel: I will only point out that we have not been sufficiently represented. There are several reasons for this paucity. One is that the recruitment of scheduled castes is entrusted to the Hindus and Muslims and sometimes to the members of the European community. The latter know nothing about the scheduled castes while the Hindus and Muslims are prejudiced against them. They are all Anti-Scheduled caste.

I want to ask a question from the Government. You are treating us indifferently merely because our people fought on the side of Lord Clive in the Battle of Plassey which laid the foundation of British Empire in India. You are treating us shabbily merely because our people inflicted a crushing defeat on the Marhattas in the battle of Koregaon; merely because we helped you during the Great War 1914; merely because we have offered and are offering unconditional support in the present war.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must conclude his speech.

Mr. Piare Lall Kureel: Now that the time is up. I would only request that a special officer of the Scheduled Castes be appointed to look after the interests of the scheduled castes. A scheduled caste must also be appointed on the Federal Public Service Commission.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must now conclude.

Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Home Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I rise to support this cut motion. I feel, Sir, that the speech of my Honourable friend, Mr. Kureel, has convinced the House that this Government deserves the censure which he proposes to pass for its neglecting the problem of the recruitment of scheduled caste persons to the Government services. Sir, it is not enough that the Government of India should issue a resolution and say that 8 or 10 per cent. of the posts are reserved for members of the scheduled castes. Experience has shown that a sufficient number of people do not become available for the posts thrown open. Therefore Government must take steps to see that sufficient recruits will come forth.

(At this stage Sardar Sant Singh tried to interrupt the speaker.)

I would like my Honourable friend, Sardar Sant Singh, not to disturb me in my speech. He wastes the time of the House in talking about the Sikh community and he has no sympathy for men belonging to the Scheduled Castes.

If the Government has to recruit 10 persons for a particular Department or ten persons for the Indian Civil Service, then they must take steps to see that at least 20/25 candidates will be available. Government has to spend money and make arrangements for the education and training of the scheduled castes in order that Government may get a sufficient number of people to man their services.

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

from that community. It is not that the Government of India does not spend money in training persons whom they want. It is spending crores of rupees for training skilled men and for training women doctors for their services. I want the Government of India to tell us whether they have a plan by which they would educate and train scheduled caste persons in order that they might get representation in the public services. They should have done it long ago. The Government of India is engaged in making plans for post-war reconstruction and it is ready to spend thousands of crores of rupees. They should have a plan to uplift the scheduled caste persons. I would suggest that if Government spent a thousand crores in 25 years for the education of these depressed classes, they would attain equality with the other communities of India. Our suspicion is that the Government of India benefits by maintaining this problem of the scheduled castes and thereby they are able to tell the world that in India there is a problem of the scheduled castes and India does not deserve freedom.

If the Government wish to free themselves from this suspicion, let them make a big plan for spending money and teaching and educating and training the scheduled caste people so that the untouchability of the scheduled castes would be wiped out and economically they would be raised to the level of the other classes. I hope the Government of India will make a plan for this purpose. If they do not, then they deserve the censure of this House.

Mr. Hooseinbhooy A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): I rise to support the motion moved by my Honourable friend. We have seriously to consider the backward classes because we feel that that has been the cause of poverty in this country, and it is fair that first of all we must bring up those who are left behind for no fault of their own. It is also a fact that so far as business men are concerned, they are, I admit to our certain shame, not at all fair in the employment of these people, and other backward people.

But I must tell my friend Mr. Kureel that when he shouted out the name of Lord Clive none of my friends Europeans here will get up and say that they had a single scheduled caste in their employ; not one even as a *patawallah*. This is a fact which he ought to remember when he goes to attack other communities and making a great virtue for the things his community has done for them.

So far as Government is concerned, they have no doubt been showing all sorts of sympathy but it is not the kind of sympathy that is needed. It is that kind of sympathy, as my friend Mr. Joshi has pointed out, which they must get and that is by definite kind of planning. It is also the duty of the business and industrial communities to help them to come up. It is no fault of theirs if they have been backward. If the money is to be spent for the education and well being of people, I think the first bounden duty of everyone including Government who is taxing all of us and of those who are making money and have made money is to set apart a certain amount to help these and other backward people to rise up in their status, and thus raise the standard of living of our people.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: We are entirely in sympathy with the object of this motion. The only reason which the Home Member can give in reply is that sufficient candidates are not forthcoming, sufficient number with the necessary qualifications. If sufficient number of candidates are not forthcoming, the fault is ours. I would support Mr. Joshi's suggestion that special efforts should be made. Some of us have been working among Harijans and in my own experience we know that few of them cross the matriculation. They may not be quite up to the mark in scholastic matters but in such things as electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, etc., I have found them much more proficient than other communities. May I know if Government have taken any steps to develop their skill in these directions, and to bring them up? It is not necessary for a person to get 35 per cent. in English to do things in life. If you insist upon an adequate standard of English, it will take many years for these people

to attain proficiency in a foreign language. There are several professions in which people can command a great deal of respect, earn a good deal of money and raise their standard of life without proficiency in scholastic education. I would suggest that their skill in mechanical and electrical engineering and such other things, for which they are eminently fitted, should be encouraged.

I would now refer to the 500 and odd people which the Government of India propose to send to America and other places specially for industrial purposes, manufacture of steel, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, etc. A press communique was issued only at the end of last month to this effect. May I know what steps Government have taken to see that some members of the scheduled castes have been recruited for this purpose? I would only suggest to the Government that the usual qualifications necessary, I mean scholastic qualifications, may be dispensed with in certain of these cases. Proficiency in engineering and some other subjects does not require proficiency in the English language. I would make a practical suggestion that they must take a large number of these people, who even if they have failed in the matriculation examination should be sent abroad for practical courses in industrial and technical subjects and in this, I am quite sure, because I say it with experience, they will be eminently successful: they are bound to do better than many other communities. A few lakhs have been set apart for the education of these people, I believe it is five lakhs. It is not even the proverbial drop in the ocean. I would suggest that large numbers of people must be educated by the Government, the age limits should be relaxed and they must be sent up for higher education in courses to which they are eminently suitable. If you follow these methods I have no doubt that in a few years' time many of them will come up to standard. I say, Sir, that the country in general stands to gain by the progress of these people and in the interest of this great country I would suggest that more sympathetic and greater action, not mere words, must be taken by Government to encourage them in education as well as in industries. Sir, I support this motion.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I want to speak for only one minute. I want to say that when I heard Mr. Kureel's speech I felt that it was not only unjustified as far as we Muslims were concerned, but it was also really very ungrateful on his part to refer to the Muslims in the manner that he has done. The Mussalmans did every thing possible. My Honourable friend Dr. Ambedkar will bear witness to this, that the Muslims sided with him and supported all the claims which he had put at the Round Table Conference. Now, for Mr. Kureel to come up and mix up the Mussalmans along with the others and blame them, that was highly ungrateful on his part.

Several Honourable Members: The question be now put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Government Member must have a chance to reply to the debate.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): Sir, the House will remember that in 1942 a similar cut motion was moved. It was not quite the same as Mr. Kureel's motion but similar. The motion in 1942 was to censure Government for not having reserved a certain percentage of posts in the Central and subordinate services for the scheduled castes. At that time the position was governed by the Resolution of 1934, which expressed the rather pious hope that it would be preferable "to ensure that duly qualified candidates from the Depressed Classes are not deprived of fair opportunities of appointment merely because they cannot succeed in open competition". The speeches in 1942 showed that the House was not satisfied with that position. There was only one speaker who was opposed to reservation for the scheduled castes. My predecessor Sir Reginald Maxwell expressed sympathy with the motion and promised to see what could be done. The matter was re-examined in the Home Department and in August 1943 another Resolution was issued, which reserved 8 1/3 per cent. of vacancies in the Central services

[Sir Francis Mudie]

for members of the scheduled castes and even went further than that as it provided that "the Government of India proposed to consider the question of raising this percentage as soon as sufficient number of qualified candidates from these classes are found to be available". That is to say, as a result of the 1942 motion the Government took exactly the action that they were asked to take. I think the House will approve of what has been done.

Mr. Kureel's motion today is simply to call attention to the paucity of members of the scheduled castes in the services but that is exactly the basis of the action that is taken by the Home Department. Perhaps Mr. Kureel is afraid (he more or less said so) that the Home Department will leave it at that and do nothing more. As the House knows, the reports which are collected by the Home Department showing how the rules as regards communal representation are being worked are placed in the Library of this House. If the House thinks that the Home Department is not doing its duty in this matter, that the rules are not being observed as they should be, all that they have to do is to look into the reports. Mr. Kureel did not, unfortunately, adopt the tactics of Mr. Neogy. He did not give me his figures before he made his speech. The figures of my Honourable friend are not very relevant. For one thing, we know that there is under-representation. It was in order to improve that representation that the Home Department resolution has been issued. And for another, the resolution being dated August 1943 could not possibly have affected any statistics available to Mr. Kureel. The statistics he quoted are the statistics on which the Home Department action was taken, and you cannot censure Government for having taken the very action you wanted it to take. My case is not that the representation of the scheduled castes is adequate: my case is that the Home Department admit that it is inadequate and are doing all they can to improve the position. All that the Home Department can do is to issue instructions that should be followed by all Departments but the Home Department cannot say that the various Departments of Government are to remove all qualifications that are necessary for appointment thereto. We cannot, for instance, ask the Medical Department to appoint to the I. M. S. a man who is not qualified. All these communal reservations are subject to the condition that a sufficient number of qualified candidates come forward—not candidates who succeed at the competitive examination, but who are qualified. Sir, the real burden now lies on the shoulders of the leaders of the scheduled castes themselves—I am going to have the last laugh Mr. Joshi—to produce their own candidates.

An Honourable Member: How should they produce?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: There is a grant in this year's budget as there was in the last years for scholarships. Education is fundamentally a provincial subject. The grant is not a very big sum, it is only a token of goodwill: the main function is of course performed by Provincial Governments.

I think the best test that can be applied to the *bona fides* of the Home Department of the Government of India in this matter is to see what they have done as regards the I.C.S. Mr. Kureel referred to one case in 1941. Mr. Kureel's view was that in that year a certain candidate should have been appointed. Well, I am aware of that case, though it happened before I took charge, I know roughly what the facts of the case were. It was sympathetically considered by the Home Department, but it was found impossible to appoint him.

As regards the I.C.S. there was a resolution which has not been referred to: that was in 1937. That resolution applied the principle of communal representation to the I.C.S. It provided that a candidate who had sat for the competitive examination could be nominated to the service. But there was a proviso specially inserted for the benefit of the scheduled castes. That proviso was that even if the candidate had not sat for the examination, he could be appointed to the I.C.S. if recommended by the Provincial Government. The

Government of India every year write down to Provincial Governments and ask for names. They have a Committee to examine the candidates and send up names to the Government of India. No one was appointed in spite of our Resolution till 1940, and even in 1940 Provincial Governments recommended no one. But one Government said: "There is a member of the scheduled caste reading for the Bar in London, try him." This was not provided for in our rule, but we went outside our rule; we wrote to the Secretary of State who put him before a Board, and on their recommendation the Federal Public Service Commission recommended him for nomination and he was appointed. That was in 1940. We went out of our way to get a member of the scheduled caste. In 1941 and 1942 we got no one. But we did the next best thing: we earmarked one war-vacancy in the I.C.S. to be filled after the war from scheduled castes.

Now, I come to Mr. Joshi. In 1943 there was a candidate who they said did not come up to the standard, but he might come in. So we anticipated even Mr. Joshi and sent him to the Probationers Training School in Dehra Dun. All the rest of the School had been selected for the I.C.S., and were on probation. The scheduled caste candidate had not been considered up to the standard, but he was sent up to be trained there. He was given probationary training as an I.C.S. officer on the understanding that if he passed the examination held for the probationers, we would take him in the I.C.S. Well, he passed and was taken in. He is now in Bengal. It might interest the House to know that he was one of the best riders at that school.

That is what we have done in the case of I.C.S., and it does open up considerable possibilities, but I do not know how far it can be developed, but there are possibilities. I would like to impress on the House that you cannot wave a magic wand and make even engineers whom Mr. Chettiar seem to consider a low form of human life without any qualifications whatsoever. You must maintain your minimum qualifications. The Government of India will do all they can. As regards the I.C.S. which Mr. Kureel considers is the touchstone, I have shown that the Home Department has gone out of its way not only to select, but to train candidates from the scheduled classes. That is my case. I hope it will satisfy him, and that he will withdraw his motion.

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

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Piare Lall Kureel: In view of the assurance given by the Home Member I am willing to withdraw my cut motion, but I want a specific assurance from the Honourable the Home Member that special efforts will be made to

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot make a speech. He can only ask for leave to withdraw. The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

DEMAND NO. 23.—DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Demand No. 23.
The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,93,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Department of Labour'."

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,93,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Department of Labour'."

Labour Policy of Government of India

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Labour' be reduced by Re. 1."

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

My object is to censure the Government of India for the wrong and inadequate policy which they follow for protecting Indian labour. Briefly stated, my charge against the Government of India is that they do not afford sufficient protection for the working classes in this country by taking prompt and adequate measures and when the Government take some action, the action they take is very small compared to the needs of the situation. Secondly, the action they take is taken after a good deal of delay when practically it becomes too late. On account of this, we are all dissatisfied and I hope that the House is dissatisfied with the policy which the Government of India is following.

In order to prove the charge which I propose to bring against the Government of India I shall only mention a few things. You know that on account of the coal muddle, which the Government of India have made, a large number of factories in this country are closed from time to time, and the workers working in some industries become unemployed; and so far the action taken by the government is very inadequate. In the first place, the Government of India was moved after a good deal of delay to take action and when the Government of India was moved, they satisfied themselves by framing some rules providing compensation and leaving it to the Provincial Governments to take action. I feel that the Government of India was very lethargic in this matter. In the first place, they should have made these rules much earlier and in the second place they should have issued an ordinance by which the rules they made were made applicable throughout the country. Then the Government of India is following a wrong policy as regards coal mines. We know that the whole country is suffering on account of lack of consumer goods. Workers are also suffering from this shortage of coal. I would like the Government of India to follow the right policy regarding coal mines. I would suggest to the Government of India that if they feel shortage of labour, the only way of getting sufficient number of working classes to go into mines—the best policy is to pay the miners well. In Great Britain the miner is the best paid working class man, and in India the Indian miner is the worst paid working class man. If the Government of India will change their policy and see that the Indian miner is paid well, I have no doubt that a sufficient number of people will come forth to work in the Indian mines. Secondly, I would like the Government of India to take the mining industry in their own hands at this time. If the country wants coal, then you cannot depend upon these capitalists to give you coal. The Government of India, instead of doing the right thing, viz., taking over the mines in their hands, give bonuses to the capitalists in order that the capitalists should produce coal. Coal cannot be obtained by that method. The right method for the Government of India is to take over the mines in their hands, so that the working classes can get good conditions to work under. At present there are a large number of complaints from several collieries about harassment of the miners by the owners. The owner has no interest in larger production; it is the country which is interested in larger production of coal; the owner has interest in getting money; by whatever methods he gets it is no matter to him; he gets profits by increasing the price of his coal; he gets his money by various other methods; and therefore the Government should take over the Indian mines under their control.

Again, Sir, when the war started, the cost of living of the people began to go up; partly the policy of the Government of India was responsible for the rise in the cost of living. The Government of India did not take adequate steps to see that the working classes did not suffer on account of this rise. They should have, in my humble judgment, passed an ordinance that all the workers who work at least in organised industries should get dearness allowances, sufficient to compensate for the rise in prices. The Government of India did not do anything of the kind. They discussed this question in tripartite conferences; the Government of India appointed a committee to consider the question of the dearness allowance; that committee's report has not

even yet been published—much less action taken. This is the conduct of the Government of India regarding dearness allowance.

Then there are some questions regarding coal mining which I wanted to speak about, but I shall leave them to be discussed on a separate cut motion which our lady colleague is going to move after this cut motion is finished.

Then during this war, on account of the rise in the cost of living and the high prices, the compensation which workmen received on account of accidents has become very inadequate. In England soon after the war, the rates of compensation to be paid to workmen on account of accidents have been raised, but in India no such thing has been done. The compensation paid to workmen is not enough—both the periodical compensation paid as well as the lump sum compensation paid. I would like the Government of India to have examined this problem when they found that the rates of compensation in Great Britain were increased; and they should have taken steps to see that the rates of compensation paid to Indian workmen due to accidents should have been raised.

Again, Sir, after the war, the Government of India passed legislation called the National Service Technical Personnel Ordinance. Under that ordinance we all expected the workers and the employers would be equally treated; as they are equally treated in the English legislation; but under our legislation the employer is given freedom to dismiss workmen, while the workman is not able to leave his job. The workman under that ordinance is treated with discrimination. I had approached the Government of India several times asking them to remove this discrimination; but they have not done it; and therefore they deserve our censure. Then, in India, the wages are very low. It is an admitted fact and the Government of India also admit that the standard of living of the people of this country is very low. Therefore any one would expect that the Government of India would take steps to pass legislation for minimum wages. Unfortunately, the Government of India and the Provincial Governments are considering this question for a long time and although the legislation required for this purpose is a very simple one, the Government of India have not yet passed such legislation.

Then the Atlantic Charter and the various conferences have promised social security for the people of the world. I am not thinking of the people of the world, I am thinking of the people of India; and I would like the Government of India to take measures for establishing social security in this country. I know the Government of India have appointed a committee, first, to find facts; that committee is finding facts for a very long time—for over a year; I do not know when that committee is going to report and after that fact-finding committee reports, the Government of India propose to appoint another committee to make proposals for social security. I feel that the methods used by the Government of India are dilatory and the Government of India should take very vigorous steps to see that a scheme for social security is brought into existence and carried out. I am aware that the Government of India has published a report on health insurance. That report again came out after a long delay; and after the report is out the Government of India is taking time to consider the question. I would suggest to the Government of India to take very early action on that subject.

My last point is that the Government of India is following a wrong policy.

In the first place, I feel that the Government of India's actions do not show that they have enough sympathy. It pains me to say so when the Honourable the present Labour Member is in charge of that department. The actions of the Government of India show that they lack sympathy but I shall not deal with that. I wish to say this—that the Government of India is not even well equipped for this purpose. I would like to have an exclusive Labour Ministry to deal with labour questions and the Government of India should be adequately staffed. At present the staff of the Government

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

of India is not even adequate. I shall mention only a few posts which the Government of India should have got to deal with the various subjects. They have not got a factory expert or an industrial health expert. They have not got sufficient staff for their Labour Welfare Adviser. There is no expert on industrial housing, no expert on health insurance, no expert on unemployment and no expert for old age pensions. I would suggest to the Government of India that they should first become an exclusive Labour Ministry and secondly they should get themselves well equipped with staff to deal with all these problems. The Government of India have not done these and therefore I feel that they deserve the censure of this House.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Labour' be reduced by Re. 1."

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 13th March, 1945.

Tuesday, 13th March, 1945

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. Parakat Madhava Menon, M.B.E., I.C.S., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated-Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWER

APPOINTMENTS MADE IN COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

931. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state how many appointments of people getting more than Rs. 200 per month have been made in the Commonwealth Relations Department since the Honourable Dr. Khare took charge?

(b) What are the emoluments and allowances of the persons so appointed?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) 97.

(b) A statement is placed on the table of the House.

Appointment of persons drawing more than Rs. 200 per mensem made since the 7th May 1943, i.e. from the date the Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare took over charge, in this Department and the Offices attached and subordinate to it, their pays and allowances.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

Name	Pay	Allowances
1. The Honourable Mr. R. N. Banerjee, C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary.	Rs. 4,000	..
2. Captain A. W. T. Webb, Principal Refugee Officer.	Rs. 1,750	Includes a Special pay of Rs. 150 p. m.
3. Khan Sahib S. Itaat Husain, P.C.S., Deputy Secretary.	Rs. 1,150	....
4. Mr. K. S. Venkataraman, Personal Assistant to the Honourable Member.	Rs. 600	Rs. 60 War allowance.
5. Mr. H. Mukherjee, Assistant	Rs. 230	Rs. 23 War allowance.
6. Dr. V. V. Gore, Private Secretary to the Honourable Member, at present serving as Private Secretary to the High Commissioner for India in the Commonwealth of Australia (See item No. 20).	Rs. 450	Rs. 45 War allowance. Left Department on 1st October 1944.
7. Mr. T. R. Raghuraman, Personal Assistant to Joint Secretary.	Rs. 230	Rs. 23 War allowance.
8. Mr. E. E. C. Price, C.I.E., Officer on Special Duty.	Rs. 3,000	Worked from 25th September 1944 to 28th February 1945.
9. Mr. Debindra Bejoy, Accountant to Officer on Special Duty.	Rs. 280 Pay. Rs. 50 Special pay.	House Rent allowance Rs. 15, War allowance Rs. 33.

OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN CEYLON

10. Mr. M. S. Aney, Representative of the Government of India in Ceylon.	Rs. 2,750	Rs. 500 p. m.
11. Mr. V. Viswanathan, I.C.S., Secretary to the Representative of the Government of India in Ceylon. Now holds the post shown against item No. 24.	Rs. 1,500 plus a Special pay of Rs. 150.	Rs. 200 p. m.
12. Mr. R. T. Chari, I.C.S., Secretary to the Representative of the Government of India in Ceylon.	Rs. 1,150	Rs. 200 p. m.

OFFICE OF THE AGENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN CEYLON

Name	Pay	Allowances
13. Mr. R. T. Chari, I.C.S., Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon, now holds the post shown against item No. 12 above.	Rs. 1,100	Rs. 200 p. m.
14. Mr. P. C. Mathew, I.C.S., Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon.	Rs. 1,150	Rs. 200 p. m.

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

15. Mr. R. M. Deshmukh, High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa.	£2,500 annuum.	per £825 per annum (plus £50 p. m. during parliamentary session at Cape Town.)
16. Mr. J. W. Meldrum, I.C.S., Secretary to the High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa.	Rs. 1,900	.....
17. Maj. L. Coles, Private Secretary to the High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa.	Total emoluments Rs. 16,000 per annum.	.....

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

18. D. R. Sir Raghunath Purushottam Paranjpye, D.Sc., Kt., High Commissioner for India in the Commonwealth of Australia.	£2,500 per annum	£800 per annum plus free house.
19. Mr. K. R. Damle, I.C.S., Secretary to the High Commissioner for India in the Commonwealth of Australia.	Rs. 1,700	Rs. 500 p. m.
20. Dr. V. V. Gore, D.Sc., Private Secretary to the High Commissioner for India in the Commonwealth of Australia.	Rs. 600	Rs. 400 p. m.
21. Mr. T. S. Menon, Chief Clerk in the office of (18) above.	Rs. 250	Rs. 270 p. m.
22. Mr. C. R. Srinivasan, Stenographer in the Office of (18) above.	Rs. 250	Rs. 202-8-0 p. m.

OFFICE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA

23. Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta, M.L.A., Representative of the Government of India with the Government of Burma.	Rs. 2,750	.....
24. Mr. V. Viswanathan, I.C.S., Secretary to the Representative of the Government of India with the Government of Burma and Additional Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.	Rs. 1,600 plus a special pay of Rs. 400.	.....

OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL REFUGEE OFFICER, NORTHERN ZONE, NEW DELHI

25. Mr. L. C. Lall, Assistant Refugee Officer	Rs. 500	Rs. 50 p. m. War allowance.
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OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL REFUGEE OFFICER WESTERN ZONE, BOMBAY

26. Mr. M. E. Dawoodji, B.A., B.L., Central Refugee Officer.	Rs. 800	Rs. 80 p. m. War allowance.
27. Mr. S. Gurumurthy, B.A., Assistant Refugee Officer.	Rs. 500	Rs. 50 p. m. War allowance.

OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL REFUGEE OFFICER, EASTERN ZONE, CALCUTTA

28. Mr. B. B. Rai, Chowdhury, Assistant Refugee Officer.	Rs. 500	Rs. 50 War allowance.
29. Mr. J. C. De, Assistant Refugee Officer	Rs. 500	Rs. 50 War allowance.
30. Mr. M. I. Khan, Assistant Refugee Officer	Rs. 500	Rs. 50 War allowance.
31. Mr. M. A. Subhan, Assistant Refugee Officer	Rs. 500	Rs. 50 War allowance.
32. Mr. K. C. Sanyal, Census Superintendent	Rs. 500	Rs. 50 War allowance. Tempy. appointed for four months.
33. Mr. K. S. Ahmad, Census Superintendent	Rs. 500	Rs. 50 War allowance. Tempy. appointed for four months.

OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL REFUGEE OFFICER, SOUTHERN ZONE, MADRAS

Name	Pay	Allowances
34. Mr. D. K. Syed Ibrahim, Assistant Refugee Officer.	Rs. 500	Rs. 50 War allowance.
35. Mr. C. Krishnaswamy, Assistant Refugee Officer.	Rs. 500	Rs. 50 War allowance.
36. Mr. R. Jagannathan, Assistant Refugee Officer.	Rs. 500	Rs. 50 War allowance.
37. Mr. T. Prabhakara Rao, Assistant Refugee Officer.	Rs. 350	Rs. 35 War allowance.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF REFUGEE ADMINISTRATOR, BURMA REFUGEE ORGANISATION, ASSAM, SHILLONG		
38. Dr. Ramji Das	Rs. 200	Drawing free rations or War allowance.
39. Dr. Nair	Rs. 400	Ditto.
40. Mr. Vanya	Rs. 300	Ditto.
41. Ahmad	Rs. 250	Drawing Assistant Allowance.
42. Mr. Ray	Rs. 250	Ditto.
43. Captain S. R. S. Laing	Pay debitable to Defence estimates	Rs. 200 p. m. Fixed travelling allowance.
44. Mr. M. C. Murtric	Rs. 350	Drawing free rations or War allowance.
45. Mr. L. Lunglaing	Rs. 250	Ditto.
46. Mr. H. Zopianga	Rs. 250	Ditto.
47. Mr. Weymiss	Rs. 750	Ditto.
48. Mr. Surin	Rs. 350	Ditto.
49. Mr. Napean	Rs. 200	Ditto.
50. Mr. Roudlett	Rs. 600	Ditto.
51. Mr. Simon	Rs. 350	Ditto.
52. Mr. E. H. Steinherr	Rs. 300	Ditto.

POLISH CHILDREN CAMP, JAMNAGAR

53. Maj. G. Clarke, Liaison Officer	Rs. 400	Conveyance allowance of Rs. 150 p. m.
54. Mr. N. D. Marshall, Assistant Liaison Officer.	Rs. 200	.....

BRITISH EVACUEE CAMP, COIMBATORE

55. Maj. J. M. Mollison, Commandant	Rs. 1,000	Was employed from 25th August 1943 to 20th September 1944. His services were terminated.
56. Mr. W. N. Datta, Commandant	Rs. 800	Appointed from 21st September 1944, vice Maj. Mollison.
57. Mr. S. J. Hall, Assistant Commandant	Rs. 450 including House Rent Allowance of Rs. 50.	.....
58. Mr. A. K. Banerjee, Deputy Commandant	Rs. 600	.....
59. Miss M. Looker, Assistant Commandant, Maltese Wing, Coimbatore.	Rs. 400 p. m.	.....
60. Dr. H. Leaser, Dental Surgeon	Rs. 250 p. m.	Retaining fee.
61. Mr. S. T. Pillsz, Headmaster, of the school in the Camp.	Rs. 400 p. m.	.....
62. Mr. E. D. Stuart, Senior Master in the Camp School.	Rs. 240 p. m.	.....
63. Miss Stanley, teacher in the Camp School	Rs. 220 p. m.	.....
64. Dr. N. K. Sampath, Medical Officer in the Camp.	Rs. 500 p. m.	Car allowance of Rs. 75 p. m.

POLISH REFUGEE CAMP, KOLHAPUR.

65. Mrs. M. Button, Liaison Officer	Rs. 500 p. m.	
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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF REFUGEE ADMINISTRATOR, BURMA REFUGEE ORGANISATION, BENGAL
SHUBIRNAGAR

Name	Pay	Allowances
66. Mr. B. K. Mukerjee, Chief Refugee Administrator.	Rs. 2,500	Free rations worth about Rs. 30 p. m.
67. Dr. N. F. Masters, Chief Medical Officer	Rs. 1,000	Ditto.
68. Mr. J. M. Deb, Chief Welfare Officer	Rs. 500	Ditto.
69. Mr. D. B. Roy, Accounts Officer	Rs. 500	Ditto.
70. Dr. P. M. Gupta, Medical Officer	Rs. 400	Ditto.
71. Miss G. Hormoosji, Medical Officer	Rs. 400	Ditto.
72. Dr. Ajit Kumar Ganguly, Medical Officer	Rs. 400	Ditto.
73. Dr. Moni Bhusan Chakravarty, Medical Officer.	Rs. 400	Ditto.
74. Mr. N. C. Sen, Commandant	Rs. 400	Ditto.
75. Mr. S. N. Guha, Engineer	Rs. 400	Ditto.
76. Mr. D. N. Sen Gupta, Assistant Administrator	Rs. 400	Ditto.
77. Mr. K. N. Chatterjee, B J. C. S., Special Officer.	Rs. 400	Ditto.
78. Mr. Bal Bahadur Rai Superintendent, Watch and Ward.	Rs. 360	Ditto.
79. Mr. S. K. Guha, Assistant Commandant	Rs. 300	Ditto.
80. Mr. Subadh Chandra Roy, Personal Assistant to the Chief Refugee Administrator.	Rs. 300	Ditto.
81. Mr. H. N. Gupta, Transportation Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
82. Mr. Piyush Kanti Sen, Depot Superintendent	Rs. 300	Ditto.
83. Mr. Mamtazul Haq, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
84. Mr. Ali Nawab, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
85. Mrs. Moni Coontala Gupta, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
86. Mr. Paritosh Sen Choudhury, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
87. Mr. Jagdish Roy Choudhury, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
88. Mr. Mohd. Hassain, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
89. Mr. Bimalendu Majumdar, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
90. Mr. Amarendra Sekhan Chowdhury, Welfare Officer.	Rs. 300	Ditto.
91. Mr. Masud Khan, Welfare Officer.	Rs. 300	Ditto.
92. Mr. Abani Kumar Maitra, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
93. Mr. Inder Bhusan Bhattacharjee, Welfare Officer.	Rs. 300	Ditto.
94. Mr. A. K. M. Kabir, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
95. Mr. A. S. M. Ahsan, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
96. Mr. Mohd. Anwar Husain, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.
97. Mr. A. P. Chander, Welfare Officer	Rs. 300	Ditto.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the total outlay involved in these 97 appointments per year?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: A statement is laid on the table of the House. The Honourable Member can himself find it out. I cannot give the figure off hand.

SCOPE AND JURISDICTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

932. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state if his department is concerned with the position of Indians outside the Commonwealth, i.e., in Crown Colonies or in foreign countries?

(b) Does the Commonwealth Relations Department have any communications with the Foreign Office of His Majesty's Government, or, are such communications sent through the External Affairs Secretary?

(c) What arrangements has the Commonwealth Relations Department for informing itself of the condition of Indians in many parts of the world, and what is the channel of information through which such information is received by it?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) The Commonwealth Relations Department is concerned with the position of Indians in countries within the British Commonwealth. Crown Colonies are included in the Commonwealth. The Department is not concerned with the position of Indians in foreign countries outside the British Commonwealth.

(b) The Commonwealth Relations Department does not communicate with the Foreign Office, either direct or through the External Affairs Department, regarding the matters affecting Indian interests in countries within the Commonwealth. Such matters are dealt with by the Dominion and Colonial Offices of His Majesty's Government. The Commonwealth Relations Department communicates with these offices through the Secretary of State for India.

(c) The Commonwealth Relations Department has arrangements for obtaining such information only from countries within the British Commonwealth. Information is obtained through the representatives of the Government of India where they have been appointed. Information from countries where the Government of India have no representatives is obtained from the Governments of those countries—either direct or through His Majesty's Government.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know the countries within the Commonwealth which have direct relations with India?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Ceylon, Australia, South Africa; of course Burma and Malaya had direct relations with India before the war.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if any arrangement has been arrived at between the Government of India and the Government of Canada for having direct relations?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I think it has been decided to appoint a High Commissioner on either side, but it has not yet been done.

Sardar Sant Singh: How long a period has elapsed since this agreement was reached between the Government of India and the Government of Canada?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I think it is over six months.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the object of changing the name of the Department was to reduce the equipment and machinery at the disposal of the Department for taking care of Indians overseas, particularly in foreign countries?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: That was not the object.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Then what was the object in changing the name?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: There was no particular object. It was because this Department was supposed to have relations with other countries within the Empire, that its name was changed into 'Commonwealth Relations Department'.

FAMINE IN KATHIAWAR

933. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Food-Member been drawn to the following:

"Wadhwan, December 15, 1944: Kathiawar is in the grip of a food famine. Bajri costs as much as 11 rupees a maund. People have had to go without food for as long as three days at a stretch.—A.P. (Sind Observer), Bombay Chronicle Weekly, February, 11, 1944, page 18"?

(b) Is it a fact that famine conditions have shown themselves in Kathiawar and that food is both scarce and dear?

(c) What steps have Government taken to supply additional food to the Kathiawar States?

(d) Have they received any representation from any of the States and from the Resident at Baroda on this subject?

(e) Was Kathiawar a surplus Province as a whole, or a deficit area, before the war?

(f) Where has the food from Kathiawar gone?

(g) Is it a fact that food exports have taken place at the hands of certain States from Kathiawar?

(h) Were these authorised or unauthorised?

(i) Will Government depute special officers to make an enquiry into the situation?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Scarcity conditions have been reported.

(c) A quota of 94,000 tons of foodgrains has been allotted to these states as against 6,000 tons last year and action has been taken in consultation with the supplying areas, local authorities and railways to expedite movement. A statement is placed on the table of the House.

(d) The answer is in the affirmative.

(e) Kathiawar used to be deficit in wheat and rice and surplus in millets before the war.

(f) The scarcity is due to a failure of the millet crop.

(g) and (h). There have been movements of grain from that portion of Baroda State situated in Kathiawar to other parts of Baroda State.

No question of authorisation arises regarding movements from one part of a state's territory to another.

(i) A high officer of the Department has already visited the area.

Allotments to Baroda and W. I. States under Rabi and Kharf Plans, 1944-45
(In Tons)

Name of Area	Foodgrain	Declared Surplus (+) or Deficit (-)	Up to date quotas		Unallotted Surplus	Despatches upto 22-2-45		Remarks
			Import	Export		To	From	
W. I. States	Rice	-20,902	10,000	..	..	5,133	..	
	Millets	-122,213	56,754	..	..	10,401	..	
	Maize	Nil	290	..	..	Nil	..	
	Wheat	-19,000	25,233	700*	..	23,855	..	
	Gram	-7,000	1,592	..	..	N. A.	..	
	Barley	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	Total	-169,115	93,869	700	..	39,389	..	

* Kapla wheat.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What effective steps have been taken by the Government in order to check hoarding by the little States in Kathiawar who are hoarding grain with a view to profiteering?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: We have been hard at them through the Political Department.

IMPORT LICENCES FOR FINE CLOTH

934. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Has the Honourable the Commerce Member noticed the message from London, dated the 8th of February, 1945, reproduced in the *Janmabhoomi* of Bombay, dated the 11th February, 1945, stating that the Textile Board in the United Kingdom has assigned a new list, according to which the quota for export to India of fine cloth in the first part of 1945 will be two million yards?

(b) What import licences have Government given, and to whom, for the import of fine cloth into India?

(c) How much cloth is intended to be imported into India?

(d) Is it of a quality which has been produced in India?

(e) Have Government informed the Textile Board of their intention to permit and to encourage the import of this first instalment of fine cloth into India from the U.K.?

(f) What are the other quantities indented for the balance of the year 1945?

(g) Is it a fact that this cloth is produced in the U.K. with a heavy subsidy with regard to cotton and with regard to the manufacture and export at the hands of the British Government?

(h) Has there been any correspondence between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government on the subject of the importation into India of British manufactured textiles?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes Sir.

(b) 209 import licences covering approximately 5 million yards were granted to regular established importers for imports from United Kingdom during the period July 1942 to December 1944. No import licences have so far been issued this year.

(c) and (f). 10 million yards for the year 1945 from the United Kingdom.

(d) The exact qualities included in the allocation to India are not known; but some may be similar to those produced in India.

(e) The Chairman of the Textile Control Board has been kept fully informed.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Yes, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know at what price these 10 million yards coming to India will be sold to the public?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as the price is concerned, it will be controlled by the General Control Order under the Hoarding and Anti Profiteering Ordinance and the price fixed accordingly.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will it have any reference to the price of similar goods produced in India or the cost of production of similar goods?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is impossible for me to say at this stage. I will look into the matter.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Government have arranged for these imports without knowing the price or the quality of the things that are going to be given?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The position is that there is such an enormous amount of shortage which has been so forcibly brought to my notice repeatedly and even a day or two before that we felt that the more we can get finer type of cloth from abroad, the better for the consuming public in this country.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: May I know why if there is shortage, three million yards of cloth have been exported to Egypt as appears in today's newspapers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have seen it. I have generally explained the reason.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Government are aware that the grievance really is want of nice yarn which can be manufactured into cloth by our handloom weavers, and in the absence of which they will be out of work?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have also taken steps for import of yarn.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Was the Chairman of the Textile Control Board informed in writing or informally?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not sure of it. I know this has not been placed formally before the Board. The Chairman has been fully informed, but the exact manner in which he was informed is not exactly known to me.

FUEL SHORTAGE IN CITIES

935. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) How does the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands account for the extraordinary and acute shortage of fuel in most of the cities of India?

(b) Is it due to the fact that factories have been using wood fuel in place of coal which is short?

(c) If so, what steps are Government taking to prevent this diversion?

(d) Have Government got any estimate made of the number of trees cut down in most parts of the country for fuel purposes?

(e) Have Government considered whether climate and rainfall may not be affected on account of this destruction of trees and vegetation?

(f) Have Government devised any scheme or plan for restoring the balance disturbed in this manner?

(g) If so, what is this scheme?

(h) Do Government propose to have this question carefully examined by a mixed committee of officials and non-officials?

(i) What steps are Government taking to prevent further deterioration in this matter?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). The main articles of fuel for common use in India are (i) Coal and coke, (ii) charcoal and (iii) firewood. Coal and coke are mainly required for industrial purposes but a certain quantity is also used as domestic fuel. The present shortage of fuel in the country as a whole may be attributed to:

(i) Shortage of coal and coke for industrial purposes which has led to the diversion of the other articles of fuel, e.g., charcoal and firewood for use in industries;

(ii) Shortage of coal and coke for domestic purposes which has increased the total demand for charcoal and firewood for this purpose;

(iii) Increase in the military demand for charcoal and firewood;

(iv) Transport difficulties, which prevent or retard movement of charcoal and firewood from surplus to deficit areas.

(c) To ease the situation Government have prohibited the export of firewood, and charcoal from the country and are trying to secure increased raisings of coal.

(d) The Central Government have no estimate of the number of trees cut for fuel from reserved forests which are mainly situated in the provinces: but I may inform the Honourable Member that in Government-managed forests almost all fuel comes from thinnings and clearings or from the "Top and top" from trees felled for timber which would otherwise rot.

(e) Government are advised that such fellings as have taken place in Government forests, can have no effect on climate or rainfall.

(f) to (i). The suggestions of the Inspector General of Forests as set out in his note outlining a Post-War-Forest Policy for India, have been circulated to the Provinces with a general endorsement by the Policy Committee for Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries. Copies of the Inspector General's note are available in the Library of the House. The Policy Committee referred to is composed of officials and non-officials.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the difficulties experienced in many places in the matter of firewood even for burning dead bodies, will Government make some arrangement that firewood should not be used for factories where it is not expressly necessary, and except with a license.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I must ask the Honourable Member to put that question to the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to the answer to part (e), is it the Honourable Member's own opinion or has he got it from experts that the cutting of trees do not affect rainfall?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I said that such fellings as have taken place in Government forests can have no effect on rainfall. That is what we have been advised.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Has the Honourable Member any information as to the extent of cutting of trees in the Annamalai ranges in southern India?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I think the Inspector-General of Forests has information about the cutting of trees in Government forests in southern India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, my question was not about the cutting of trees in Government forests, but the cutting of trees generally and all over the country, and whether Government will make any inquiry as to the effect of this on rainfall and climate?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I will confess that we are disturbed about the cutting of

HOURS OF WORK, WAGES, ETC., OF LABOUR IN WAR SUPPLIES FACTORIES

1936. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the number of hours for which the labour in factories producing War supplies and in the mines, has to work at a stretch, and what wages they are paid for their labour?

(b) Do the same labour work in shifts in the same factories and mines?

(c) What is the rate of overtime wages for labour in factories and mines?

(d) What is charged for rations supplied to labour in factories and mines, and what is the quantity allotted to each labourer in mills, factories, and mines? Is there any officer appointed by Government to watch the Distribution of ration to labourers in factories, mills and mines?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Hours of work in Factories are regulated by sections 34, 36—38 of the Factories Act, 1934 and those in Mines by sections 22B and 22C of the Indian Mines Act, 1923. In the case of factories producing war supplies exemption has been granted by Provincial Governments in several cases from all or some of the provisions. Instructions have been issued that except for short periods and in emergent conditions, the hours of work should not exceed 60 a week. Ordinarily no exemption is granted from the statutory requirements as to intervals of rest. It is regretted that more precise information is not available.

Wage rates vary considerably in different classes of factories and mines and in different units in any particular class. I regret detailed information regarding wages or general averages of wages are not available.

(b) The question is not understood.

(c) Section 47 of the Factories Act, 1934, prescribes the rates of overtime wages in factories. No exemption has generally been allowed from the provisions of this section. No overtime work is permissible in mines except in the case of an emergency involving serious risk to the safety of the mine or the persons employed therein.

(d) There is no uniformity in regard to prices charged for rations supplied to labour in factories and mills. But it is known that several employers do supply foodgrains, etc., at less than controlled rates and a large number at controlled rates.

In 'rationed' areas, workers receive the same scale of rationed articles as the general public. 'Heavy workers' are eligible for extra-rations. In addition, industrial canteens supplying cooked food now receive supplies outside the ration.

The basic standard weekly rations at controlled rates for coal-mine worker in Bihar consists of 4 seers each for the worker and adult dependant and 2 seers for a child and dal at one-fourth basic ration at a concession rate of 6 seers per rupee. In addition $\frac{1}{4}$ seer of rice or other foodgrain is given free for each attendance at mines. Some of the collieries in Bengal have adopted the same scale with slight variations while others allow a flat rate of 6 seers per week per worker at reduced prices. In some collieries in the C. P. and Berar ration at concession rates is allowed on the scale of 6 seers a week per adult worker, $3\frac{1}{2}$ seers for each woman dependant and $1\frac{1}{2}$ for each child.

No special officers of Government apart from the usual Food Rationing Organisations have been appointed to look after distribution of ration to workers. In respect of coal mines, however, six Ration Inspectors have been appointed, three for Bihar under the Bihar Government and three for Bengal attached to the Department of Mines.

FIXATION OF MINIMUM LIVING WAGES OF LABOUR

1937. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Has the Honourable the Labour Member fixed the minimum living wages of labour in factories, mills and mines in accordance with the price of essential foodstuffs and clothing required by the labouring classes?

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

(b) Is there any arrangement for the education of children of the labourers in the factories, mills and mines? Is there any educational arrangement for adult labourers?

(c) Is there any provision for holidays with pay in factories, mills and mines? What arrangements are there for medical treatment?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) There is no legislation for fixing minimum wages for employees in factories including mills, or in mines.

(b) Educational facilities outside factories or mines whether for children of workers or for adult workers are provided by provincial authorities.

The owners of some undertakings have made provisions themselves for both purposes but no detailed information in this regard is available with me. The Honourable Member is no doubt aware that there is no legal obligation in this respect on the owners of industrial undertakings.

(c) There is no legal provision requiring holidays with pay to be given. As regards non-seasonal factories there is a Bill on this subject before this House which it has referred to a Select Committee.

Apart from legal provisions many concerns give to their employees holidays with pay to varying extent.

As regards medical treatment the only statutory provisions within factories and mines relate to the provision of first aid. Some concerns run dispensaries and hospitals but apart from these the employees have to depend on the medical facilities provided by the Provincial Governments.

WOMEN LABOUR IN MINES

†938. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the number of women labour in the mines and if there is child labour in mines, i.e., minors in the mines. If so, what ages?

(b) What maternity benefits are given to women in factories, mills and mines? How long does the Honourable Member contemplate to continue women labour in mines?

(c) What is the function of the Labour Welfare Officers in the factories, mills and mines? What are their qualifications?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) In 1943 the number of women labour in mines was 72,408 (this figure includes those working above and underground). Figures for 1944 are not available. In accordance with the Indian Mines Act, no children are employed in mines.

(b) A comparative statement showing some of the important provisions of Legislation regarding maternity benefit at present in force (or in contemplation) is laid on the table of the House. Recent information from Bombay and Madras indicates that some of the mills in those provinces have increased the maternity benefit from the statutory rate of annas eight to annas twelve per day.

With regard to the second part of the question, there is no intention to withdraw women completely from work in mines.

(c) The functions of the Labour Welfare officers generally are:

(i) to establish close contact between the employers and the workmen in all aspects of labour relations and conditions of work;

(ii) to promote proper understanding, closer co-operation and mutual appreciation of difficulties, between the employers and the workmen;

(iii) to make constructive suggestions for workmen's welfare, and to co-ordinate and supervise all welfare activities of the undertakings;

(iv) to acquaint themselves with the grievances of the workers, and to secure redress of such grievances and generally to attempt to remove causes of friction.

As regards qualifications while academic qualifications are given due importance, the essential qualification is that the candidates should have experience of social work, preference being given to those who have successfully undergone

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

a recognised training course like that of the Calcutta University or the Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work, Bombay.

Comparative Statement showing some of the important provisions of legislation regarding maternity benefit at present in force (or in contemplation) in the provinces and the mines

Province	Year in which passed	Qualifying period (months)	Maximum period for maternity benefits (Weeks)	Rate of maternity benefits	Penalty for contravention of Act by employer
Bombay	1929	9	8	8 annas a day or average daily wages, whichever is less. But in the cities of Bombay and Ahmedabad 8 annas a day.	Rs. 500
C. P. and Berar	1930	9	8	8 annas a day or average daily wages, whichever is less.	500
Madras	1934	240 days (8 months) within a period of one year.	7	8 annas a day.	250
U. P.	1938	6	8	8 annas a day or average daily wages whichever is greater.	500 for first offence and 1,000 for the second and any subsequent offence.
Bengal	1939	9	8	Ditto.	500
Punjab	1943	9	60 days	12 annas a day	500
Assam	1944	150 days	8	1. In planations Re. 1 per week for the period before confinement and Rs. 1/4/- per week for the period after confinement, provided the total cash payment is Rs. 14. 2. In other employments Rs. 2 per week or average weekly wage or salary whichever is greater, 8 annas a day	500
Mines (under the Indian Mines Maternity Benefit Act.)	1941	6	8	8 annas a day	500

TRAINING INDIANS IN LABOUR WELFARE IN UNITED KINGDOM

†939. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is a fact that the Labour Department is going to send a considerable number of men for training in labour welfare to the U. K.? If so, why Government cannot train these people in India? What would be the cost of their training scheme? What would be the minimum qualification required of such trainees?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) It is proposed to send in the first instance, three batches of 20 officers each, of whom about 12 will be officers of the Central Government and 8 of Provincial Governments and States. Financial sanction has been accorded to the sending of 12 Central Government officers with the first batch of trainees.

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

In the initial stages the training and experience necessary for labour administration in the immediate post-war period cannot be acquired in India except by a lengthy process of trial and error. It is, therefore, necessary to take advantage of the experience and practice of other more highly industrialised countries like the United Kingdom.

The cost to the Central Government is estimated at Rupees one lakh for the nominees in the first batch. The Provincial Governments and States will bear the charges in respect of their nominees.

The minimum qualifications are that the officers should be under Government employment or designated to fill posts under Government and should have experience of welfare work or administration of labour legislation. Officers having high educational qualifications will be given preference.

SENDING OUT STUDENTS ABROAD FOR TRAINING

940. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state with reference to the press communiqué, issued by him on the 27th January, 1945, in the matter of sending students abroad for training, when the first batch is proposed to be sent?

(b) Of the 500 proposed to be sent, expenses of how many will be met by the Central Government, and how many by the Provinces and Centre jointly?

(c) Will it be obligatory on the trainees to give an undertaking to enter Government service after the training?

(d) How is the selection going to be made?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) It is hoped to send the first batch of students abroad in the early autumn of the current year.

(b) So far as students sent abroad in 1945-46 for technical courses are concerned, the Central Government will meet the entire cost in respect of those students who are sent with a view to meeting the requirements of the Centrally Administered Areas or of the Departments of the Central Government. They will meet half the cost in respect of those students who are sent on behalf of a Provincial Government. The number of students to be sent under these different categories will be decided after the requirements of all the Provincial Governments and Departments of the Central Government have been ascertained.

(c) Yes.

(d) The selection will be made by a special Selection Board which will be appointed by the Government of India for this purpose. This Board will if necessary also consider the recommendations received from Provincial Governments.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to part (a) when do Government expect to publish advertisements and invite applications?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We have already put out a press note and there will shortly be issued a brochure, giving full information, which will be obtainable probably for a few annas. It will contain detailed information of what a candidate should know before applying. That will be issued very shortly.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will they put in advertisements in the newspapers so that intending candidates may apply?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We have already put out a press note; I will consider what the Honourable Member suggests.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: May I know what Government will do about people who are now working in the Government munition factories?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: There is nothing to prevent them from applying, with the permission of their employer.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: I asked about people in the Government munition factories.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I shall require notice of that rather particular question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does this number five hundred represent the first batch?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, in the first year.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Is the Honourable Member aware that the Delhi Polytechnic has sent up certain names for selection for this training abroad? If so, is the Honourable Member in a position to state how many Muslims have been recommended by it?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am not aware that the Delhi Polytechnic has made any selection of its own. This suggestion was made to me the other day—about six days ago—and I ascertained that the Delhi Polytechnic has forwarded no names at all. It is not for the Delhi Polytechnic to make any selection of its own. The Principal is bound to forward any application that any student there may wish to submit.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Will the Honourable Member take it from me that the Delhi Polytechnic has already forwarded four names and has superseded one-third-year Muslim student in favour of a second-year non-Muslim student?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: If my Honourable friend knows that to be a fact I can only say that the Polytechnic has no power to make any selection; and I will certainly see that any student there who wishes to have his application considered has it considered.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Who form the committee to make the selection?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The selection board has not yet been set up.

SCHOLARSHIPS TO SCHEDULED CLASS STUDENTS FOR TRAINING IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

941. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands, please state:

(a) in view of their press note on giving of scholarships to Indian students in foreign universities, whether Government are aware that the number of boys from scheduled castes who have got degrees in Indian universities is very small; and

(b) whether he proposes to consider the advisability of taking school final passed candidates from the scheduled classes and sending them for training to foreign countries for technical studies?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes.

(b) While every effort will be made to see that adequate representation is given to the Scheduled classes and other minority communities provided suitable candidates are forthcoming from those communities, it will defeat the object in view if students who have passed only the High School Examination are selected.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the efforts that they are making to get people from the Scheduled Classes?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: If they do not apply, of course, we shall not be able to do anything for them. But if they do apply we shall certainly ask the selection committee to scrutinise very sympathetically the applications of those who come from the minority communities.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But are Government aware that if equal qualifications are expected from scheduled caste candidates as from others, it may not be possible for them to have any chance at all?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not know whether my Honourable friend was in the House yesterday when Mr. Pire Lall Kureel undertook to produce twenty scheduled caste candidates in as many minutes.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Apart from that undertaking, may I know if lower qualifications will be prescribed for Scheduled Caste candidates so that they may apply and go out for training?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: They will have to possess the minimum qualifications prescribed because otherwise we have very little hope of getting them into institutions abroad, who have made it quite clear that they would prefer graduates.

LACK OF YARN SUPPLY TO HANDLOOM WEAVERS-

942. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

- whether Government are aware that there is a complaint from handloom weavers that they are not able to get supply of yarn for handloom weaving;
- what steps have been taken to alleviate their grievances; and
- whether Government propose to encourage the formation of co-operative societies by handloom weavers and recognise them when formed as agencies of yarn distribution?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes.

(b) The new Distribution Scheme under which each Province will get a separate quota of yarn should make very much more difficult the hoarding and black-marketing by dealers which have been largely responsible for the handloom weaver's distress as despatches from the Mill to the Provincial wholesaler will be under the Textile Commissioner's control and further distribution will be under the detailed control of the Provincial Government. Government is also trying to obtain 5 million lbs. of yarn from the U. S. A.

(c) Once yarn reaches a Province from the Mill the control of its further distribution will be a Provincial Government responsibility under the new scheme. Most of the Provinces, however, have shown themselves very eager to make use of Co-operative Societies where possible.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that already there is so much unemployment among weavers, will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of not importing cotton cloth but only of importing larger quantities of cotton yarn so that they may be provided with employment?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I wish Prof. Ranga had said that yesterday and the day before.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: But can we not say that today?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not merely administering the question of providing more yarn but I have to look to the needs of the people who are said to be dying or committing suicide in the absence of cloth; and I feel that for me to say that I will not import foreign cloth, if I can get cloth for these people, will be entirely nullifying the position I am taking, which is that we should supply the needs of the people-at large.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will it not be possible for the Honourable Member to set aside this imported cloth for military purposes so that all the yarn that is produced in this country, or as much of it as is possible, may be diverted for the use of the unemployed weavers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is being looked into.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to part (c), will the Government send a recommendation that co-operative societies may be encouraged, in view of the fact that we have got some experience in which co-operative societies are not encouraged in certain places?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As a matter of fact at the very inception of the Textile Control scheme we made it quite clear that it is open to provinces to encourage the co-operative societies as much as possible, and we thought that even now if something could be done it would probably better the state of affairs, and I am quite prepared again to bring it to the notice of the Provincial Governments.

APPOINTMENT OF FIELD DIRECTOR AT TAXILA

943. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state whether any appointment to the post of a Field Director in connection with excavations at Taxila has been made? If so, who is the person so appointed?

- What are his qualifications?
- What are the terms of this appointment?
- Was the appointment made through the Federal Public Service Commission? If not, why not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) to (c). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to part (b) of starred question No. 550 on the 28th February, 1945. The pay given to the officer was Rs. 1,200 per mensem.

(d) No. A reference to the Federal Public Service Commission was not necessary under the rules.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it Mr. Casey's brother who is referred to in this question?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Did he have any previous experience in excavation?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, Sir. He had.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What kind of excavation he could have possibly done in Australia?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: He has excavation experience, Sir.

HIGHER APPOINTMENTS MADE IN ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

944. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state the number of appointments made in the Archæological Department in the higher services not below the rank of Assistant Archæological Superintendent, since the present Director General took over charge?

(b) How many of these posts went to Muslims, Hindus and Non-Indians, separately?

(c) Is it a fact that non-Indians get preferential treatment over their other colleagues in the matter of pay and prospects?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). Only one permanent higher appointment has been made in the Archæological Department since the present Director General took charge, namely, the promotion of the senior Assistant Superintendent (a Hindu) to the grade of Superintendent.

(c) No.

UPKEEP OF DELHI MONUMENTS

945. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state if the majority of the monuments at Delhi consisting of mosques, forts and palaces, etc., were built by Muslims?

(b) If so, what arrangement has been made to look after the upkeep of these monuments?

(c) Is there any Muslim Officer also? If not, why not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A special circle was created some years ago to look after these monuments. At present, this circle is in the charge of a European member of the staff who has had a special experience of Muslim monuments and is thoroughly cognizant of their problems.

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

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Why no Muslim is appointed?

(No answer was given.)

ARCHÆOLOGICAL ADVISORY BOARD

946. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state:

(a) the composition of the Archæological Advisory Board lately formed by Government;

(b) whether the Circle Superintendents of the Archæological Department along with the Epigraphist were included in the Board referred to in part (a) above;

(c) if it is a fact that the Muslim Archæological Chemist and the Muslim Archæological Engineer holding responsible positions were excluded from the Board referred to above; and

(d) if it is also a fact that the Deputy Director General who was formerly an Epigraphist was the Secretary of the Board?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House showing the composition of the Advisory Board of Archaeology.

(b) to (d). Yes.

Statement showing the composition of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology.

(a) *Chairman.*—The Honourable Member-in-Charge of Education, Health and Lands Department.

(b) The Director General of Archaeology.

(c) 6 Archaeological Superintendents.

(d) The Government Epigraphist for India.

(e) Six members representing universities of India nominated by the Inter University Board, namely:—

(i) Mr. T. Singaravelu Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor, University of Mysore.

(ii) Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee, Calcutta.

(iii) Professor Sidhanta, University of Lucknow.

(iv) Dr. K. R. Qanungo, Dacca.

(v) Professor Haroon Khan Sherwani, Hyderabad.

(vi) Rev. Ross Wilson, Professor of History, Punjab University.

(f) One member nominated by each of the following societies:—

(i) The Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal—Hon'ble Mr. Justice Edgley.

(ii) Indian Science Congress—Mr. D. N. Wadia.

(iii) All India Oriental Conference—Dr. R. C. Mozumdar.

(iv) Indian History Congress—Dr. Tara Chand.

(v) Indian Historical Records Commission—Dr. S. N. Sen.

(g) One member elected by the Council of State—Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahta.

(h) Two members elected by the Legislative Assembly—Dr. P. N. Banerjee, Sir Mohd. Yamin Khan.

(i) Four members from Indian States nominated by the Government of India—Sir Mirza Ismail—Jaipur State.

Mr. Puduval—Travancore State.

Col. Dr. Pagnar—Baroda State.

Sir S. P. Rajagopalachari—Gwalior State.

(j) 8 members nominated by the Government of India:—

(1) Secretary to the Government of India, Deptt. of E., H. and Lands.

(2) Educational Adviser.

(3) Sir Maurice Gwyer.

(4) Sir S. Radhakrishnan.

(5) Sir C. V. Raman.

(6) Sir Ziauddin Ahmed.

(7) Mr. Percy Brown.

(8) Sir Raza Ali.

(k) The Deputy Director General of Archaeology—Secretary.

EXTENSIONS TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

947. ***Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state if it is a fact that the post of the Deputy Director General of Archaeology is a tenure one?

(b) How many extensions were granted to the present incumbent of the post and by which authority?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes.

(b) His tenure has been extended by the Government of India on three occasions.

VISIT TO INDIA OF THE RUSSIAN HEALTH EXPERT

948. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if Prof. B. Ognev, the Russian Health Expert, was invited by the Government of India? If so, when did he arrive in India? Was his programme of visiting towns and hospitals and interviewing or allowing interviews to private individuals—doctors and others—subject to the approval of or under the supervision of the Government of India? Who paid the expenses of his visit to India?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: At the request of the Health Survey and Development Committee an invitation was issued for a medical expert from Russia to visit India to assist the Committee. The Russian authorities deputed Professor B. Ognev. He arrived on the 31st December, 1944. His touring in India was arranged by the Committee and was not subject to the approval of or under the supervision of the Government of India. The expenses in connection with his visit to India will be met by the Government of India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does this gentleman know English?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Very little, I understand.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who helps him to understand English?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We had to supply an interpreter, I would point out that we did not choose Professor Ognev.

VISITS TO INDIA OF FOREIGN HEALTH EXPERTS

949. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if Health Experts from countries other than Russia visited India? If so, when? Were any expenses incurred by Government in connection with their visits? If so, how much? Have they left India?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Medical experts from the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Australia visited India in addition to the expert from Russia. They arrived in this country in November last and left India in December. The cost to Government in connection with their visits is about Rs. 80,000.

Sardar Sant Singh: Has any report been sent by these experts to the Government of India on Indian conditions?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No report has been submitted and no report is expected. We did not ask them to report on Indian conditions, but at the request of the Bhore Committee we asked them to come out to tell the Bhore Committee about the conditions in the countries from which they were drawn.

Sardar Sant Singh: What were the benefits which the Government of India expected from their visit to India?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We brought them out at the invitation of the Bhore Committee and the Bhore Committee, I understand, feel that they derived considerable help from their visit.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know why the Russian expert could not be present at the time when other experts were present and were having deliberations with the Bhore Committee?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I cannot say why. He just turned up much later.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Was it due to any fault on the part of the Government of India?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No, Sir. Invitations were issued to all the countries simultaneously. It would in fact have suited us far better if he had come along with the other experts because it so happened that one of the delegates from America spoke Russian.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Which Committee did you say invited them?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Health Survey and Development Committee.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if they gave evidence before any committee in India?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes. They gave evidence before the Committee at whose instance they were invited.

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

HEALTH SURVEY COMMITTEE

950. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if the Health Survey Committee has completed its work? If not, when does it expect to do so?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The reply to the first part is in the negative. As regards the second part it is expected that the Committee will submit its report by the end of April, 1945.

SCARCITY OF MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

951. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) if he is aware of the importance of protective foods such as milk and milk products;

(b) if he is aware of the great scarcity of milk and milk products felt at present; if so, what measures, if any, have been taken by Government to increase production of milk and its products in the last twelve months; and

(c) if any milk products, such as ghee, are exported to countries outside India; if so, which are those countries?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to part (c) of Starred Question No. 846 by Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar on the 8th March 1945.

(c) No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the large destruction of milch cattle for the consumption of the defence forces has affected the total supply of milk in this country?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I answered that question on the 8th of March.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What was your answer?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I suppose the Honourable Member was present in the House when I replied to that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: If the Honourable Member does not carry it in his head, will he be good enough to read it out?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: But it will take me time to look it up.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that constant allegations have been made on the subject of milch cattle, have the Government of India made any enquiries in the matter in order to ascertain that milch cattle is not being slaughtered?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Enquiries are being made constantly.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What enquiries have they made and what is the result of those enquiries?

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

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, he has not answered my question.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know from the Honourable Member whether milk products are exported to other countries?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have answered that in part (c) by saying: 'No, Sir'.

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

LICENSED SALT DEALERS IN BIHAR

952. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the total number of licensed salt dealers in Bihar and the number of Muslim licensees as promised in his reply to the Starred question No. 710, put by me on the 30th March, 1944, as it stood then, and also as it stands at present; and

(b) whether he has given any relief to Muslims in Bihar in the grant of salt licenses particularly in the districts of North Bihar, if so, to what extent in the districts of Tirhut Division say: Saron, Champaran, Muzaffarpore and Darbhanga?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). Information has been called for from the Bihar Government and their reply is still awaited.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Honourable Member has received any complaints from any part of Bihar that the salt supply is not satisfactory?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have not received any complaint.

REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF BARKAT MIAN WHOLESALE SUGAR DEALER IN MUZAFFARPORE

953. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Food Member please refer to his promises made on the 31st March, 1944, during the debate on the Adjournment Motion—page 1846—to enquire into the representations made on behalf of Barkat Mian, an old wholesale sugar dealer in the district of Muzaffarpore and state:

(a) the result of his enquiry on the receipt of various representations from me;

(b) whether it is a fact that one more wholesale sugar dealer is going to be added in the Hajipur sub-division of the district of Muzaffarpore;

(c) the number of Marwari wholesale dealers in sugar and salt in the district of Muzaffarpore; and

(d) the reasons for the grant of wholesale licenses to Marwaris from Ajmer-Merwara and not to the Biharis for the wholesale dealing in salt, sugar and other commodities in Bihar?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) I represented the matter to the Bihar Government and they have replied that Maulvi Abdul Barkat was on the list of approved importers of sugar from sugar factories for the district of Muzaffarpur from July to October, 1943. Subsequently, under the instructions of the Bihar Government the list of approved importers was curtailed by the District Officers and Maulvi Abdul Barkat was not included in the revised list as he was not deemed to satisfy the conditions prescribed by the Provincial Government. It was also recorded that he does not carry on business in Hajipur itself but in the interior of the sub-division. So far as retail distribution is concerned, Maulvi Abdul Barkat is still one of the approved retail distributors for the Lalgunj area. His monthly quota is the highest retail quota for the sub-division.

(b) Yes.

(c) Three for sugar. Information regarding the number of wholesale dealers in salt is still awaited from the Bihar Government.

(d) The Bihar Government state that where licences have been granted to Marwari firms they have been selected on the ground that they are well established in the trade in Bihar and financially sound.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know whether the Honourable Member intends to ask the Bihar Government to give the new license to Abdul Barkat?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I did not catch him.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member ask the Bihar Government to look into the claim of Abdul Barkat as one new license dealer's vacancy has been created.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already drawn the attention of the Bihar Government to the claims of Barkat Mian.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: But here the post of a dealer has been created in the sub-division in which Barkat Mian lives.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It would be wrong of me to recommend a particular candidate for a specific vacancy.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is there any special qualification for a person wanting such a license?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The qualifications are that he should be able to distribute sugar and must be solvent and must have a good financial standing.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is it a fact that only those people who are loyal to Government will get preference for this license?

(No answer.)

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

STOPPING THE ISSUE OF KEROSENE TIN PERMITS TO DISTINGUISHED PERSONS IN BIHAR

954. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) whether the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies have issued orders to the Government of Bihar to stop the issue of permits for one or more tins of kerosene oil for personal use to distinguished persons; and

(b) in case the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, what instructions have been issued to the Bihar Government to mitigate the sufferings and inconveniences caused to numerous families, whose male members are out to serve in war or to attend to other Government business?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

LICENCES OF KEROSENE LICENCEES OF NOWADA SUB-DIVISION CONVICTED UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES

955. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state whether it is a fact that several wholesale licencees of kerosene oil of the Nowada Sub-Division, say: Warisaliganj in the district of Gaya in Bihar, have been convicted under the Defence of India Rules and are still holding their licences?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Government of India have no information. The internal distribution arrangements are the concern of the Provincial Government.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the allegation made in the question, will the Government call for information?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is impossible to treat isolated cases. We are keeping in touch with the nature of convictions. But all over India in the different provinces there are convictions under various Acts.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Government will enquire whether it is a case of mal-practice in trade on account of the monopoly held?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My friend has added a sentence which is not in the question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The allegation is that the Defence of India Rules have been applied due to the malpractice in trade owing to the monopoly of the license held from Government.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not know under what circumstances he has been convicted. As I say, the matter is entirely for the Provincial Government.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will you enquire?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I will do it.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: When corruption is brought to the notice of the Honourable Member does he not think that he should send for information and give it to the House.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Certainly every case of corruption in a matter which lies within the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government can not be always looked into by the Central Government. If that were done, you would have to add another storey to the Secretariat!

(At this stage Mr. Lalchand Navalrai made several attempts to speak.)

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

†956. *

INSPECTORS OF CIVIL SUPPLIES

957. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

†This question has been postponed to be answered on the 16th March, 1945.

(a) whether the system of appointing persons directly as Inspectors of Civil Supplies still continues;

(b) if so, the number of old retired persons appointed directly as Inspectors during 1944;

(c) the number of qualified Graduate Assistant Inspectors promoted to the rank of Inspector in the Province of Bengal, Bihar and United Provinces;

(d) the average number of cases detected by the Assistant Inspectors and Inspectors, separately, in the Province of Bihar; and

(e) the number of Assistant Inspectors and Inspectors entrusted with works of distribution in the Province of Bihar and Bengal?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is presumed that the Honourable Member requires information concerning Inspectors appointed by the Central Government.

(a) Yes, but some appointments are made by promotion also.

(b) Nine.

(c) Bengal—two, Bihar—nil, United Provinces—one.

(d) Total number of cases detected so far are: 41 by the Assistant Inspector, 56 by each of the two Inspectors.

(e) Two Inspectors and two Assistant Inspectors in the Headquarters Office at Calcutta but there are no Inspectors or Assistant Inspectors exclusively for distribution in Bihar.

QUOTA PER DAY PER ADULT OF FOODSTUFFS IN CERTAIN CITIES

958. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state the quota per day per adult of foodstuffs given under statutory rationing in the following places (in ounces) in January, 1945:

(i) Delhi, (ii) Cawnpore, (iii) Bombay, (iv) Madras, (v) Calicut, (vi) Calcutta; (vii) Mangalore, (viii) Poona, (ix) Dharwar, and (x) Bangalore?

(b) Is it the policy of the Government of India to maintain different standards at different places? If not, what steps are taken to standardise the quota and by which time it is going to be achieved?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the resolutions on rationing passed at the Fifth All-India Food Conference, which is attached to the memorandum on the food situation already placed on the table of the House.

Statement showing the Daily Quota per adult under Rationing in the different towns in January 1945.

Name of Town	Size of ration per adult per day for foodgrains	Remarks
Delhi	18 ozs.	No provision for supplementary ration.
Cawnpore	16 "	
Bombay City	14.9 "	
Poona	14.3 "	
Dharwar	17.1 "	
Calcutta	18.3 "	No provision for supplementary ration.
Madras	16.96 "	
Calicut	12 "	
Mangalore	15.84 "	
BongalorcCity.	(1) 11.84 "	(1) Non-labouring class.
	(2) 14.24 "	(2) Labouring class.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to (a) in how many provinces is a quota of more than one pound per individual per day given?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I refer the Honourable Member to the statement.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: It is a very simple question. In how many provinces is a quota of more than one pound a day per individual given?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The statement is before the Honourable Member.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: It is not before the Honourable Member!

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It is before the House. I shall require time as I will have to analyse the statement.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I do not hear him.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Looking through the statement there are only three provinces.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is he so heavy that he cannot stand up?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Order, order.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes, yes. The Honourable Member should order him.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the three provinces in which the ration of more than a pound a day per individual is allotted?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not prepared to answer that.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He is not in a position to answer.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: But he has laid a statement on the table.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If he has laid a statement on the table, the Honourable Member can look it up himself. Next question.

INDIAN EVACUEES FROM BURMA AND MALAYA

959. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state the present approximate number in India of Indian evacuees from Burma and Malaya?

(b) What was the approximate total number of Indians in Burma and Malaya before December, 1941, and the approximate value of Indian investments in the two countries?

(c) Have Government taken any steps to ensure that such Indian evacuees from Burma and Malaya as wish to return to those countries are enabled to do so as soon after the re-occupation as the military situation permits?

(d) If no such steps have so far been taken, do Government propose to see (i) that proper shipping facilities are made available for the purpose, (ii) that where any evacuees are unable to pay their passages, they are given financial assistance, and (iii) that they get back to Burma and Malaya not later than civilians belonging to other nationalities?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) About 400,000 from Burma and about 5,000 from Malaya.

(b) About one million in Burma and about eight lakhs in Malaya. Government have no information about Indian investments.

(c) and (d). All these matters are receiving full consideration.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIA'S REPRESENTATIVE FOR MALAYA

960. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state if Government have considered the advisability of appointing a representative charged with the duty of protecting the interests of Indians in Malaya as has been done in the case of Burma? If so, is it the intention of Government to appoint such a representative as early as possible so that he may immediately commence the study of the problems of Indians in Malaya and be in a position to protect their interests on the re-occupation of the country?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: The matter is engaging the attention of the Government of India.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: When any decision is taken, will the Government bear in mind the desirability of appointing some one who is acquainted with the conditions in Malaya and not appoint some one merely for political reasons.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: That will be kept in view.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When Government consider the advisability of appointing this Agent, will they keep in mind that the Governments of Burma and Malaya should guarantee minimum wages and minimum social conveniences for our workers before they are sent to those places?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I will bear that in mind.

INDIANS LIBERATED ON ADVANCE OF ALLIED ARMIES INTO BURMA

961. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please give the number of Indians, if any, who have been liberated as a result of the advance of the Allied armies into Burma? If there are any such, how many of them have been taken into custody, and for what offence?

(b) Have Government any representative attached to the Civil Affairs services operating in liberated Burma who could keep the Government informed of the treatment meted by the military authorities to the Indian population in Burma and see that the people who have already suffered enough under the Japanese rule, are properly fed and clothed? If the answer be in the negative, is the question of appointing such a representative receiving the consideration of Government?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) The information is not available.

(b) The matter is receiving attention.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: What does the Honourable Member mean by saying that the matter referred to in (b) is receiving attention? Is the Honourable member in touch with the authorities of the South East Asia Command in this matter?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: We are taking action for keeping in touch with the South East Asia Command. We have no reasons to believe that the Military authorities who are at present in Burma will not protect the Indians there.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of his taking a trip to liberated Burma and seeing the condition of Indians there for himself?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: We will consider that.

PRICES OF RICE, WHEAT AND BAJRA IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS

962. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state the purchasing and selling prices of (i) rice, (ii) wheat and (iii) bajra in the following districts in the month of January 1945:

Malabar, South Kanara, Bellary, Nilgiris, Belgaum, Dharwar, Bijapur, North Kanara, and Coorg?

(b) What is the reason for large difference in the districts of Dharwar and Bijapur between the purchasing prices of these commodities and the retail selling prices?

(c) What steps are taken for proper storage of food grains in the above districts?

(d) How many of these areas have food councils, and are they meeting? If so, how many times a month?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: An enquiry has been made from the Provincial Governments and the information will be laid on the table of the House when received.

COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF KEROSENE OIL TINS BY COLLECTOR OF NORTH KANARA

963. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state whether he has received representation from the district of North Kanara with regard to the compulsory acquisition of kerosene oil tins by the Collector of North Kanara?

(b) Is it a fact that the price fixed is annas ten while it is being sold in the market at Rs. 3?

(c) What are the reasons for acquiring the tins?

(d) Under what provisions of the law are these tins being acquired?

(e) Are the orders issued to benefit the agents of kerosene oil or for the benefit of the consumers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No.

(b) to (e). The points raised wholly concern the Provincial Government and the Central Government have no information in the matter.

FACTORY INSPECTORS AND LABOUR WELFARE OFFICERS IN DELHI PROVINCE

964. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the number of Factory Inspectors and Labour Welfare Officers in the Delhi Province, and if they include women;

(b) whether these officers have reported on the urgency for providing proper residential quarters for workers in factories; and, if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take in the matter; and

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the negative, whether Government propose to call for an immediate report on the subject?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) There are two full-time Factory Inspectors and two Additional Factory Inspectors. The latter are part-time. There is no Labour Welfare Officer in the Province. The Superintendent of the Child Welfare and Maternity Centre Delhi Municipality, exercises the powers of an inspector under the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act 1929 as extended to Delhi.

(b) No, the latter part does not arise.

(c) Government will take up for consideration in due course the general question of housing of industrial labour. It is not therefore proposed to call for a special report in respect of Delhi Province only.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I know, Sir, if Government will consider the proposal to appoint a whole-time Woman Welfare Officer?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, I will consider that.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What is the meaning of "due time" regarding housing?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not think it is a very unusual expression which requires explanation.

CONTRACT SYSTEM FOR ENGAGEMENT OF LABOUR IN DELHI FACTORIES

965. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state: if labour is still engaged in factories in Delhi by contract system; and, if so, (i) the names of the factories who have that system; (ii) the number of workers, men and women, employed under that system, by each of those factories; (iii) the average daily wage of the workers and the rate of dearness allowance; and (iv) if the workers receive the benefits under the Factories and Maternity Benefits Acts?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, in the case of some factories. A list of such factories is laid on the table. No information is available as regards the number of workers employed through contractors but the number of such persons is small and is limited to coal handling and loading. Information in regard to the average daily wage and the rate of dearness allowance is not readily available, but dearness allowance varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 32 per month and in factories where no dearness allowance is paid the basic wages have been increased. All factory workers receive benefits under the Factories and the Bombay Maternity Benefit Acts.

List of Factories in Delhi in which part of the labour force is employed through Contractors referred to in Question No. 965, dated the 13th March, 1945.

1. Birla Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd.
2. Mahabir Cotton Spinning, Weaving and Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

3. Delhi Cloth and General Mills Co. Ltd.

4. Latifi Printing Press.

5. Gwalior Potteries Ltd.

6. Ishwar Potteries Ltd.

7. Delhi Flour Mills Co. Ltd.

8. Delhi Central Electric Power Authority Ltd.

9. Tin Printing and Metal Works Ltd.

10. Ganesh Flour Mills (Vegetable Products Factory).

11. Aggarwal Hosiery Mills.

12. Ordnance Clothing Factory.

13. Malik and Qureshi.

14. H. S. Sidhu, 26, Daryaganj, Delhi.

15. Girdhari Lal Gauri Shanker Textile Factory.

16. Messrs. Pearey Lal and Sons (Lahore) Ltd.

17. The Premier Textile Factory.

18. Phoenix Cotton Tape Factory.

19. Sharma Textile and General Manufacturing Co.

20. Messrs. Aggerlios and Co., 50 Garriston Bastion Road, Delhi.

21. Messrs. Aggerlios and Co., 11-B, Faiz Bazar, Daryaganj, Delhi.

22. British Niwar Factory.

23. Yadev Niwar Factory.

24. Delhi Press.

25. Saksaria Printing Works.

26. British Motor Car, O. B. F. Co., Section.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Since Delhi is so near New Delhi will Government assure me that they will secure this information as soon as possible?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, in due time.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the admitted evils of this contract system of recruiting labour, will Government take early steps to put an end to it?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: This is not a matter in which Government is concerned.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the Royal Commission on Labour recommended to the Government that they should take special steps to root it out?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: If my Honourable friend is referring to such labour as is employed through contractors in Government Departments, that matter will certainly be considered.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know whether Government consider welfare of labour recruited under contract system as not a matter of labour welfare?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My Honourable friend is quite entitled to draw any inference he likes.

YARN QUOTA TO DELHI THREADBALL FACTORIES

966. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) the total quantity of yarn allotted to Threadball Factories in Delhi in the years 1943 and 1944;

(b) the quantity of yarn required normally by these Factories to keep working without closing down for any period; and

(c) if the Factory-owners or Labour Unions have made any representations to Government about this matter; and if so, what measures Government propose to take in dealing with them?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Government have no information. Yarns for ballthreads are not officially allotted to the different centres. The only special arrangement for such yarns takes the form of movement priorities to those mills who have been specialising in such yarns. The movement priorities permit despatch of monthly allotments and distribution is based upon the actual distribution made by the mills during 1942 which year has been taken as the basis for arranging the movement priorities for sewing thread yarns.

(b) According to 1942 figures Delhi received 1,373,200 lbs. of yarn for sewing thread industry. No other estimates are available.

(c) In June 1944 the Soot Gola Union, Sadar Bazar, Delhi and in August 1944 the Threadball Manufacturers Association, Delhi approached the Textile Commissioner, Bombay and suitable action to facilitate movement of yarns was

taken. No other representation has been received by Government as such but it is understood that the threadball manufacturers have made representations to local officers. Action to ascertain the production and distribution of yarns for sewing was taken after August 1944. The arrangement now made and mentioned in my answer to (a) is expected to result in regular supplies of yarn for sewing reaching the various centres.

AVERAGE WAGE OF WOMEN IN DELHI FACTORIES

967. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the average wage of women employed in factories in Delhi; and whether they are paid at a daily or monthly rate;

(b) the dearness allowance paid to them;

(c) if there is any difference in the wages and dearness allowance paid to the men and women workers doing the same kind of work; and, if so, the reasons for the difference;

(d) whether the women engaged under contract system receive the same wages and dearness allowance as those directly recruited, and the reasons for the difference, if any;

(e) whether any of the factories provide facilities for Maternity and Child Welfare; and if so, in what manner;

(f) whether any of these factories provide creches and make other arrangements for the care of the children of their employees; and

(g) if the answers to (e) and (f) are in the negative, whether Government propose to take immediate steps to compel the owners of factories to make the necessary arrangements?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Data in respect of the average wage of women employed in factories in Delhi is not readily available. In some factories women are paid at monthly rates and in others at piece or daily rates.

(b) No detailed information is available but the dearness allowance paid to women workers ranges from Rs. 10 to Rs. 32.

(c) So far as is known, there is no difference in wages and dearness allowance paid to men and women doing the same kind of work.

(d) So far as is known women in factories are engaged direct and not through contractors.

(e) Two factories provide facilities for maternity and child welfare.

(f) Yes, two factories provide creches. In one factory free baths are provided daily to the children of employees and under-nourished children are supplied daily half a seer of milk free of cost. In the other factory free education is given to the children of employees in the school run by the factory and half a seer of milk each is given daily to all the children free of cost.

(g) Does not arise.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: May I know whether the Province of Delhi has no Labour Department of its own?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I must have notice of that question?

Mrs. Renuka Ray: May I ask whether it would surprise the Honourable the Labour Member to hear that there are 3,500 women in the thread ball factories who do not get any dearness allowance and that men and women are not paid equal wages and is he willing to inquire into this and if he finds it is so, will he take steps immediately to rectify their grievance?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am sure that nothing that comes from the Honourable lady will surprise me.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: With reference to his reply to part (a) that the information is not readily available, may I know whether he will make very special effort to make it available?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I will see what I can do.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I know, Sir if Factory Inspectors do not send periodical reports to the Government? How is it that Government say that they have not got the information?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It must be going to the Chief Commissioner of Delhi.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I wish to seek your guidance in regard to the reply given by the Honourable Member. It appears to me that it is a sort of aspersion cast upon a lady.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not think the Honourable Member meant to cast any such aspersion. However, you ought to leave it to the lady who put the question to take care of herself.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Mr. President, especially today the replies of the Government Benches have been in a tone that is unusual and we had occasion to know about it from the Food Member. And now, Sir, the reply of the Honourable Member to the lady is this. She asked whether he will enquire.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: No. Whether I would be surprised to know that.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: And would he be willing to look into the matter?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As regards the tone of the Honourable Member's reply to the question it is very difficult for me to judge for I am afraid so far as that is concerned it is not only one part of the House that is concerned.

(At this stage, several Honourable Members stood up and spoke simultaneously.)

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

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: On a point of order, Sir, regarding the statement that has been attributed to the lady Member of this House, Mrs. Ray. She asked a question and he says she did not ask that question. It may be verified from the short-hand reports.

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

PERMITS FOR IMPORT OF BRITISH MADE CARS

968. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Has the attention of the Honourable the Commerce Member been drawn to a statement in the *Hindustan Times* of the 24th February that the Government of India have issued permits for the import of 2,000 British-made cars for urban needs? If so, is the statement true?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: This question will be answered by my Honourable Colleague, the War Transport Member.

LACK OF YARN SUPPLY TO MYMENSINGH WEAVERS

969. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies been drawn to a news item from Mymensingh published in the *Hindustan Times* of the 24th February that 20,000 weavers in the Mymensingh District have been thrown out of employment for want of yarn? If so, is the statement true?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, what steps are being taken to remove the difficulties, and why were these difficulties allowed to happen?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that there is a great cloth famine in Bengal? If so, what steps are being taken to meet the situation?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The Government of India have no information about the position in Mymensingh District; as the function of the Textile Commissioner is confined to seeing that the proper quota of yarn reaches each Province. Internal distribution within the Province is the affair of the Provincial Government. It seems, however, unlikely that everyone of the 20,000 weavers in Mymensingh District is without work.

(b) As explained in the answer to (a), Government of India is responsible for seeing that the proper quota of yarn reaches Bengal. Quotas are fixed on the basis of the Fact Finding Committee's report of requirements. For counts up to 40s it is possible to give very nearly the total recommended by the Fact Finding Committee. For counts over 40s which pre-war were very very largely

imported, it is possible to give only about a third of the requirements. On this basis Bengal's quota is 7,100 bales of yarn per month and Bengal actually received a monthly average of 8,043 bales per month between September and December 1944, a considerably more than its quota.

(c) During the five months ending November 1944 cloth was made available to Bengal at a rate equivalent to 13.9 yards per head per annum against a quota of 10 yards per head. In those months there was made available in all 236,453 bales for Bengal, 54,768 bales from local mill production, estimated 44,596 bales from handloom and 137,089 bales from outside. Internal distribution is the responsibility of the Bengal Government. I am, however, aware that there is a shortage of cloth in the Bengal market despite the supplies made.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Does the Honourable Member realise that the figures he has quoted as representing textile supplies to Bengal represent not merely the requirements of Bengal, but also those of China and Tibet?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not know that China and Tibet are parts of Bengal.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: The point was referred to specifically by the Honourable Sir Vithal Chandavarkar yesterday, but we did not get any reply to that point.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I said, if any quantities go out like that, it is for the local Government to take necessary steps. As far as I am aware, they have taken steps in the last few months in order to see that anything supplied to Bengal does not go out except under a special permit.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Who is responsible for seeing that no smuggling takes place across the borders of India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as supplies to Provincial Governments are concerned, it is their responsibility to see not only that they are properly consumed within the provinces, but that nothing goes out.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Do I take it that the Central Government has no responsibility in this matter in any of its Departments?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as we are concerned, we are certainly watching the situation, and where we find circumstances justify it, we make inquiries or take necessary steps.

LACK OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SHOPS IN NEW DELHI

970. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Is the Honourable the Leader of the House aware of the difficulties which the Members of the Assembly residing in New Delhi are daily experiencing owing to the want of fruit and vegetable shops in New Delhi?

(b) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, does he propose to arrange for such shops to remove those difficulties?

(c) Is he aware of the fact that there are already some grain and fuel shops near the Western Court in New Delhi? If so, why are the Members of the Assembly given permits to purchase fuel from old Delhi?

(d) Is he aware of the fact that there are no doctors, Hakims or Vaidyas and medical stores in some central place in New Delhi? If so, will he consider the desirability of having all these arrangements in order to enable the Members of the Assembly residing in New Delhi to get medical aid readily in cases of emergency?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) There are fruit and vegetable shops in the Gole Market and Paharganj from which the residents of New Delhi normally draw their supplies. The difficulties, if any, which the Members of the Assembly are experiencing are common to most residents of the New Delhi area, including the members of the Executive Council.

(b) The New Delhi Municipal Committee considered the question of opening a vegetable shop near the Western Court but were unable to find a suitable site.

(c) Members of the Assembly were given special permits to enable them to obtain supplies regularly from the wholesale Depots direct. In the Western Court Area there is only one fuel shop which has already got about 5,000 cards registered with it and does not possess accommodation sufficient to undertake

any more registrations. The issue of permits on the wholesale Depots at the Ajmere Gate is intended to ensure that M.L.As. are able to secure sufficient split firewood at one time to last for at least a month, whereas they might find supplies from the ordinary fuel shops in smaller quantities, less reliable.

(d) No, Sir. There are a number of Government, Government aided and Municipal hospitals and dispensaries in New Delhi at which Members of the Legislature can easily obtain medical aid. Besides there are several doctors, Hakims and Vaidis in private practice in New Delhi.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it a fact that the shop behind Western Court does not supply standard rice, but rice which is of a very inferior quality?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, Sir.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member make an inquiry into this grievance?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: If the Honourable Member will make a specific complaint, I shall certainly look into the matter.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: I say that the quality of rice supplied by the shop behind Western Court is not of the proper quality. I make this complaint on the floor of the House.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: What particular commodity is the Honourable Member referring to?

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Rice, flour and all other things supplied by this shop.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: In regard to rice I want to

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: We want Nawabi rice.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Since Begmi rice is considered inferior by many people we are now trying to get some Basmati rice.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Is the Honourable Member aware that the rice supplied by the ration shop is broken rice and not full rice?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I went round the ration shops three days ago; and I think the rice supplied by most of the shops appeared to be extremely good.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Does the Honourable Member know that rice supplied to certain persons is different in quality to rice supplied to others. There are allegations that Members of the Assembly who, because they can create trouble, get better quality, but that other people get inferior quality.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It is likely that those who can give trouble, generally get better rice.

BAN ON PRODUCTION OF COTTON (MUNGARI, RED COCONADAS) IN ANDHRA DISTRICTS

971. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that Government have banned the production of cotton (Mungari, Red Coconadas) in a number of Andhra districts;

(b) whether, the Madras Government have offered to pay Rs. 2, per acre, as compensation;

(c) whether this is most inadequate;

(d) whether there is a considerable and growing local demand for cotton for hand spinning purposes and whether the total banning of cotton production in these eight districts is likely to harm this cottage industry of hand spinning; and

(e) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of (i) raising the subsidy, and (ii) allowing certain areas in these districts to grow cotton?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Madras Government have banned the cultivation of Mungari and Red Coconadas varieties of short staple cotton in a certain district except as a mixed crop in the proportion of one line of such cotton to at least two of food crops.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (e) (i) As promised in answer to a supplementary question asked by the Honourable Member with regard to his starred Question No. 423 on 21st

February, 1945, the question whether the subsidy is inadequate and should be raised is being examined separately.

(d) There is a local demand for cotton for hand spinning but the supplies necessary are reported to be available from stocks in hand and in any case these varieties can still be grown as mixed crop.

(e) (ii) The growing of cotton as a mixed crop is allowed.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF A GOVERNMENT SERVANT AFTER CONVICTION

972. ***Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** With reference to the reply to starred question No. 407 on the 14th March, 1944, regarding re-employment of a Government servant after conviction, will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether any enquiry was made in regard to the Government servant referred to in that question? If so, what was the result of that enquiry, and what action was taken by Government?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes. Though the individual had been dismissed by the Punjab Government, that Government had permitted him to take up employment either in the Central Public Works Department or elsewhere. In view of this and the fact that he has been continuously employed in the Central Public Works Department since February, 1942, no further action was considered necessary.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: What was the charge for which the particular person was dismissed by the Punjab Government?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Mere assault.

FREEZING OF STANDING PADDY CROPS IN TANJORE DISTRICT

973. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Grain Purchasing Officer of Tanjore has frozen the standing crops of all peasants growing paddy in the whole of the Tanjore District?

(b) Is it a fact that he has no adequate supply of officers or subordinates of sufficient pay and responsibility to reach all the villages and superintend the reaping, heaping and harvesting of the paddy crop of the lakhs of peasants concerned?

(c) Is it a fact that, as a result, he is obliged to depend upon the ill-paid and often illiterate village officials including watchmen to superintend harvest operations?

(d) In view of the hardships being caused to peasants, do Government propose either to withdraw this policy of freezing the paddy crop of a whole district even before it is harvested or to purchase the whole crop themselves at a specified price?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No, Sir. The Freezing Order applies only to 75 per cent. of the total yield of crops of *Ryots* owning or cultivating four acres and above in villages within a belt of six miles of the District borders and also in the coastal villages within a belt of six miles.

(b) and (c). The Grain Purchase Officer has sufficient staff for the work connected with the Freezing Order. He has also Revenue Subordinates to help him. Harvesting operations are not supervised.

(d) The Order is intended to prevent smuggling, particularly to Ceylon and does not entail any undue hardship on the peasants.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that although according to Government only 75 per cent. is being frozen, the remaining 25 per cent. is not available to the peasant until the crop is harvested and 75 per cent. of the produce is delivered to the Grains Purchasing Officer?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not know the exact position.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member make a more detailed investigation into the matter? Evidently he has not got definite information about the actual facts there.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I shall make inquiries if the Honourable Member opposite would let me know what exactly he wants.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Thank you.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PROTECTION TO FRUIT PRESERVATION INDUSTRY

87. **Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether there is any scheme under consideration by Government for consolidating the fruit preservation industry in this country and also to safeguard such industry against foreign competition which is becoming acute?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, what financial assistance do Government propose to give and do they propose to consider the question of sending students and technicians overseas for training in this subject?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research proposes to set up shortly an Institute of Fruit Technology to give technical advice to the Industry. The question of measures to ensure that fruit products conform to certain prescribed specifications is under consideration. It is hoped that these measures will help to safeguard the industry against foreign competition.

(b) The financial implications of the proposals have not yet been worked out. It is proposed shortly to send some students abroad for training in fruit technology.

INVESTMENT FOR SETTING UP A FRUIT CANNING PLANT

88. **Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Will the Honourable the Food Member kindly state:

(a) whether Government have decided henceforth not to place any order in India for the requirements of the defence forces in the matter of canned fruit;

(b) if Government helped financially for putting up a canning plant in India out of public funds; if so, the amount so invested; and

(c) if the investment was made, how it is working and what the financial prospects are?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) A factory was erected in 1944 at a cost of Rs. 9,34,617 which was borne by Government.

(c) The factory was not completed in time for the 1944 fruit season and only operated for a few days at the end of the season as a trial run. The factory is equipped with the most up-to-date machinery and should operate satisfactorily.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

CASES OF PROFITEERING AND HOARDING AGAINST EUROPEAN TRADING CONCERNS

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies state:

12 Noon. (a) how many cases of profiteering and hoarding have been detected in European Trading Concerns;

(b) whether cases were put up against them; and

(c) what sentences were awarded to them on conviction?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The information is being collected from the different Provinces and States and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

I may say that the words "European trading concerns" are very vague; but still I will try to do my best to supply the information and collect it and lay it on the table of the House.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Friday, the 9th March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Information and Broadcasting, seven 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) Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, (2) Mr. M. Ghiasuddin, (3) Mr. C. P. Lawson, (4) Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, (5) Mr. Ramayan Prasad.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL DEFENCE BRANCH OF DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have also to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Saturday, the 10th March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Civil Defence Branch of the Defence Department six nominations were received. Subsequently one candidate withdrew his candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following Members to be duly elected: (1) Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, (2) Khan Bahadur Sheikh Habibur Rahman (3) Sardar Mangal Singh, (4) Mr. C. P. Lawson, (5) Mr. Piara Lali Kureel.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume discussion of the Demands for Grants. I think it is the turn of the European Group now.

DEMAND No. 21—FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,23,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Finance Department'."

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,23,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Finance Department'."

Need for Economy and for more stringent Control of Expenditure.

Mr. G. W. Tyson (Bengal, European): Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Finance Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

To discuss the need for economy generally and for more stringent control of expenditure on Civil Departments in particular. In the few minutes in which I will ask for the attention of the House, I intend referring to a subject which has consistently for the last two years been put forward by this Group, and in particular in the speeches which its leader, Sir Henry Richardson, made a few days ago and on the budget last year. I also want to make it clear that this is, as to its scope and intention, entirely a token cut and is designed to draw attention to what we regard as the development of a very serious state of affairs. If we cast our minds back, only over a few days of the debates that have taken place on this budget, I think we will recall that there have been two quite unusual and astonishing assumptions throughout these discussions. The first of them is the bland assumption, held apparently nowhere with more satisfaction than amongst the representatives of some of the spending departments on the Treasury Benches, that the present phase of mounting expenditure can continue indefinitely. My friends here, mainly to my right, in so far as I have been able to understand them in many of their observations bearing on economic and financial problems, have been proceeding on the assumption that India

can go on living in a sort of economic vacuum and a closed economy. I am now concerned with that thesis this morning. What I am concerned with specifically now is this question of retrenchment and economy.

When the Honourable the Finance Member was introducing his Budget on the last day of last month, he referred in the course of his introductory speech to the methods which had been employed, and the devices which he is engaging, to close what he called the gap between the total rupee outgoings, whether on our own or on allied account, and the total rupee incomings; and he then went on to list and enumerate the devices by which he was endeavouring to narrow that gap. He spoke specifically of taxation, of borrowing, of sales of bullion and other devices for absorbing the surplus purchasing power, and so on. If I may say so, he explained Government's policy in respect of a highly complicated and technical matter, such as is the annual statement of accounts, with his customary lucidity and clarity. But I for one regret very much that in the list of devices and the heads of policy which he specified, he omitted there, and so far as I can see in any other part of his speech, any reference to retrenchment or economy; and in this, the sixth year of the war, I can only regard that as a very serious omission.

Generally speaking, the financial pattern of wars shows that in fact there are three main phases or stages of development. The first phase, if I may so describe it, is one in which the financial authority continues to resist, but usually with declining success, the depredations and demands of the spending departments; he is clinging to his well-grounded moral principles, but feels that the sands are shifting and ultimately he moves into the second phase, when he becomes weary of fighting for the truth, and he becomes involved and his whole energies are thrown into the task of raising money to satisfy the apparently inexorable appetite of the war machine; and the ideas of saving and economy which he cherished so honestly and sincerely in the first phase have perforce had to go by the board. Then, of course, comes the third and last phase of the pattern of war finance, which may be described as the financial morning after the financial night before. It is a day of reckoning, which usually consists of some years of deficits and unbalanced budgets, and provides governments and finance ministers and taxpayers with the traditional headache of the morning after the night before. I am not prepared in the short time at my disposal to specify what point we may have reached in India. But on a rough guess, it seems to me that we are somewhere fairly well through between the second and third stages of the pattern which I have described and if we are, in fact, to mitigate the effects of stage 3, it is time, I submit, to begin to turn our thoughts to the subject of economy and retrenchment and the elimination of unnecessary and wasteful expenditure of public funds.

Now, the Resolution which stands in my name specially mentions the Civil Departments of Government. It is easy and fashionable to criticise the wastefulness and extravagance of the Defence Services, but the fact is that, although there may be differences in degree, the Civil Departments of Government are also guilty of some of the callousness and excesses of the Defence Departments and it seems to me that in their present distorted condition they are particularly unresponsive to any advice which enjoins upon them a little more plain living and a little more high thinking. I do not want to weary the House with a lot of figures, but the growth of civil expenditure during the war years has been quite astonishing. I will not now attempt to catalogue them but some statistics are necessary as the background to an understanding of the need for economy. Taking only the figures that are germane to my Resolution. In 1941-42, the revised civil expenditure reached 40.11 crores. In 1944-45, the Civil Estimates, again quoting from the Honourable Member's speech, now stand at 115.42 crores as compared with Rs. 86.38 crores originally provided for in the Budget. The Honourable Member, in explanation of that, pointed out that the transition stage and the peace ahead inevitably involved "an increase in governmental co-ordination and control which is reflected in increased expenditure". Well, Sir, I for one would wish for a little less co-ordination and a little more control of the

[Mr. G. W. Tyson]

kind I have in mind in moving this motion. For next year, our Civil Estimates, I think, speaking, off-hand, are between 8 and 9 crores up on the current year which ends on the last day of this month.

Then a word as to the debt burden. Quoting from the Explanatory Memorandum, the following passage occurs on page 30:

"In other words, as compared with the last pre-war year figure of Rs. 1,185 crores, the total interest bearing obligations, will have increased by Rs. 614 crores by the end of the current year and by Rs. 974 crores by the end of the next year".

We live in an age of Gargantuan figures and these figures are large enough. In my view, they need not frighten us. They are entirely manageable, but that is a statement that requires some qualification, because these figures, are only manageable if the ordinary elementary principles of cutting one's coat according to one's cloth are borne in mind. It is my belief, Sir, and the belief of the Party for which I am speaking that the remedy for this lies in constant vigilance over new items of expenditure; but we have a feeling, Sir, that many of the spending departments, if they have not got completely out of hand, are getting well out of hand. There is a very prevalent belief in these days of managed currencies that money does not matter. My Honourable friend the Member for Planning and Development, in the course of a debate in this House the other day, said that the real bottleneck from his point of view was not money but it was man power. That may be his view, but the plain fact is we all know that money has a very real and a very practical bearing on these things.

Speaking during the course of these debates two or three days ago my Honourable friend Mr. Essak Sait spoke about what he called the unholy marriage between British and Indian capitalism. I think the partners to that engagement may well be left to look after themselves, but what I am more concerned about today is the number of engagements, the number of alliances into which the aging, but not yet senescent, Finance Department is entering no doubt quite proper engagements—with some of the bright new younger personalities—vigorous and at times unscrupulous—who go by the name of Information and Broadcasting, Planning and Development, and so on and so forth. One feels, quite frankly, that there is scope for a very great deal of retrenchment. One knows that it has been very necessary to build up the country's war effort to its present point of efficiency and that in taking decisions to that end, it has sometimes been necessary to temporarily overlook the elementary considerations of saving and getting the best possible value for money; but I do submit that when one looks at the steadily rising curve of civil expenditure and the steadily rising curve of taxation, one has a right to ask Government whether they are holding and cherishing the ideal of economy with as much zeal and ardour as they should.

At the end of the General Discussion on the Budget, the Honourable the Finance Member in winding up what he described as a long and chequered debate said that he had not really been able to piece together particulars of the varied pieces of criticism that had been offered to him, and he then asked what his critics had in mind. So far as I am concerned, I am quite willing to help him by telling him that he can ignore the other criticisms that may have been offered to him if he will only give his serious and undivided attention, and devote his considerable talents, to the proposition that I put to him today. He asked what the critics want. So far as the critics on these Benches are concerned, what they want is real acceptance of the idea that we are now coming to the end of the wild spending phase and that we must begin to think about the simpler qualities of economy and wise spending. I submit, Sir, that this is an obligation cast upon our distinguished Finance Member. It is an obligation, I think, that he owes, if I may say so without impertinence, to his successor: it is an obligation that he owes to his own well established reputation, both

inside this House and outside it, and finally and most important of all, it is an obligation which he owes to India. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Cut motion moved: "That the demand under the head 'Finance Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, we wholeheartedly support the policy which has been adumbrated by the European Group. As a matter of fact our Party, last year, with the support of the whole House demanded that some kind of control should be exercised on the expenses of the Government of India on Defence and in the Supply Department as well as in the Food and other Civil Departments. But this was not acceptable to the Honourable the Finance Member last year, and it is an irony of fate that this year, the European Group comes to demand the same thing. But last year, they did not support our demand. I knew that the Leader of the European Group several years ago put forward the same proposition before this House and we all thought that economy was essential and a check over expenditure was essential. Probably last year, on account of misunderstanding, there was a wrong impression on the part of the European Group that we were demanding something out of the War Budget and that we were opposed to war efforts that they did not support us. That ought not to have been taken in that manner. It was far from our mind. The taxpayer has to bear the expenses of the Government of India and therefore it is but right that the expenses should be controlled as far as possible. There should be no waste on expenditure. We do not say that money should not be spent on essentials. We say that all necessary expenditure in connection with war should be defrayed. It would be an act of miserliness on our part if we say that where you require a rupee, you should spend only fourteen annas. At the same time, it would be sheer extravagance on the part of the Government Departments that where an expenditure of one rupee will suffice, they spend one rupee, fourteen annas. You should save these fourteen annas by all means. The Honourable the Finance Member admitted that he cannot control expenditure. He cannot control, because, after all, he is a human being. We cannot expect him to look into the day to day expenditure. He receives from the different Departments, an estimate that so much money should be allotted to each of them. The Finance Member cuts down the estimate and then he sanctions money; probably in some cases he sanctions which he would never have done, if he was left alone. But in spite of the cuts he makes in the estimates of the other Departments, he has frequently to come to this House with Supplementary Grants. I have known that Supplementary Grants come to this House sometimes for abnormal expenditure which was not foreseen by the Finance Department at the time of presenting the Budget. If this huge expenditure comes before the Assembly for sanction either as a Budget or as a supplementary grant, then I think there should be some limit and this Legislature should have some control. I have never agreed and I shall never agree and I do not believe it is the proper construction that has been put by the Government of India on voted and non-voted expenditure. Sometimes, it is said that because a particular man is holding a particular job, then his salary becomes non-voted. I submit that the whole idea of an item being non-voted is that the man holding a particular job for which he was recruited should not be chucked out of that job all of a sudden or that his salary should be reduced, say, from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 1,500. This is what I understand by voted and non-voted item. But here comes a man who has been getting, say, Rs. 2,000, in some office and he is appointed to a post, say, on Rs. 4,000. His raised salary should become immediately non-voted. I submit that his substantive post, it may be in the Provinces should be treated as non-voted, while the higher post to which he is promoted should be treated as voted and the Legislature given an opportunity to give its verdict. The House should be given the right to express its opinion as to whether he should get Rs. 2,500 or Rs. 3,000 and so on. Broadly speaking this is what should be the meaning of voted and non-voted items. Unfortunately we have been all along proceeding on wrong assumption about voted and non-voted expenditure. The only method, the only

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan]

effective method by which we can control the expenditure of the Government is to constitute a Committee of this House to look into the voted as well as non-voted grants. I am glad that the Honourable the Finance Member laid before the Standing Finance Committee even those items which according to him were non-voted. From my point of view they had really to be treated as voted. Last year we suggested that a Committee should be constituted on a different basis. It must be an Estimates Committee going through each and every item of expenditure. The Standing Finance Committee simply deals with problems of a general nature and not of the nature of looking into details and curtailing expenditure. The Standing Finance Committee as at present constituted will never be able to control expenditure which is presented by the different Departments to the House.

Sir, I have known, I do not like to repeat it at this time on this issue, but I will have proper occasion to do it later on, I have known that in the Supply Department and in the Food Department huge waste of expenditure is going on. Many articles have been purchased which are absolutely unnecessary. Once I learnt that there were lying in certain godowns about 50,000 boots of one foot only and the Government of India had purchased them. There ought to be some check on such inexcusable waste. There is no check on the material purchased or the manner of distribution. The whole blame is thrown on the railways that they did not carry the packages properly. Sir, it was not the fault of the railways if the packages were damaged in transit. It was the fault of the people who packed the goods. Why did they allow them to be packed in such an unsafe way. There are many ways in which expenditure can be curtailed. This huge military budget is mostly due to such extravagant expenditure. It is up to Government to save the poor taxpayer from this heavy burden of loan which has come to 833 crores. This money at three per cent. interest will require something like 25 crores annually to be paid. Now, where will this annual interest come from? Why are you saddling the country with such a heavy annual expenditure for years to come? You must pay back the loan at some time or other. And you will pay interest too. I cannot imagine that with your pre-war finances you can meet this expenditure in future. You will never be able to wipe off the debt that you are incurring or even to pay the interest required, without very heavy taxation which the country will not be able to bear after the war. Due to inflation your contractors are taking away a lot of money from you, and then you have to pay them back. This is a vicious circle you have got into, but people with fixed incomes are the sufferers. Those are the people who are losing whereas the people who can raise their income are not losing at all. But things will soon change and Government would do well to have a committee to go through the whole budget. Merely cutting down a few hundreds here and there does not do. We had a Retrenchment Committee in 1932 and you, Sir, presided over one of those Committees. It may be said now that during the war there can be no retrenchment. But surely there can be some control over expenditure? If that were done, we would not have been faced now with such huge expenditure. Even now it is not too late; if we can make a start now why should we not do it? I am glad my Honourable friends of the European Group are in favour of this. They also must realise that they will not escape this taxation that will come after the war. And heavy taxes like income-tax and super-tax and surcharge will exist for half a century after the war before the debt can be wiped out. Sir, I support the cut motion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to support this cut motion because we are also in favour of retrenching this war-time bloated budget. I find that the Finance Member himself is one of the culprits in pushing up the expenditure of Government. I find on page 60 of the Budget that in his own department the expenditure has gone up from 36 lakhs in 1943-44 to 58 lakhs in the present Budget, which is an increase of more than 50 per cent. I do not know what exactly has happened between these two years to warrant this heavy additional expenditure. Then on page 61 we get rather a very entertaining picture. The Honourable the Finance Member

now wants a Joint Financial Adviser for Food. The Food Department is growing. Is it in order to help it to grow further and further and do very little work, or is it in order to check its expenditure that he wants to have a Joint Financial Adviser in that department? There is to be another Joint Financial Adviser in Cotton Textiles. The Honourable Member for Civil Supplies and Industries has already a number of these Advisers, but he also is having a Joint Financial Adviser. Then there is to be a Director of Research. I am glad that at last the Government of India have begun to think of the need for research but the extraordinary thing is that once they think of anything at all they go to the other extreme. They want research in everything. Whether they want to have research work in connection with the financial work of the Government of India or the preparation of the budget or control of expenditure or augmentation of expenditure we do not know. But at the same time we find that in the Commercial Intelligence Department also there are new officers being created, and that is associated with financial and other statistics. On page 162 we find that in addition to the Economic Adviser who was brought from England and inflicted upon us by Sir James Grigg he is going to have a Deputy Economic Adviser and an Assistant Economic Adviser. And their temporary establishment is going up from Rs. 59,000 in 1944-45 to Rs. 82,000 in 1945-46. In this Commercial Intelligence Department they are also going to have a Trade Agent.

Then coming back to Finance Department, we find that the Honourable the Finance Member wants a Deputy Examiner of Capital Issues; this is a new thing. Then there are Deputy and Assistant Financial Advisers for Food. One Adviser is created for a department; that gentleman wants an Assistant and so there is a Deputy Adviser; this gentleman wants another Assistant and then there is a Joint Adviser who again wants somebody else and then there comes an Assistant Adviser. That is how the establishment is being multiplied.

Then, Sir, there are officers of the National Savings Central Bureau; I do not know for what purpose they are appointed. Then on Additional Financial Officers (Temporary) they are going to spend nearly a lakh of rupees. Then we get Deputy Assistant Financial Advisers and Officers of the Supply Finance Department. What they mean we do not know; i.e., whether they are in the Supply Department or for other departments. On these officers they propose to spend 10 lakhs as against 8 lakhs in 1944-45. Then Additional Officers (Temporary) account for 5½ lakhs. Then we have Finance Officer, Geological Survey—which is a beautiful thing—and Assistant Financial Advisers (Cotton Textile) also Assistant Financial Adviser (Civil Supplies).

Sir, this is how the thing is being multiplied in the Finance Department itself. Can we wonder that in other departments also the expenditure is mounting up in an unwieldy fashion? I will take Civil Supplies on page 183. Here Pay of Officers and Pay of Establishment come up to nearly 71 lakhs. They want to have a Financial Adviser to the Chief Engineer. Suddenly they discover, after research in the Finance Department, that they require a Financial Adviser for the Chief Engineer. Financial Adviser to the Chief Town Planner we need, but why do we need this Financial Adviser to the Chief Engineer? This gentleman will come forward next year with a proposal for a Deputy, and a Joint and an Assistant Financial Adviser to himself.

Then comes the Broadcasting Department. It is one of the worst offenders. Within a course of two years—i.e., from 1943 to 1945—its appetite has grown from Rs. 56,96,000 to Rs. 94,00,000, and my Honourable friend Sir Sultan Ahmed does not seem to grow any taller because of this huge quantity of additional sums of money that he is getting.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): He is getting shorter with the weight.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: And look at these Research people here also. They have Listener Research Officers, Assistant Station Engineers, Assistant Research Engineer, Assistant Director of Administration—they have already had a number of Administrators and in addition to that they want an Assistant

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

Director,—Assistant Editors—they had I thought plethora of them, now they want Assistant Editors—, an Assistant Solicitor—I do not know what the Solicitor is expected to do. Then there are Liaison Officers—what these Liaison officers are going to do. I do not know—to liaison between one officer and another and see that the Broadcasting office does not fall into pieces. Then they are going to have an Advertisement Manager—this is a beautiful thing.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Everything there is beautiful!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Within a period of one year—1944-45 to 1945-46—their expenditure on pay of officers and pay of establishment alone has increased from Rs. 12,60,900 to Rs. 30,30,100.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Liaison is more expensive than legitimate marriage!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then their office in England. They are also greedy. Having come to know that there is inflation in this country, they have begun to wonder why they should not have a portion out of it for themselves.

“India Office Expenses—contribution to His Majesty's Treasury— 1943-44 Rs. 13,60,000, 1945-46 Rs. 23,34,000”.

There is an increase of about ten lakhs within a period of two years.

My Honourable friend, the Labour Member, wants to have a Labour Publicity Officer at a cost of Rs. 69,600. What this Publicity Officer is going to do I do not know. I suppose he is going to do publicity in justifying the introduction of women into the mines.

Commerce Department—it used to be a well-behaved department at one time; but it has also increased its expenses from Rs. 8,87,400 in 1944-45 to Rs. 11,33,600 in 1945-46.

My Honourable friend, Sir Sultan Ahmed, comes in again, but through another department, i.e., the Information Department. He wants four lakhs more for pay of officers and establishment alone. In 1944-45 he wanted Rs. 6,45,300 but he now wants Rs. 10,47,500. He says, “Budget includes provision for the regional offices of Food Publicity . . .” What is this I do not know. Whether he is going to ask people to eat more when more is not available, or to eat less when they are starving is beyond my comprehension. They are going to have “a separate Production, Publicity and Photographic Section . . .” We are seeing the photographs of destitutes dying in Calcutta. Their total demand also goes up within a short period of two years from 17 lakhs in 1943-44 to 36 lakhs in 1945-46. What is the wonderful additional work that this Broadcasting and Information Department has been contributing to our country? To malign our country abroad or to make our country look more beautiful than what it is and with all the thousands of people who are dying of starvation; to give more food to our starving millions; to provide more cloth to all those women who are committing suicide for their nudity for want of cloth. What sort of broadcasting and information they are carrying on? Have they been able to manufacture in this country cheap receiving sets? Even spare parts have to come from abroad. Have they made this country self-sufficient in regard to the machinery they want for this department? And yet they go on wasting our money.

But, on the other hand, when we come to these really productive departments, social departments and developmental departments, Government has not been so very liberal.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has spoken for 14 minutes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Only yesterday my Honourable friend, the Labour Member, said that the Government of India has now decided on a policy for geological survey, and therefore one would have expected him to have come forward through this Budget with his proposal for the development of our geological resources. On the other hand, what happens is this. In 1943-44 they spent 32 lakhs and in 1944-45 they propose to spend only 14 lakhs. That is the underlining that is to be put to the speech that he made. If that

is the way in which they propose to develop these developmental departments and if that is the way in which they propose to spend money on these wasteful departments, then one can only say that this Government really does not deserve the confidence of this House.

I suggest, Sir, that the Honourable the Finance Member should hasten to appoint a Retrenchment Committee containing a non-official majority to go into the whole of this question and see also that really deserving departments—departments like Archaeology, Geology, Botany, Agriculture, Health, Animal Husbandry, and so on—are not starving for funds either now or in post-war years, and they should also see that these various wasteful departments cut down their expenses so that they will have only that much of establishment as this country can afford to pay for at the end of the war.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Member for Information and Broadcasting): Sir, I will take only a few minutes. We must feel grateful to the Honourable Mover of this Resolution. After all, every one of us must be anxious to see that there is retrenchment subject to efficiency being maintained. Sir, so far as my Department is concerned, it has become a very interesting and live department so far as this House is concerned.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): And abroad also.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Yes. I am glad to say not only in this country but in other countries also.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Abolish it.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Then life in India will become more dull and people will not be able to know anything about India, either in this country or outside.

I fully appreciate the view point of the Honourable Members of this House, and we have been very anxious recently to see how far retrenchment can be effected. Take the case of the National War Front which came under consideration before this House a few days back. So far as that section is concerned, under the new scheme at any rate there will be a reduction of between fifteen to twenty lakhs of rupees.

An Honourable Member: Abolish it.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Of course that is your view point. You have given your views. But I am talking from the point of view of retrenchment, and we shall try and see that the best results are obtained out of the money that we spend.

As regards Prof. Ranga's complaint that we have not been able to provide receiving sets, all that I can tell him is that he does not know the position. Receiving sets are not being provided by us; it is done by another department. We are very very anxious to have two-hundred-thousand receiving sets and about seventy-five thousand community sets. If we can get them, India will be all the better for it, but it is another department which has to deal with it, not ourselves. So far as expenditure is concerned.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadian): Is it a Government of India Department or not?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have to answer for my department and with reference to Prof. Ranga's query, I am certain the Commerce Department would be delighted to have the receiving sets if they could get them. They have been asking for them and the moment they can secure them India would be the better thereby.

As regards the increase in the expenditure of the Broadcasting Department, I am afraid if my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga thinks that the Broadcasting Department is of no use then I do not agree with him. It has tremendous potentialities and a big future, and if only he would very kindly visit the studio here and go to the transmitting station he would be proud of the institution. The other day we had a very distinguished visitor here, Lord Reith, who was the President of the British Broadcasting Corporation organisation sometime ago. He went to the radio station and saw everything critically, having had

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.]

would have contributed more effectively to the debate. The feeling is this that this department which is still in embryo, is trying to assume to itself work of a type which is seriously detrimental to the best interests of this country. The debate in this House on the National War Front had proved conclusively that the House is not prepared to trust itself to the methods of propaganda, to the types of propaganda and to the work done by organisations of that kind and it does not matter two hoots to us that that organisation is now spending less, or that having been abolished is coming back in a different form.

There is one particular item relating to the Information and Broadcasting Department, to which I would like to draw the attention of the House. That is on page 49, item E.—Bureau of Information. The actuals for 1943-44 is 9 lakhs. The revised estimate for 1944-45 is 9 lakhs 92 thousand. The Budget estimate for this year is 15 lakhs. I have no hesitation whatever in saying categorically that this Bureau of Information is used for the purpose perhaps of boosting the achievements of this Government, boosting the statements made by the Honourable Members and all that certainly to the detriment of the best interests of this country and we do not want any augmenting of that particular type of expenditure.

I now come to two other aspects of this matter of economy in expenditure which are before us. They are what kind of checks the Government might institute in regard to these items that are brought before the House in the shape of demands for grants prior to the Assembly going through them? And what could we do in regard to this continually mounting expenditure on the civil side?

I hope I shall not be doing anything improper if I refer to the work of the Standing Finance Committee, to which a reference was made by my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, in his closing speech on the day when the Budget was discussed. I happen to be a member of that committee. I would endorse all that was said by my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, in regard to the attempts made by this Committee in a formal manner to get a hang of what is happening and to see if there is any waste. But, Sir, I must say a fact—I think every Member in this House, who has been in a Committee will agree, that fourteen people sitting together without any definite basis to work upon and sort of blundering through by questions which we ask representatives of various Departments that appear before us cannot lead to very much. I grant that it has led to something. The Honourable the Finance Member did mention it but I would like to say that I agree with him that after all if fourteen people with one single mind want to get at something that is happening, it is not difficult to get a glimpse of it and that is probably what we have done. But is that committee and the type of work it does enough for the present? Is it adequate? Will that do to serve the purpose of check and the curtailment of waste which people in the House and outside believe is happening? Or do we want a straightforward committee to deal with this subject, which will go through the whole gamut of expenditure and suggest retrenchment? It is a problem which is a some what difficult to deal with. I do appreciate the objection brought forward by my Honourable friend the Finance Member on the last occasion, that it is very difficult, particularly in any committee of this nature, to go through the whole expenditure of the Government, considering that every departmental official can say that in regard to furnishing of information or in regard to giving of evidence, the exigencies of the war and the increased work that it entails prevent them from doing so. If any illustration is wanted I would only cite the replies given by the Honourable Members on various occasions on the floor of the House and that would be adequate, for the purpose on hand. The exigencies of the war do not permit them to go into figures or give any information that is asked for by the Honourable Members of this House asked by them for the good of the people of this country. If a Committee is

appointed and if that committee has not got judicial powers to compel people to appear before them and give evidence, the officers of the various Government Departments might say that they could not disclose the figures that we want due to exigencies of the war. This consideration will always be brought up against the work of any Committee of economy or retrenchment. How to fit into the present condition, in which the Government is placed, a committee that could usefully suggest economy is a real problem. I have no doubt in my mind, I agree fully with what Mr. Tyson has said and with what has been said by other Members of the House, that there ought to be a machinery for this matter of curtailing of expenditure and if we are to create a retrenchment committee, say, three years hence, probably it may be futile, for by then the mischief would have been done. I would like my Honourable friend, the Finance Member to suggest now—I am sure he will say that he would not be in a position to commit his successor to any particular method but he could suggest now—one or two ways in which this difficulty can be overcome, because I think he will not deny that the fear that exists in the minds of the Members of this House is genuine and, at the same time, that there is in the minds of the Members of this House a genuine desire to help and not to impede him and his department in their work. I would like him to suggest how he would enlarge the functions of the Standing Finance Committee or any other committee that might take its place, in a definite and formal manner, not in an indefinite and in an informal manner, so that it can go into the entire Government expenditure not only as and when they arise after the Budget demands are granted but also prior to the Budget demands being formulated and placed before this House and, secondly what kind of committee will it have to be. If it is to be solely composed of Members of this legislature or perhaps a committee smaller in number with perhaps one or two departmental officers, which would do the spade work for a bigger committee to come in the future, if he thinks that a committee to do the entire work envisaged by the speakers before me is not possible. I am sure the House would be very grateful to hear from the Honourable the Finance Member as to what suggestions he has in mind in these two respects.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony (Nominated Non-Official): While, I support this motion, I sincerely hope that the Government will not misconstrue the apparently universal approval of this House of this motion, misconstrue it into practising misdirected economy. The practice of economy is urgently needed but please do not misinterpret this motion into practising economy with regard to nation-building activities such as education, health, post-war planning and development. I think I heard the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution correctly when he referred to the extravagance by some of the Defence services. I am sorry that in this motion he did not refer specifically to the need for economy in the Defence services. While I realise that this House cannot vote on Defence expenditure, yet I feel that it is very essential to focus public opinion on this very vital matter. The most outstanding feature of the Budget estimates perhaps is the increasingly astronomical figures of the estimates of Defence expenditure; not only that, but the increasingly high proportion which Defence expenditure bears to the total budget estimates! I am, Sir, one of those who endorse the view that the war must be fought with the maximum of energy and with the maximum resources. I say that every need must be subordinated to the prime necessity of winning the war as successfully and as quickly as possible. But there is a peculiar attitude on the part of authorities, particularly the military authorities, to resent any criticism, however legitimate or justified that criticism may be, with regard to the expenditure on the Defence Services. I realise that we are fighting a war, a total war, and that there must be a margin of waste; but that margin must be kept within reasonable limits. It is fortunate, Sir, that you have public men in this country, who have the courage of their conviction and are prepared, at the risk of incurring the displeasure of the authorities, to focus attention on extravagance. There is a very real and widespread feeling in this

[Mr. Frank R. Anthony.]

country that, not seldom, Defence expenditure is characterised by the extravagance and immoderation of the reckless spendthrift. We feel—and I think I am expressing the view of the majority of the Members of this House—that economy, economy consistent with efficiency, can be very largely practised in regard to the Defence Services.

I will give one instance, it may not be a very good illustration, but it is an illustration nevertheless. I think the Honourable Finance Member referred to the very considerable expenditure incurred in distributing petrol in this country. If there was enough petrol to go round, I would not have commented on this matter, but we all know that the needs of the civilian have been cut to the bone. And I sincerely hope that with the intensification of the war in the East, there will not be a further curtailment of the civilian needs in this respect. Who does not know that in the Army they literally burn petrol, that they swim in petrol, while, as I said, the civilian is denied his essential needs in this matter? Military cars have been used for private and social purposes by senior officers and also by junior officers for taking their girl friends to dances. We would not grudge them this if there was enough petrol.

An Honourable Member: What about the money?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I am coming to that. Then, there is another and real aspect to which my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari has drawn attention. He has asked not only for a duplication, but a triplication if necessary, of the necessary checks, and I endorse that view. Do not misconstrue this plea for economy into reducing your expenditure on anti-corruption departments. There is a widespread feeling, and it is a very real feeling, in the country that while huge amounts are being spent on contracts, on civil supplies, on engineering projects, very huge amounts are going into the pockets of bribe-takers, which amounts are ultimately found by the tax-payer of the country. Do not pay, as you are doing, niggardly salaries to your anti-corruption officers who will in turn be encouraged to practise corruption. I have heard it said that it will soon be necessary perhaps for Government to establish a special anti-corruption department to look after their anti-corruption officers.

Sir, these matters are not demonstrable by documentary proof, but I get about the country, and I do draw the attention of the members of Government that this disease is not only widespread, but is increasing. In many places you hear of senior military and civilian officers who are feathering their nests. It is not a point to be easily rejected. We know there is widespread corruption both in the military and civil departments, and it is practised largely by some senior men.

Mr. President: (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member will resume his speech after Lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock. Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: When we broke for lunch, Sir, I was commenting on the very real conviction in the country as to the widespread and growing evil of corruption; and I made a plea to the Government to strengthen the anti-corruption services in order to check this loss to the taxpayer, which probably amounts to several lakhs, if not crores of rupees. I also mentioned quite rightly that while there is this universal belief that corruption is prevalent and continues to grow, it is not a matter which can always be proved by means of documentary evidence. But I would say this, that when one hears people talk and talk freely of corruption with regard to departments and with regard to individuals placed high in those departments, it is not for us to dismiss this talk lightly or airily or with an air of righteous indignation. Because I feel that there

is always a very real substratum of truth in this talk about corruption; particularly with regard to those departments, civil and military, which are concerned with supplies and contracts and building works. A story is told, and it is symbolical of a brigadier who was accepting tenders. A certain tender was submitted by a certain contractor in respect of a certain commodity: he quoted a certain rate for a particular item represented in that commodity; the brigadier told him "I see that you have quoted Rs. 7-8-0 per item for this particular thing." This man got rather frightened and he said "Well, if you think Rs. 7-8-0 is too high, I will reduce my quotation to Rs. 5." The brigadier thereupon told him "Oh, no; you silly ass, I want you to raise it to Rs. 10; and of this extra amount three-fourth will be taken by me and the rest, one-quarter, will go to you." This is more than a story; it is symbolical of a very real evil in the country today. And I will take this opportunity of congratulating the *Statesman* for its courage in drawing attention to this very real evil. It may not have commended itself to the Government authorities—its outspoken leader on this matter—but it has focussed attention on a very real disease in this country. And as the *Statesman* very rightly pointed out, unfortunately the anti-corruption department, as it is at present constituted, or misconstituted, does not get hold of the real and substantial bribe-taker: it gets hold of the small fry, the man who is tempted by a few rupees. And in this connection I have a suggestion to make. I do not think it is a very far-fetched suggestion. I believe the French Government have adopted it and it is this. Freeze the banking accounts of those civil and military officials who have had anything to do with supplies and contracts and building works; get hold of their accounts from 1939 onwards and ask them to explain in detail how they have come by their money. I believe that corruption is in fact practised so blatantly and brazenly that many of them have not hesitated to put all their money into banks, openly. I know this proposal may be dismissed. But the French Government have adopted it; it required not only imagination but also courage. I also know it may lead to a widespread exposure of men placed very high in the Government services. But if you want to have a thorough cleansing of this evil from the Government services, you must do something effective, something drastic has to be adopted.

It is my experience—I do not know whether it is peculiar to me—that whenever any plea is made on behalf of the poor person—I am talking here of mis-directed economy which is a very real tendency in the Finance Department—whenever any real plea is made on behalf of the poor person and the worker, the soldier and the man who is fighting for you, I am told by the people right at the top "We are up against the Finance Department. These authorities themselves have all sorts of epithets against the Finance Department—such as, soul-destroying, unimaginative, dead department that insists on technicalities, insists on denying elementary rights to the poorest people". That is why, while speaking on this motion, I have laid so much emphasis on the need of practising economy where economy is obviously and urgently needed; but I do not want this to be used as an excuse for perhaps accentuating your present niggardly policy, a policy of denial which has become increasingly evident with regard to certain departments. In the budget estimates, I noticed that an appreciable item of increased expenditure is represented by

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have one minute more.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: . . . by the increased allowances to British soldiers and officers in this country. I do not begrudge them these. But I do ask the Government of this country to pay some consideration to our own soldiers and officers. I have drawn attention over and over again to the gross and unwarranted discrimination made between the salaries of Indian commissioned officers and European commissioned officers. Finally as my time is almost up, I would like to comment as caustically as possible on the sheer plutocratic cynicism with which the Honourable the Finance Member dealt with my request for a dear allowance to pensioners. He admitted that in England they are giving relief to people drawing up £640 by way of pension; and said at the same time

[Mr. Frank R. Anthony.]

"We are not bound to follow that policy". You may not be bound to follow that policy, but you are bound to treat with a certain degree of consideration your old Government servants, men who are disabled and infirm, yes disabled as a result of the service they gave during the last war. My time is up, Sir, and I would again emphasise my main theme that I support this motion: practise economy particularly with regard to the army; practise it particularly with regard to certain departments which have to deal with supplies; but do not practise it with regard to people who have really served you and those who are continuing to serve you.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, at the very outset I must state that I am in general sympathy with any effort which is made to reduce expenditure, though I must frankly state that I am a bit nervous about the word 'retrenchment'. (*An Honourable Member*: "Economy"!) Mr. Anthony used the word 'economy'; I quite understand it; but of the word 'retrenchment' I am a bit nervous. I was myself a member of a retrenchment committee for the province of Bengal. I have studied the question of retrenchment measures that had been adopted in past years, particularly in the Provinces—I cannot say so much of the Centre. I have also seen a little bit of the retrenchment when the last retrenchment measures were taken; and I am afraid that though oftentimes the retrenchment begins with very good intentions, it ends with economy of a certain type which is not always very desirable. I remember that as a result of the economy, a very large part of the work of the Archaeological Department had to be curtailed. I know in the province of Bengal as a result of economy or retrenchment as you may call it, a good number of educational institutions had to suffer. I make it quite clear that, speaking not as one interested in the administrative work of a department, but of the country as a whole, we should guard ourselves, as Mr. Anthony has said, that in retrenchment or economy we do not lose sight of our ultimate objective. If there is a department—say, the Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies Department—where there are a good number of officials, I am quite prepared to see as to whether there is need for them all or not, and the sooner the need is ended the better it is that it should be terminated. Speaking not only on behalf of a particular department in the Government of India but also as one with the experience in the Government of Bengal where I was for one time, I would say this, people do not know the extent to which we have to struggle with the Finance Department before we can have an officer sanctioned or some staff sanctioned. I always felt that the life of a department is too exhausted at times by repeatedly appealing to the Finance Department. It is only proper that it should be so. The Finance Department is there to watch the financial interests of the country and they must be fully satisfied before they agree to a particular measure.

At the same time I do hope that it will also be realised that India today is not what it was about 10 years back or even five years back. The changing phases that have come in the economic life of the country, the changing phases that are likely to come as a result of a bold and planned policy of industrial and commercial development in this country will require much larger expenditure and the present staff will not be adequate for such a task. A question has been asked about the Administrative Intelligence Room. If my friend will refer to page 15 of the Explanatory Memorandum he will find a few lines in explanation of it. I would say that this Administrative Intelligence Room is an organisation where statistical information relating to vital administrative problems could be kept continuously in display in a collective form, so that all civil departments can immediately get facts and figures they want in order to enable them to come to a quick decision. Take for example, the question of the allocation of a commodity like coal. A map in the Intelligence Room showing the requirements and exports to different areas in terms of wagon loads would present at once the statistical bearings of the problem and enable quick decisions to be taken. In fact, such a room has been found to be extremely useful in England. An officer of the Central Statistical Office of the War Cabinet visited India. They

had seen a similar room in operation in the Army Headquarters and as a result of discussion between the different departments it was settled some time ago that something on those lines was also urgently necessary for the Civil departments. For myself, I have been grappling with the difficulty of getting immediately exact statistical materials. If there is a department which can immediately supply all the requirements, it will be very useful. May I mention here that the time has come when we will have to replan all our statistical information that we have got and also our official reports. As a result of very careful consideration, we have appointed a committee in the Commerce Department under the Economic Adviser, in which all the departments planning the future of statistical materials to be collected for this country are interested.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member what is the price he proposes to pay for this room? Why this lump sum provision?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: This is a section which is working. A part of it has been started by the War Office and that will be transferred as soon as it is fully functioning. The staff question is being discussed between the Finance Department and the Department concerned. May I say, and I think the Finance Member will agree with me, that the mere passing of the Budget does not give us authority to spend that money unless we can satisfy the Finance Department that every bit of expenditure is necessary, unless of course it is covered by any permissible item which has already been granted. The Statistical Officer who came to study the conditions here thought that it will lose its useful purpose unless it is attached to a Central Statistical organisation which we have got in this country. Instead of making it a part of the War Department, it was decided to make it a part of the Commerce Department which is responsible for the collation and collection of all the statistical intelligence. I shall give a concrete case. Here is the question of the different controls. I know that in the Textile Branch alone a very large amount of data will have to be collected before we can be sure in our mind—as we are sure in our mind generally—that certain steps which we are taking are the steps which should be continued and the question of the effect of controls on the general economy can only be studied on collection of a very vast amount of materials. Take the question of controls of prices and the profit margin. A detailed inquiry will have to be made as to how they are distributed, what are the transport charges, what is the margin of profit given to the trader and so on. I know my friend Mr. Tyson will not like this question of control. The average Englishman never likes any control although he is the most controlled person. He always has a grievance when a law is being enacted but once the law is enacted, he is the most loyal human being. When we have to administer these controls we have to see their reactions in different aspects. Take the question of yarn. We have certain data in the Fact Finding Committee's Report but that data is acquiring a new pattern as a result of the war. We have to consider the needs of the producing areas, how they can be supplied and distributed and so on and that can only be done by having adequate statistical data. Instead of each department appointing a staff for itself, this section will supply all the necessary materials from the Commerce Department and these details will be available to the different departments whenever they are required.

In conclusion I will only say that I do hope it will be realised that in all the departments, and I am particularly speaking with reference to the Industries and Civil Supplies and the Commerce Departments, our officers are now worked up to such a pitch that there is no holiday and no leave. They are working up to 8 or 9 or 9-30 at night in the midst of terrible difficulties. I myself cannot conscientiously say that any retrenchment is possible in the different sections for the time being in the existing condition of things. When present conditions change, there may not be need for a section or two. We will ourselves consider as to how we will do it. At the same time there are activities which have got to be expanded. I am giving one aspect.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: We are quite disposed to give you a lakh of rupees now.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Take the Seamen's Welfare Organisation. We have got to see that a proper section is there to look after the interests of these thousands of people who are keeping the life line open. Our gratitude is due to them for what they have done for this country. Something has to be done for them and that side of activity has naturally to expand. The result is a certain amount of more expenditure. I can assure the House that the two particular Departments for which I have been responsible have been over-worked and I sometimes wonder whether I can retrench anything in these two Departments. I can only say that this is an expanding Department and if India is to progress, if living conditions are to increase, then much more is demanded from these two Departments of Government. I have always felt that unless there is extravagant waste, it is not pounds, shillings and pence that run the world, but something more in the nature of service that a Government can do by spending pounds, shillings and pence. I can assure the House that we are constantly watchful about it, but if existing conditions continue, I think it will be difficult for us to talk of reduction in expenditure. If the Honourable the Finance Member should accept responsibility for retrenchment and ask my Department to help him, I am afraid that I can not find the officer or the staff to prepare materials which are necessary in order that the Retrenchment Committee might properly function. I have seen during this Budget Session, the staff working till ten o'clock at night and coming to office the next morning at nine of the clock. They work without holidays and even on religious occasions, on the 1st day they come to office as soon as the religious functions are over. These are the conditions under which they are working. As I say, I have the fullest sympathy with the objects of the Motion. But speaking on behalf of the two Departments over which I preside, I may say that if tomorrow a Retrenchment Committee is appointed, it will be extremely difficult unless the Finance Department sanctions additional staff, to find the necessary staff in my department to collect materials. Lastly I have to say that I fully feel that in any retrenchment, if we have the good of the country at heart, then let there be economy, let there be no waste, but let not expenditure which is necessary be curtailed.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Bengal: European): Mr. Deputy President, I should like to preface my remarks by a few general observations. In the first place, I speak as a Member of a Group that throughout this War has consistently supported the Government in its demand for war credits. Further, we are prepared to continue to vote for the legitimate and necessary war demands. When I say, necessary, I want to emphasise that word. I hope that that emphasis will not be misconstrued by Honourable Members sitting on the two Front Benches as evidence of my irresponsibility. Secondly I am very conscious that there is war on. My relations are fighting, some as commander who have been wounded several times and so, I do not want it to be cast in our teeth that we are not conscious that there is war on. We all know that, and we equally know that fighting men cannot stop to count the cost. When the Japs are at the door of Bengal, the Government obviously cannot stop to enquire too closely into expenditure that the military have to incur in order to drive the Japs back from the coast of Bengal. We realise fully that when there is war, there is also colossal waste. War, in fact, is the most organised form of waste which is possible for human mind to conceive.

Thirdly, Sir, I am fully conscious that there is inflation. Indeed I am sure the Honourable the Finance Member will admit that so far back as November 1941, I expressed myself as being uneasy as to the future outlook in this regard, and I have on more than one occasion in the past spoken on that subject. I do not want it therefore to be quoted by Government in reply to our cut motion that because there is inflation, therefore you have more expenditure and therefore nothing can be done. We, Sir, do not hold these views. Therefore, Sir, when I speak of expenditure of Central Government and say that it is too great, and constantly growing greater and must be reduced at a very early opportunity, I speak with a full sense of responsibility. Now, Sir, we find that in 1939-40 under the head voted expenditure—leaving all defence expenditure out

of it—we spent 23 crores 98 lakhs in 1942-43, it was perhaps slightly higher, the voted expenditure was in the neighbourhood of 33 crores 77 lakhs, for the coming year, it is proposed that such expenditure should be of the order of 62 crores. Now, Sir, that is a colossal addition to ordinary revenue expenditure and it takes no account at all either of capital expenditure or of loans to Provinces or of doles being given by the Honourable Member to the Provinces. It is time therefore that we should consider this matter.

Fourthly, Sir, the Public Accounts Committee in their last Report in 1942-43 revealed scandalous cases of corruption and waste of public funds. The Government themselves, the Finance Department and the Audit Department fully supported the views of those of us who are non-official Members of that Committee.

Fifthly, I have before me now a copy of the Circular issued by the Finance Department on 25th October 1944, copies of which were given to Members of the Standing Finance Committee. In that circular I find that the then Secretary of the Department says this: "It is now most essential not only to curtail new expenditure, but to prune the existing expenditure as far as possible". Well, Sir, I am glad to have the opportunity of quoting that circular because I feel that it shows that however much they may have failed to cope with the increase of expenditure, the officers of the Finance Department have at least recognised what we all recognise this growing danger to the stability of the State. They go on in that circular to point out how expenditure has been growing and how very necessary it is that in every possible way, Government's unnecessary expenditure should be curtailed.

Finally, Sir, the Standing Finance Committee, of which I am a Member, has begun to kick at the supplementary demands which some of the Departments are constantly bringing forward and on that subject, the Public Accounts Committee had some very strong remarks to make.

Now, Sir, I revert for the moment to the first part of my speech where I commented on the growth of expenditure of the Central Government. In addition to the voted expenditure in 1939-40 of 23 crores 98 lakhs, there was an additional expenditure of 25 crores under heads which are non-voted. In 1942-43 the voted expenditure of 33 crores 77 lakhs was supplemented by approximately 33 crores of non-voted expenditure, again leaving aside defence expenditure. In the coming year, 1945-46, the voted expenditure of 62 crores is to be supplemented by non-voted expenditure other than defence of no less than 82 crores. Sir, all I can say is that these are staggering figures and I cannot conceive that there is justification for a lot of that expenditure. I am absolutely satisfied from what I have heard and learnt as a Member of the Public Accounts Committee and of the Standing Finance Committee that a great deal of this expenditure can and should be avoided. These figures, I may say, compare with the defence expenditure before the war that only amounted to 54 crores. Now, Sir, how have these vast increases of expenditure come about? They have come about in three or four different ways. In the first place corruption and waste about which the Public Accounts Committee have had so much to say. And of course we all know that a good deal of that corruption and waste is laid at the door of the war. It rather reminds me of the last war when we were told when anything went wrong in the Middle East that it was all due to the expenditure in Mesopotamia. And a very old lady when once asked what this Mesopotamia scandal meant said; "I don't know, all I know is that it is some kind of frightful scandal and some kind of frightful waste".

Now, Sir, we do not want planning, post-war or otherwise, or expanded economy or any of those other blessed words of this day to be used as a kind of cloak for the kind of waste we are talking about. One of my colleagues drew to my attention, just before I spoke, a very good example of waste right under the noses of the Members of this Assembly. Outside our Group room there have been lying for two or three, if not four, years steel shelving and bicycle racks, both very urgently in demand and no doubt in short supply for all those new

[Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer]

buildings that are coming out like mushrooms all over Delhi. But there they lie outside the European Group room still facing the sun and the rain and all the other elements and rusting and rotting away.

Then, Sir, the Honourable the Leader of the House made a spirited defence of part of his gigantic department. He defended the All-India Radio and said that it had won high praise from no less a person than Lord Reith. I have no doubt at all, Sir, that the All-India Radio station is one of the finest in the world and I am quite prepared to admit that it is so. But what I should like to say is that the Honourable the Leader of the House said very little about the other scandals—cases of waste, if I may say so—that go in the departments under his control. I do not want to say very much about that because I know that he is not wholly responsible. It is true that a lot of this expenditure which is going on is being incurred by his department, but it is being done at the dictation and at the request of other departments.

From that, Sir, I come straight to the doles to the provinces, because one of the biggest sources of waste under the National War Front is arising from the expenditure by the provinces of public money voted by us and given by the Government of India to these provinces. And on that subject I should like to read what the Public Accounts Committee had to say. I may say that their views were based on a very serious report placed before them by the Auditor General of India. What they said was this:

"A substantial amount of expenditure under this head—the National War Front and War Publicity—arose from grants made to provinces for expenditure on war publicity with regard to which audit have been finding the greatest difficulty in getting its requirements satisfied."

Sir, I consider that an absolute condemnation of some of these Provincial Governments, and when, immediately following the vote of this House condemning some of the expenditure on the National War Front, two Provincial Governments, promptly announce that they are not going to reduce their expenditure under this head by a single rupee, I think it is time that we made a very spirited protest.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Sir, I should like to explain that we are not going to pay one single pice for the National War Front expenditure.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Is the Honourable Member speaking of his own department or the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am talking of the Government of India.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: I am very glad to hear that news; it is the best news that I have heard from the Government of India for a long time.

Then the third great cause of waste is the undue and excessive growth of the Central Government in Delhi. I deny entirely the view that the Central Government can do nothing unless it has more staff and more departments, etc. In fact I am reminded of a case that happened to me very recently in somewhat similar circumstances. One of the heads of departments in our firm came to me and said, "Can you help so and so?"—naming a poor retired clerk who had built for himself a nice house just outside Calcutta. I said I would do my best if he would give me all the facts. The clerk came and told me that the A. R. P. had their eyes on his house and they were going to requisition it; notwithstanding the fact that next-door to it there were two empty houses. I tried to help him and, to cut a long story short, I was successful in doing so. The moral of that story was this, not that I was able to help this poor clerk and save his house, but that had I taken up the attitude of the Government of India I should of course have been able to do nothing because I had no powers and I could not exercise the Defence of India Rules; I could not appeal to any high authority in any direction. The only reason why I took any action was that I felt that a wrong has been done and that it should be righted, and of course it was righted; because, the moment the matter was brought to the attention of the police they did something about it and the man's house was saved.

Finally, a great source of waste arises from policy itself.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: I should just like to say on that point that the policy of the departments, we have now learnt in the Standing Finance Committee, is their responsibility—the individual responsibility of the individual departments—and it is their clear duty in those circumstances to devote the coming year to doing all they can to eliminate waste in every possible direction.

Sir, I am sorry I have not more time to conclude with more detailed and specific conclusions, because I should have liked to say that I do not want Government to reply to this debate that our criticisms really cancel each other out. I want this rake's progress of wasteful expenditure, which has not to do with the war, to be stopped. We do not want new and unwanted departments to crop up every day in Delhi, and we want post-war expenditure to be placed where it belongs, where the Finance Member himself said it should belong, after the war and not now.

Finally, we want the Government of India to stop looking on the taxpayer like a sort of collective farm from which Farmer Raisman or his successor is expected to produce the milk! Sir, I support the motion.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I am not sure whether I shall be able to support the motion moved by the European Group, judging by the speeches which they have made in support of their cut motion. I am not one of those people who consider that increased expenditure itself is an evil. The instances given by the representatives of the European Group of Government's expenditure having gone up tremendously does not itself prove that the retrenchment of that expenditure is necessary. I feel that it is not increased expenditure to which we should object. As a matter of fact if this country wants to be developed we want more and more expenditure. What we therefore need is more expenditure but wise expenditure; and I should like the Finance Member to follow that maxim that if they believe in developing this country it will be a wrong thing for this country to try and cut down expenditure. Otherwise we shall remain a poor and undeveloped country, and therefore let us give up this slogan of retrenchment. Our slogan should not be less expenditure. Our slogan should be 'more expenditure and more developments'. Let this country give up once and for all the desire to remain backward. We must have development in every way, we must develop the social security of our people, we must develop our agriculture . . .

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Our debts!

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Yes, our debts also. There is nothing wrong in having large amounts of productive debts.

Development of the people is not a bad thing at all, and therefore I feel I cannot support this motion.

I would like the Government to follow the policy of more expenditure and development of this country. At the same time I would like them to observe economy. I am against any expenditure which is not intended for the development of the people. I am against any expenditure which does not go to help the development of this country. The European Group said that there is corruption. Root out corruption by all means, but that does not mean retrenchment—I do not like this word 'retrenchment'; I am prepared to have the word 'control'. I would like the control of Legislature to be increased. Certainly there are many methods of increasing the control of the Legislature over the expenditure incurred by the Government of India. We have the Public Accounts Committee. Instead of the Public Accounts Committee meeting for a fortnight in a year, let the Committee meet for two months in a year; instead of depending upon mere reports of the Auditor General, let them go into further details. I was once a member of the Public Accounts Committee and I know we used to get detailed reports from the Auditor General. After some time those reports were not placed before the Public Accounts Committee . . .

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: They never read them.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I will not say that. I would like the control of the Legislature to be increased. The Public Accounts Committee cannot finish its business, if they do it well, in a fortnight or three weeks' time. Let them sit longer.

Similarly, the Standing Finance Committee can exercise more control. Let them insist upon more information being given, let them insist upon more meetings being held. I will go a step further and say that this Committee should not only go into new expenditure, but should examine the expenditure of the various departments from time to time as it is done by the Standing Finance Committee of the House of Commons. But the House does not insist upon it.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadian Urban): We have insisted again and again.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Then, Sir, the danger of this agitation for retrenchment is that retrenchment is made in the wrong direction, as has happened before. Only yesterday the Honourable the Labour Member told you that you cut the geological survey staff and then you find that your geological department does not develop. You will not have a proper mineral policy.

Then, Sir, there is another danger of this retrenchment business. You reduce the salaries of the staff. We have had that experience during the last retrenchment drive. Poor clerks, subordinate officers and even the inferior servants of the Government of India suffered on account of that retrenchment. It is a wrong policy to treat your servants badly, and therefore I am generally against these motions for retrenchment. It is a wrong policy to pay poorly to public servants. I know there are some officers of the Government of India, who as compared to the general level of income of the common people, are paid very highly. I have no doubt on that point. A salary of rupees three to four thousand a month is high considering the average income of the Indian citizen which is only one hundred rupees a year. But when we judge the income of a public servant, let us judge it also in relation to the income which is made by people represented by the European Group.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Commercial people.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: If an officer gets Rs. 3,000 a month, I have no doubt that he is getting more, but if you judge his salary of Rs. 3,000 a month in relation to the incomes which the Members of the European Group make, I am sure you will agree with me that his salary is low. His yearly income comes to thirty-six thousand rupees whereas I have no doubt most of the Members of the European Group must be earning a lakh of rupees a year.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Mr. Lawson, why don't you protest?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: He may protest. I have no doubt that the incomes of public servants in higher grades are large, but if I have to restrict the incomes of any people I shall not begin with the public servant, but I shall begin with limiting the incomes of others who are making much larger incomes than public servants. What business has any man to have an income of one lakh a year when the average man in this country gets only one hundred rupees a year? Therefore the best policy for this Legislature and for the Government to follow is to limit the incomes of those people who are getting more than they should have or they ought to be allowed to have, and after doing that I shall certainly be in favour of reducing the salaries of those public servants who are getting much more as compared to the average man. Therefore, Sir, I am afraid I cannot support this motion.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: This has been a most interesting debate, and I have no doubt that my successor will pay a good deal of attention to what has been said in the course of this debate because after all it will very much concern him; it will concern him more than it can possibly concern me in the few days which are left to me to be in charge of this Department.

I would like, in the first place, to make it quite clear, that I am entirely in agreement with the main object of this motion and I am entirely in sympathy with the motives which prompted it. In fact as my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari said this is one of the rare occasions on which he was able to agree with the Group on his left and apparently the other Groups on his right, and I can say that this is one of the rare occasions on which I am able to agree with them all. I am reminded of the origin of the word 'economy', which is a Greek word meaning, in effect, housekeeping, and that reminded me again of the domestic scene which is not uncommon in the lives of most of us. When we decide to check up on the way the family budget is going and husband and wife say 'The bills for last month came to so much, this cannot go on', at that stage they represent a measure of very solid agreement. Then they come to examine the details and, well, there are certain bills which of course neither of them can disapprove of—school bills and so on. They have to admit their responsibility to their children and so on. Then you get to the variable items, the items for which one or other or possibly other members of the family are responsible and you get a wide divergence of views. It is agreed that the total amount must definitely be brought down. It must be brought down within the limits of the revenue, but there is unfortunately the most acute difference as to precisely what bills shall not be paid or what items shall be discarded. The Finance Department finds itself in precisely this difficulty. The Finance Department stands alone in the Government of India. It is a kind of Ishmael: its hand is against every departmental man and every man's hand is against it. It is only on occasions when it has to be criticised, when it has to be attacked that it finds itself in the dock along with all the others.

Let me say one thing:—My Honourable friend, the Mover of this Resolution, used an adjective about the Finance Department which I must admit caused my hackles to rise. I think he used the word 'senescent' about the Finance Department as compared with certain other lusty young infants of the Government of India. I would like to assure my Honourable friend that I have always believed that any Government that has to be efficient must have a fortress in the Treasury, it must have a powerful Finance Department. Show me a Government with a weak Finance Department and I will show you an inefficient and corrupt Government. That is my opinion and it is not merely because I have spent so much of my life in the Finance Department. But it is my firm conviction that it is only in a strong Finance Department that the efficiency and the integrity of the administration can be maintained. Therefore, I have myself, like my distinguished predecessor before me, always concentrated on maintaining the strength and efficiency of the Finance Department. I believe the Department to contain as good a selection of officials available in this country as can be found anywhere. In fact, in normal times the criticism is that the Finance Department is too powerful. There is perhaps in normal times a danger that the Finance Department may be too powerful and that may impart rather a negative tone to the whole administration. It is quite possible that many of the charges that are levelled against the Government of India in normal times have been due to the dominance of the Finance Department. As far as I am concerned, I think that the strength of the Finance Department relatively to the other Departments should be maintained, but it cannot be done at all times and particularly it cannot be done in war time. The Finance Department cannot claim to be the arbiter of all public questions in war time to the extent to which it claims to do in peace. We have to recognise that fact, particularly of course on the military side. We have greatly strengthened the staffs of the Finance Department on the Defence and Supply sides, but obviously there comes a point at which the Finance Department, however zealous, has to accept, and must accept a statement, say of operational necessity. I merely say that by way of dispelling the suggestion that the Finance Department has become weak or senescent.

Mr. G. W. Tyson: On a point of explanation. The actual words used were: "Aging but not yet senescent".

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I beg my Honourable friend's pardon but the use of that adjective, shall I say, imparted a somewhat sinister colour to the whole sentence and even as regards the aging, I think the Finance Department, like the Phoenix will continue to renew itself and live on its traditions.

My friend drew a somewhat harrowing picture of the morphology of war Finance and he thought that we were rapidly approaching the stage of the morning after the night before. I am not sure in what stage we are. One of the cheering things about this motion is that it can be moved in these times. I regard it as one of the signs of victory. It is one of the first glimpses of dawn that people are talking of peace, retrenchment and reform. We have not yet got peace and we are thinking of retrenchment. I hope we will have peace very soon. I cannot say that I hope we will have retrenchment in the ordinary sense, because although I am in sympathy with the motive of economy, I agree with those speakers who remember that some of the most unwise things ever done by any Government were done in this country in the name of retrenchment and I hope that will never be done again.

Sir F. E. James: The Incheape Committee.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That would raise a great many problems but I will not have the time to develop my case about them. But I should have liked to have heard the Honourable Mover, who I know is an economist and a journalist of some repute in these matters, on the question of how this country, or any country, is to deal with the problem which arises when you have a sudden collapse of public expenditure. In this country the problem is going to be much more serious than in others because in other countries—take the United Kingdom—you have a certain figure of expenditure, say five to six thousand million pounds which the Government of that country must presumably control or adjust by stages till they come down to what is their target as the normal peace-time budget and the economy of the country will be adjusted accordingly. But remember that in this country you may suddenly have a collapse of public expenditure due entirely to external causes, a decrease of a colossal order—that public expenditure, supposing it is proceeding at the rate of, shall we say, one thousand crores at the present time (I include of course Allied war expenditure)—you may find that more than half of that expenditure has just disappeared over night. That raises economic problems of formidable magnitude and I do not know whether the Honourable Mover of this cut has thought of the problems that would come in the wake of that sudden decrease. I have no doubt that he has views on that subject. But what that does emphasize is that retrenchment—the mere wielding of an axe—will not be a simple remedy to apply to the conditions of the morning after the night before. It is not quite as easy as taking Rose's lime juice cordial.

The Mover of this resolution and several other speakers drew attention to the figures of increase in the Civil Departments. They said broadly, "Well, defence expenditure we understand: that may expand through causes over which you have no control. But what about the Civil Departments?" I must admit that the figure at first sight looks horrible. But let us look at it more closely. What is the cause of this large increase in the order of the figure in the total of civil expenditure? I have before me a complete breakdown of these items, and if we do attempt to axe, I should like to know which particular items different sections of the House would choose to be axed first,—supposing we were an *ad hoc* retrenchment committee. I will just refer to some of the larger items which are responsible for the total increase of some Rs. 60 crores.

There is interest on debt which this year stands at Rs. 10 crores. Actually in the Budget there is a figure of Rs. 21 crores. I presume that at any

rate the Mover approves of the policy of borrowing in order to counteract inflation and therefore so long as expenditure over which we have so little control as the military expenditure including the expenditure of other Governments continues, we have to neutralise that by borrowing and the volume of debt increases and with it the amount of interest goes up. That is one of the items in the Civil Budget. It is as large as Rs. 21 crores.

Now I find an item of the Bombay explosion—Rs. 10½ crores this year and another Rs. 5½ crores next year. Well I thought the Government of India were responding to a widespread public demand when without going too deeply into the litigious aspects of the matter, they decided to draw up a rapid scheme of compensation, without waiting to explore too fully where the final liability would lie. At any rate for the moment that is a charge against our Civil Departments.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Has this liability been found out by the Court of Enquiry?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Those are the amounts for which we are accepting liability as a result of the operations of the Claims Tribunal.

Then we have the assistance to Bengal. As far as I remember, the Honourable the Leader of the European Group himself last year rebuked me for the niggardly provision which I had made for Bengal and he was supported in that by Dr. Banerjee.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): What about next year, at the instance of these very gentlemen?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: At the moment I have accepted no liability under this head for next year.

Then there is UNRRA. I understand it to be pretty generally accepted by this House that we should participate in that and having agreed to participation in it, we must make a contribution which is reasonably consistent with India's status in the Comity of Nations.

These are all large figures and they make a very big hole in your 50 or 60 crores of increase. I do suggest that it is a little unfair to take the figure previous to these happenings and the figure afterwards and give the impression that there has been a monstrous growth of civil expenditure over which there should have been more control. I could go on with several other items; not as large as those, but the fact of the matter is that when you try to get down to the hard core of these things, the amount which is at all debatable is extraordinarily small. I find, for instance, that the total increase in General Administration is only of the order of two crores and that has to include the effect of all dearness allowances and all compensatory allowances of that kind to meet the increased cost of living. When you take into account the size of the Government of India especially, an increase of two crores to meet the increases in the cost of living in the last few years seems to me rather to support Mr. Anthony's and Mr. Joshi's contention.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: What does the Food Department cost you extra over pre-war times?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Food Department costs 42 lakhs but it is not merely that. There again we are involved in the purchase of very large quantities of food grains: we are involved in very large financial transactions. I ask the...

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: And paying blackmail to Provincial Governments.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: We are also involved in assisting Provincial Governments or compensating them for what they consider that they have lost.

I am sorry that my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari deprived me of the opportunity of dealing with my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga. But I would point out that if we are to cope with the problems of the present day, and in particular if we are to meet the desire of this House that extravagance should be curbed and waste minimized we must have controllers

[Sir Jeremy Raisman]

and advisers in all the various departments which spend money at this time. If anything, I should say that the staff at our disposal is very inadequate for the new responsibilities which it has had to undertake and so far from incurring criticism on the ground of a few additional posts, we ought to be urged to increase our staff and increase the scale of the Finance Department's controlling activities. You cannot control an expenditure of this magnitude without having the staff—and by staff I do not mean clerks or chaprassies; you have to have officers who are capable of standing up to high level officers and also outside people, you have to have staff of a high level of ability and generally high status and of course of high integrity.

My friend Mr. Anthony was afraid of misdirected economy. He thought that we should be more generous in certain directions and that our economy should be limited to certain sectors, or rather certain horizontal levels rather than sectors; in fact, as far as I can make out, what he thought was that we could produce economy by dealing drastically with the superior staff and giving more money to the lower staff. Whatever may be said of the merits of that proposal from the point of view of equalising incomes among Government servants, as a means of reducing the total cost of administration, it is a very poor idea, because, as has been so often pointed out, the salaries charge is in the form of a pyramid, and if you reduce the salaries of the Members of the Executive Council to one rupee a year and of all the Secretaries of the Government of India to one rupee a year, that may not pay the cost of giving the chaprassies, etc., an extra rupee a month in one single large town, much less in the whole of the Government of India. And if you are to be generous to the lower staff, as I said, whatever may be said about the merits or the equity of that, the financial effect of it will certainly not be one of economy. It is an unfortunate fact that in dealing with the lower establishments, on account of their large numbers, a rupee or two a month at that level means crores of addition to the cost.

I was glad to see that Mr. Joshi had something to say for the staff generally, for the public servant generally and I agree with him that if we were fixing new levels of salaries, then there is something to be said for looking at the public servants' salaries in the light of emoluments which can be earned in business circles.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Legal circles.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I leave out legal circles: the cost would be astronomical. But it is a fact that a Government official in many instances would have opportunities open to him, if he went into business and if your scale of salaries is completely out of relation to the rewards which are available for people of that type in business, then you will have a very discontented staff.

In the few minutes left to me I would like to get back to the practical question of what we can do. My friend Mr. Krishnamachari made some suggestions. I would remind the House that even last year I was not out of sympathy with the general feeling of the House as regards the desire to secure economy. Last year I was being pressed to appoint a Committee. I found that different speakers in different parts of the House had entirely different ideas as to what the type of the Committee should be, and what should be the work they would do. In the event I followed the course of consulting the Standing Finance Committee. I told the House, before the election to the Standing Finance Committee, that I had come to the conclusion that that would be the best course to follow, and I hoped that the House in electing members to that Committee would bear this in mind. As Mr. Krishnamachari has said, we have had very useful discussions on this informal side of the Standing Finance Committee. He feels that the Committee is perhaps too large to get down to the brass tacks which ought to be

handled in doing a job like this. What I do feel is this. In order to evolve some practical method of dealing with this matter, you must of course get round the table a certain number of representatives of this House. But I still feel that it is very much the concern of the Standing Finance Committee. The Standing Finance Committee deals with proposals for new expenditure, and it has access to departmental officials who have to appear before it and answer questions. Now the main difficulty in the Standing Finance Committee's procedure in the past has been that it merely had to deal with the menu which was placed before it. What I have in mind is that the Committee should meet as a Committee with wider terms of reference, and should consider in what way this problem can be tackled. I had this in mind when the Committee first met, I have invited the Committee themselves to suggest in what way their activities could be best pursued and in what way they could best contribute to the prevention of extravagance and waste. There are two reasons why I think that the Standing Finance Committee must devote its mind to this question and must in fact advise the Finance Member as to how this matter should be tackled. One reason I have already given, namely, that the Standing Finance Committee, after all, is elected by this House for a purpose which is closely akin to the purpose of maintaining economy, in fact, it is directly for that purpose. The other reason is this. I feel that my successor should have the advantage of meeting representatives of this House and discussing this question round a table, and in the non-formal aspect of the Standing Finance Committee. I feel that the Standing Finance Committee should advise my successor as to what they think is the best way in which at this time the question of economy and prevention of extravagance can most satisfactorily be pursued.

Well, Sir, I have already said that I entirely sympathise with the objects of the Mover, and I sympathise with everything that is common to all those who have spoken on the subject, and of course there is a great deal which is not common. If I were remaining in charge of the Department the method that I would proceed on would be what I have indicated. I feel my successor would study the proceedings of this House with great interest, I have no doubt he will study the proceedings in this particular debate, and I hope, when he comes to meet the Standing Finance Committee, they will be able to make to him some valuable suggestions to which I feel sure he will have a receptive mind. He has considerable experience in dealing with questions of public expenditure, and he has long administrative experience, and I have no doubt that he will be able to consider this matter with the Committee in a useful and practical way.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Finance Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The time is up, then we have to go to the next motion. The time for the European Group has expired, and therefore it is now the turn of the unattached Members.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): On a point of order, when you stood up to put the motion to vote there were still a few seconds left. Once you had started putting the question, the motion must be put to vote, whether the time is up or it is not.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Is that the desire of the House?

Honourable Members: Yes.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I was going to put it to vote, but was told that the time was up.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The time is at the disposal of Unattached Members.

Honourable Members: Order, order.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Finance Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. G. W. Tyson: In view of the very satisfactory reply of the Finance Member I want to withdraw the cut motion.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): It is too late now. The Assembly divided:

AYES—57

Abdul Basith Choudhury, Dewan.
Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Ahsan, Mr. Muhammad.
Anthony, Mr. Frank R.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachellam.
Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.
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.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Habibar Rahman, Dr.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.
James, Sir F. E.
Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.

Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Manu Subedar, Mr.
Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad Muhammad.
Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
Naidu, Mr. G. Rangiah.
Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Pande, Mr. Badri Dutt.
Raghbir Narain Singh, Choudhri.
Ram Narayan Singh, Mr.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Reddiar, Mr. K. Sitarama.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Satyanarayana Moorthy, Mr. A.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Srivastava, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
Tyson, Mr. G. W.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

NOES—37.

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.
Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardeshir.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
Ghuznavi, Sir Abdul Halim.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.
Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.
Ismael Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema.
Khare, The Honourable Dr. N. B.

Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.
Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
Menon, Mr. P. M.
Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami.
Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
Piare Lal Kureel, Mr.
Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Gulam Kadir Muhammad.
Sheehy, Sir John.
Spence, Sir George.
Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad.
Sultan Ahmad, The Honourable Sir.
Sundaresan, Mr. N.
Thakur Singh, Capt.
Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
Tyson, Mr. J. D.

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 23—DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR—contd.
Labour Policy of Government of India—contd.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Discussion will now be resumed on the cut motion moved by Mr. Joshi yesterday.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, myself and my Party wholeheartedly associate ourselves with the cut motion moved by Mr. Joshi.

Some Honourable Members: The question be now put.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is...

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): What about the Government's reply?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I waited but did not find anybody getting up.

(At this stage, the Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was seen to rise in his seat.)

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Does the Honourable Member want to speak?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Yes.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The House is impatient.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I will try to keep my patience. I will promise that.

In the course of the observations which Mr. Joshi made yesterday in support of his cut motion, he levelled certain charges against the Labour Department. At the conclusion he not only stated that the Labour Department had failed in dealing adequately with the duties which are cast upon it to conserve and protect the interests of the workers but he also ended by saying, which I thought was a somewhat extravagant observation, that the Labour Department had not even sympathy for the worker. Sir, the speech delivered by my Honourable friend was delivered by him in a more or less telegraphic fashion, omitting prepositions, participles, conjunctions and disjunctions and certainly did not advance any detailed arguments in support of his conclusions and I therefore feel at a certain disadvantage in dealing with his cut motion. I however propose to do my best to meet his charges.

Sir, the first charge that he levelled against the Labour Department was with respect to dearness allowance. His first accusation was that the dearness allowance granted by the Government of India was not adequate and the second ground was, if I understood him correctly, that in the scheme of dearness allowance sanctioned by the Government of India there was no kind of uniformity. With regard to the first part, I think Mr. Joshi will agree that the notions of adequacy must necessarily differ. It will be difficult to find two people who could agree on the exact quantitative measurement of what adequate dearness allowance would mean and therefore I do not wish to enter upon that aspect of the case. What however I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable House to is that the Government of India has always been taking considerable interest in the matter of the dearness allowance and has been watching the situation; that it has from time to time taken steps in order to increase dearness allowance is beyond question. To give only a few facts to the House, I think it will be recalled that the first dearness allowance was given in August 1942. It was thereafter increased in January 1943. It was further increased in June 1943. (An Honourable Member: What was the amount of dearness allowance in 1942?) I really have no time to go into details and I hope the Honourable Member will let me proceed. It was further increased in March 1944. We have not only increased dearness allowance but we have also from time to time increased the higher limits of the workers who should be entitled to get dearness allowance. On the first occasion, when dearness allowance was given the highest limit fixed was 100. The second time when it was increased, the highest limit was also increased to 120. On the third occasion, it was raised to 150 and on the fourth occasion it was raised to 250. I may tell the House that the Government of India is most actively considering the question of further increase in dearness allowance and I hope and trust that before long the decision of the Government of India in this matter will be announced.

With regard to the question of want of uniformity, I will very readily admit that there is no uniformity, that different classes of employees of the Government of India are paid at different rates. But, Sir, the question I would like to ask is—who is responsible for this want of uniformity. I have no hesitation in saying that if anybody is responsible for the want of uniformity in dearness allowance it is Mr. Joshi himself.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Why? I am not the Government.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: When I say 'Mr. Joshi' I mean the whole of the labour organisation. It is they who are responsible for this want of uniformity. What has happened in the matter of the grant of dearness allowance is this. You have got different sections in the labour world. You have got a body like the Railwaymen's Federation, a body like the Posts and

[Dr. B. R. Ambedkar]

Telegraph Union, like the Textile Union and so on, and there are lot of other people among the working classes who have practically next to no organisation. I think Mr. Joshi will agree that the policy followed by most of these labour organisations is really nothing else but a policy of organised loot, the first man trying to take whatever he can from the Government of India, leaving the rest of the people uncared for. Here is the Railwaymen's Federation which meets the Railway Board, uses its power-politics and compels the Railway Board to grant the highest degree of dearness allowance. Then comes the Post and Telegraph Union. They wait upon my Honourable friend in charge of that department. They threaten him with strike. They tell him that they are the most essential part of the service to the country and they oke out from him something which they think is best for themselves. The rest of the people have nobody to look after their cause and I have certainly not seen any move on the part of what are called the All-India Trade Union Congress or the All-India Labour Federation to come together and work out a policy which could be applied uniformly to all the working classes and to the men in the service of the Government.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Is it not the duty of the Government of India to formulate a uniform policy?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, certainly, if we are left free to do so. But every time a section of the labour world comes up and uses its dagger and says 'We shall not work and we shall go on strike unless you give us this or that', the Government are certainly very helpless in the matter. (*An Honourable Member:* "Why don't you meet together?") Then Mr. Joshi referred to want of attention to unemployment caused by involuntary circumstances. If I followed him correctly, he referred in somewhat contemptuous terms to the circular issued by the Central Government to the Provinces and to the employers telling them that it was the view of the Government of India that whenever there was any involuntary unemployment due to shortage of coal or shortage of raw material, the employers should pay certain compensation to their employees. In our letter to the Provincial Governments, we had informed them that the Government of India was prepared for a certain scale of payment to be made to the workers during this period of unemployment.

We had told them that they should pay 75 per cent. of the ordinary rate of pay for the first fortnight and for the second fortnight, they should pay 50 per cent. of the wages, that the period for which this benefit was to be payable was one month and that the waiting period should be seven months. Mr. Joshi ended by saying that all that the Government of India had done was to utter this pious wish and leave the matter there, that they had taken no further step in order to see that these benefits were actually made payable. Now, Sir, I should like to point out that if Mr. Joshi had read the letter that we circulated to the Provincial Governments and to employers, he would have seen that we had also made some definite proposals with regard to meeting the cost of this involuntary unemployment. In the circular letter sent out, we had stated that the cost of these benefits paid to workmen for involuntary unemployment would be admissible as a revenue expenditure for income-tax and for E. P. T. purposes. Obviously, then, if I may say so, this was a special clause in the letter and we did not think anything more was necessary. There is in addition to that Rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules, under which it is perfectly open to workers who have been thrown out of employment by reason of these circumstances to apply to the Provincial Governments for the purpose of submitting the issue to arbitration. I am glad to say that the matter is now being pursued in that direction. As Honourable Members are aware, there is a case of arbitration going on between the employers in Ahmedabad and the workers there on this issue.

The third point which Mr. Joshi mentioned was connected with workmen's compensation. I was not able to get at exactly the gravamen of his charge as to what was the deficiency in the position as it existed in this country and what exactly he wanted me to do. What I got from him was that he

thought that compensation was not adequate. Now, the House will recall that our definition of wages in the Workmen's Compensation Act is a very wide one. It not only includes money wages, but it also includes everything that is capable of being estimated in terms of money. From this it will be clear that wherever there is a case of compensation to workman, he is not only entitled to get compensation on the basis of his money wages, but he is also entitled to get compensation on his money wages plus dearness allowance. Mr. Joshi mentioned the further fact that while in Great Britain the law has been altered, we have done nothing of the kind in this country. He said that during the war the benefits payable to workmen under the Workmen's Compensation Act in England have been enhanced. I have looked up the matter and the position is really this. I am sorry to say that Mr. Joshi has not really understood what the difference is. As Honourable Members of the House will be aware, the English law makes payment under Workmen's Compensation periodical, while in India our payments are mostly lump sum payments. This has a very important effect. In the case of lump sum compensation a workman receives his payment and he is out of the picture, nobody has any continuing liability about him, either his employers or the Government. But in cases where the liability to pay is a continuous liability by reason of the fact that the benefit extends for a period, obviously the liability is continued on the employer, and just as an employer is liable to pay for instance dearness allowance to a workman, who is in employment, in the same way, an employer is also required in English law to pay enhanced compensation by reason of the fact that payment being periodical the liability to pay continues. If it was the desire of the House that our system of Workmen's compensation should also be so altered that instead of lump sum to a worker, we should pay him periodical payment either for life or to his children until the time that they come of age, no doubt the case that has been in England will also become operative in this country.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): It is the desire of the House—not a ruling from the Chair—that you should be brief. It is the desire of the House that the next motion should be reached. It is for you to consider.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: No, Sir, it is not the desire of the House, at any rate I wish to hear him.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Order, order.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: It is not the desire of the House, Sir. You speak in the name of the House, Sir. I say so far as this part of the House is concerned, we desire to hear him.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: There are other Honourable Members who desire that he should conclude his speech.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: But we want to hear him.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You do not constitute the whole House.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: That is right.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: After all, Sir, this side of the House wants to hear him.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Where is the trouble? I am telling over and over again that it is not a ruling from the Chair. It is only a request from the Chair to the Honourable Member, and it is for him to decide whether he wishes to comply with it or not.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, the next point which Mr. Joshi made was with regard to Technical Personnel Ordinance. He said that this Technical Personnel Ordinance has in it the principle of inequality of treatment between employer and the employee. The point that is sought to be made out there was that under the Technical Personnel Ordinance, an employee is not free to resign from his employment, while under the same Ordinance an employer is free to discharge an employee. Sir, I should like

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to state the true position as may be found from a reading of this Ordinance. The true position is this: that an employee is not required to obtain permission of his employer if he wants to resign. What is required by the Ordinance is that he should ask permission of the Tribunal if he wants to resign. On that point, I think Mr. Joshi is somewhat misinformed. Then, Sir, with regard to the power of the employer to discharge, the position again is this. That, as a rule, he is not allowed to discharge or dismiss an employee unless he has obtained permission of the Tribunal. To that there is undoubtedly one exception and that exception is that in case of insubordination or misconduct which calls for disciplinary action the employer may dismiss his employee without obtaining the permission of the Tribunal. Now, Sir, I do not think that this particular provision which permits an employer to get rid of an employee who has miscondacted himself or who is insubordinate can be a ground for complaint.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Who is to judge?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I should like to ask Mr. Joshi, who judges in ordinary cases where the Tribunal does not become operative? In the way in which our industry is organised it is the employer who has—rightly or wrongly—the right to dismiss a worker whom he thinks is of no service to him. Therefore I think there is no point in that. But what I wanted to inform the House, and Mr. Joshi particularly, is that in order that there may be no abuse of this provision we have amended the Ordinance in two important particulars. The first thing that we did—and that was done expressly at the desire of Mr. Joshi—was to constitute advisory committees to be associated with the Tribunal. On these advisory committees there are representatives of labour, and I have not the slightest doubt that with the help of these advisory committees, constituted as they are, they will be able to bring to the attention of the Tribunal such cases which they have reason to believe are due to victimisation.

The second and the most important step which has now been taken is this. We have now issued an order calling upon the Chairman of the Tribunal to place on record his reasons for not allowing an employee to resign or to quit his job. This is a provision which we have borrowed from the Criminal Procedure Code, so that at the centre of the Government it would be possible for us to know whether there were legitimate and proper grounds for the Chairman of the Tribunal not permitting an employee to resign his job.

Sir, Mr. Joshi then proceeded to point out that the conditions in coal mines were not very satisfactory. I do not claim that the conditions are ideal but I do like to say that the Labour Department has taken definite and quite large steps to bring about better conditions in coal mines. We have now been working our coal mines with two types of labour,—local labour and the labour which we have imported from outside, principally from the Gorakhpur district of the U. P. I should like to give the House certain figures with regard to wages. The Gorakhpur labourer gets 12 annas per day as basic wage; in addition to that he gets four annas of production bonus and he gets four annas of extra allowance for working underground. Then we give him food free, the cost of which comes to 14 annas per day per man.

Mrs. Renuka Ray (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, on a point of order, I think the Honourable Member has taken 25 minutes already.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member in charge can be given more than 20 minutes.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The rule is 20 minutes.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): No; 20 minutes or more if necessary.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: As I said, Sir, apart from these wages the Gorakhpur labourer is given 14 annas per day for his food. He has free housing and free medical aid.

Coming to the other colliery labour, their wages stand as follows. There is an increase in cash wages of 50 per cent. over the pre-war rates which were 8 annas on the surface and 14 annas underground. Then he or she gets certain rations. The local colliery labourer gets 4 seers of food grains per worker at controlled rates for himself or herself and 4 seers for each adult dependent and 2 seers for each child between two and twelve years. In addition he or she gets one-fourth of the basic ration in cereals and dal at the concession rate of six seers to the rupee. Each worker also gets one seer of rice free of cost for each day of attendance. In addition to that he gets cash benefits which are two annas per day of attendance to a worker who has no dependent, three annas to a worker with one dependent, five annas to one with an adult dependent and a child or children.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Sir, on a point of order. So far as I know, the option to allow a Government Member to speak for more than 20 minutes, to which you referred, was for the Member in charge and not for any Member of Government who might jump up and speak. In this case the Member in charge is the Finance Member whose motion is before the House. It is not the Labour Member's motion.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): Sir I move that the question be now put.

Several Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, I cannot be disturbed in this fashion.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Order, order. Closure motion can be moved only after the speech is finished. I have done all that I possibly could to help the Opposition with regard to the next motion, but I have no option now.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Sir, on a point of order, the Government Member can speak for 20 minute or more. But the point is, is it to be left to the sweet will of the Government Member himself to spin out his speech to inordinate lengths? Or is it for the Chair to decide whether the Honourable Member has had sufficient time or not? I contend that this power lies solely with the Chair and the Government Member cannot be allowed to spin out his speech to any length he likes. I contend he has had sufficient time.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): It is a very delicate thing for me to say that he has had enough time to speak or that he is taking time deliberately.

Several Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: I rise to a point of order. Evidently the Chair is under the impression that I cannot move the motion for closure, but I think this time as the Honourable Member has resumed his seat I can move the closure motion.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): It is a convention that closure motion cannot be moved when a Member is speaking. But the point is that the Honourable Member did not take his seat because he had finished his speech but because he was interrupted.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Then, Sir, Mr. Joshi said that the Labour Department was short-staffed. I am rather surprised how Mr. Joshi came to make that statement. I would like to inform the House about the staff which has been employed by the Labour Department quite recently. So far as the coal mines are concerned, we have got the Chief Executive Officer for the Coal Mines Welfare Committee. He has got a Chief Welfare Officer under him and under him are two Inspectors—one of them is a lady welfare inspector. Then, Sir, we have a Director of Unskilled Labour Supply. He has under him three Deputy Directors and four Assistant Directors.

(At this stage, there was a loud uproar and thumping of the table on the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Your demand will be thrown out completely.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: There are 20 officers under the Chief Inspector of Mines. Then, in addition to that we have now appointed

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a Chief Labour Commissioner at the Centre. Under him there are three Deputy Labour Commissioners who will be in charge of all the welfare activities.

Then, Sir, Mr. Joshi said that the Labour Department was always behind time in taking action, that delay was the rule. On this point what I would like to submit is this that in the circumstances in which we are carrying on the activities of the Labour Department delay is inevitable. We have got to consult the Provincial Governments, we have got to consult the organisers of labour, we have got to consult the employees. All this must necessarily take time, and therefore I do not think that there is any point in Mr. Joshi saying that we delay matters.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Mr. Deputy President, I rise to a point of order. Is it your ruling that a Member of Government can speak at any length? I want a ruling from the Chair definitely.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I understand the Honourable Member has finished his speech.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I want to save the time of the House, and therefore I ask leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I would like to say one thing that if my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, had told me that he was going to withdraw his cut motion, I would not have spoken as long as I have done.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Mr. Joshi is a man who shows courtesy to everybody. But if the Honourable Member does not show courtesy to me, I am not bound to show him courtesy.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Mr. Joshi was not bound to give any previous intimation to the Honourable Member to the effect that he was going to withdraw his cut motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

*Need for immediate Reimposition of Ban on Employment of Women
under ground in Mines*

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Labour' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, since August 1943 and December of the same year, when the ban on women working in underground mines was first withdrawn, there has been a consistent and insistent protest throughout the country against this undesirable action. The Government of India are fully aware that they have not only violated an international pledge but that they have considerably shocked and offended world opinion.

A year ago, at the request of the All-India Women's Conference, I moved an adjournment motion asking that the ban be re-imposed immediately, and my Honourable friend, Mrs. Subbarayan, also spoke on a cut motion on labour during the Budget Session on the same subject, but the plea of the Honourable the Labour Member at that time was that this was a very temporary measure only to be carried on till the next harvesting season and not for the period of the war that arrangements were being made to remedy the labour shortage, and that once these arrangements went through the ban would be lifted. Sir, the attitude was that we were creating all this song and dance about nothing since the period was to be very short. A year has come and gone and today I think the attitude has become far more adamant. The Honourable the Labour Member has made it only too clear that he does not intend to re-impose that ban. The Honourable Members of this House are only too well aware of all the circumstances and realize fully, I am sure, that the arguments that have been put forward if they had come from a merciless type of capitalist employer, could have been understood.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

But how they could have been ratified and even advanced by those who are primarily responsible for the protection and the well being of the common people, it passes our comprehension.

Sir, I should like to have the support of the House, of all Members—either on this side of the House or on the other,—of all Parties, including the Government, because this is a legitimate demand the infringing of which leads to the infringing of one of the most elementary canons of human decency.

Sir, I move.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Labour' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Some Honourable Members: The question be now put.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: With regard to this cut motion, it is difficult within the short time that is at my disposal to deal with it adequately. I would begin by saying that the last time when this question was debated on an adjournment motion, I made the statement that in taking the decision which the Government of India took I felt very unhappy about it. And I am still very unhappy about it. But the circumstances are such that it is impossible to take any other action than what we took. If the House will bear with me for a few minutes

Some Honourable Members: No, no.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I would tell the House the relevant circumstances which forced our hands in this matter.

I should like to begin by stating to the House what the position with regard to coal was. In the year 1941 the total raisings were 29,381,000 tons. In 1942 they fell to 29,270,000 and in 1943, the critical year in which we were forced to lift this ban, the total production of coal had fallen to 23,753,000. The House will at once realise that within a year there was a fall of something like 6,628,000 tons. It is unnecessary for me to dilate on the fact that coal is one of the most important raw materials both for industry as well as for the war effort. It was impossible for any Government to sit with folded hands and to watch with indifference what might be called a tremendous fall in the production of so important a material as coal.

The next thing to which I should like to draw the attention of the House is the number of collieries that were opened during these years. In 1941 the total number of collieries in operation was 440. In 1942 they had risen to 670 and in 1943 the number had gone up to 706. In the ordinary course of circumstances, this enormous increase in the number of collieries in 1943 should have given us a larger quantity of coal than we actually had, but we were faced with this most curious phenomenon, namely, that on the one hand we had an increase of 366 collieries while on the other we had a fall of 6,628,000 tons of coal.

Let us look now to the labour position. In the year 1941 the total number of workers employed in coal mines was 2,11,601. In 1942 the total employed was 2,08,742. In 1943 it was 2,05,822. Comparing them with the number of mines opened, it will be seen that here again we had a very strange phenomenon, namely, that although the mines had increased, the labour force had decreased considerably. In fact the total decrease was 4,879. But this does not complete the story. In fact many have not realised what exactly was the crucial fact. That will be realized if the House were to know the number of coal cutters that are employed in the coal mines. In 1941 the total number of coal cutters employed was 55,691. In 1942 they fell to 51,438, and in 1943 they fell to 45,306, a drop of 10,385. It is unnecessary for me to tell the House that the coal cutter is a prime mover in the process of producing coal. It is no use having a very large labour force round about the coal mines if you have not got a sufficient number of coal cutters. Coal cutting is the basic primary activity. This is the crux of whole problem, namely, that this important class of workmen had dwindled by no less a figure than, 10,385.

The reasons why these coal cutters had dropped are, of course, well known to the House. There was in the area where the coal mines are situated tremendous possibilities opened up by the various industrial establishments, by various military works, alternative employments, where wages were considerably higher than they were in the coal industry. The alternative employment had also this advantage, namely, that it was work on surface, which, other things being equal, is undoubtedly far more attractive than work underground. The third reason

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why the coal cutters preferred to quit the mines in favour of the other employment on the surface was because the coal cutter could take his wife along with him and get her earnings added to his own and thus increase the family earnings. If he worked in the mines he could not benefit of her earnings because of the ban. This was probably the greatest inducement which the coal cutter had in order to quit the mine and seek alternative employments that were within his reach.

Now, I have no doubt that nothing else would have helped to bring back the coal cutter except to allow his wife the opportunity to work with him and earn a wage. In my judgment nothing else could have enabled us to retrieve the position and get back the coal cutter into the coal mine, we have been told that we could have got back labour to the coal mines by increasing wages. On this point what I would like to say is this, that this is an argument which within limits has its force but that when carried to extremes turns out to be worse than useless. My friend Mr. Joshi yesterday referred to the fact that they paid enormous wages to coal miners in England and that it was the best paid industry. Undoubtedly so. But Mr. Joshi forgot the fact that even in England where they pay such enormous wages to the coal miners, there has been an enormous shortage of labour available for coal mines. Therefore, Sir, the point is this, that wages could not be that sovereign remedy which it has been suggested to be. In our judgment, and I think it was a correct judgment, the only method of retrieving a very bad and a very serious situation was to take the decision that we have taken.

There is another point which is urged against the decision the Government has taken. I should like to meet this point quite squarely because it is an important point the force of which I confess I have always felt—namely, that there is shortage of coal in England and in other countries but there women are not allowed to work underground, why should then we allow women to work underground in India? Now, Sir, the answer to that is twofold. In the first place in other countries like England, where women are not allowed to work underground, they have the alternative remedy of conscription. They can compel people and they do compel people to go and work in coal mines. I have very recently read a report that in Belgium, the 1941 class recruits required to serve in the army instead of being sent to the front were sent by the Belgian Government to go into the coal mines. That power, as the House will realise, is not available to us and therefore we could not follow that remedy.

Now, Sir, the other reply that I would like to give is this. In all those countries like Great Britain, South Africa and other countries, there has been no tradition of women being employed underground. Their women worked at one time but that was probably for 60 or 70 years before. I appeal to the House to take a realistic view of this matter. In our own country is it not a fact that up to 1937 women did work in coal mines? Is it not a fact that women in this country were working in coal mines till eight years ago? Can anybody in India say as people in England say that our women have ceased to work underground for a century and that therefore this is a new departure?

The Honourable lady who moved the cut motion, I think, has forgotten what was the view of the All-India Women's Conference in 1934. I should like to explain it to the House. The Government of India had taken certain steps practically from 1929 with a view to close the employment of women underground and, as the House will remember, they had laid down a proportion, a dwindling proportion, so that according to that programme women would have ceased to work in coal mines in 1937. This was long before there was any talk about a convention. What was the attitude of the All-India Women's Conference? I find that this matter was taken up for consideration by the All India Women's Conference in their session held on the 26th December, 1934. According to the report which I have in my hand. (Interruption by Mrs. Renuka Ray.) Please do not disturb me. The All India Women's Conference set up a Committee to consider this question and I would like to read only two short

sentences, which contain the view that the All-India Women's Conference took of the action of the Government of India. Sir, I will read from page 53. The report first gives the advantages and then gives the disadvantages. The report (I should like to tell the House that the lady who has moved the motion was a member of this committee appointed by the All-India Women's Conference)—begins by saying:

"Our impression about the effect of the elimination of women from underground work is that it is on the whole not suited to the conditions in which the miners live.

Then, Sir, they conclude by saying:

"If these women are removed from underground work in the present condition, the distress will be so great in the miners' homes that it will far outweigh the evils of allowing them underground."

(Interruption by Mrs. Renuka Ray.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is not giving way.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, it is true that when this matter was considered by the All-India Women's Conference at their session held in 1935 they came to the conclusion that they would support the International Convention which was passed, in spite of the fact that they saw grave objections to the course pursued by the Government of India. Now, Sir, I claim that this view that the All-India Women's Conference took of in 1935 which was so different from its view expressed in 1934 was due to the passing of the Convention and I am sure that if in 1935 the Convention had not been passed, the All-India Women's Conference would have continued to agitate against the decision of the Government of India to eliminate women from coal mines. I do not want to say that there are any sinister motives for the change of front on the part of the All-India Women's Conference in this matter but I would like to say that I am not prepared to believe that within the ten years that have elapsed there has been such a revolution in the moral and political conscience of the people of this country that they are not prepared to tolerate the action which Government has taken action which is purely to meet an emergency and which will be annulled as soon as the emergency vanishes.

Sir, I have been told that after all the number of women employed in coal mines is only 15,000 and that they have not been able to produce more coal. Why, then, is it that the Government of India persist in keeping these 15,000 women underground? The answer to that question is a very simple one. In the first place

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: May I ask if the Honourable the Labour Member would give an assurance, a firm assurance, that he will continue to employ them whatever might be the public opinion?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: If my Honourable friend has such a wicked opinion about me, I cannot help him. He is quite entitled to have whatever opinion he has about me and I am free to have my own opinion about him. I do not think we ought to exchange them on the floor of the House.

The question has been asked as to why we are keeping these women underground? There are three reasons for it. First of all, it has got to be realised that in the situation in which we are placed the woman underground cannot be treated as a single unit by herself. She is a potential. If she goes

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have not spoken for more than 20 minutes.

The first consequence will be that if she leaves the coal mine, the coal cutter will also leave the coal mine and there would be a further deterioration in the situation. The second consequence will be that if she does not work, there will be more absenteeism in the coal mines. And thirdly that there would be a further reduction in the number of coal cutters because some cutters will have to do the work of loaders, a work which women now do. As a matter of fact, the argument that has been sometimes urged that the women have not been

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able to produce more coal is not correct and I would like to draw the attention of the House

Several Honourable Members: The Honourable Member's time is up.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: As I said, we have no intention to keep women underground for a minute longer than is absolutely necessary. As the House is aware, we have taken several measures in order to meet the situation. We have imported Gorakhpur labour, we have imported machinery, and we have done several other things.

(It being Five of the Clock.)

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

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Labour' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 1—CUSTOMS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 92,68,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Customs'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 2—CENTRAL EXCISE DUTIES

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,63,18,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Central Excise Duties'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 3—TAXES ON INCOME INCLUDING CORPORATION TAX.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,10,14,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 4—SALT

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 86,03,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Salt'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 5—OPIUM

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,62,51,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Opium'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 6—PROVINCIAL EXCISE

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Provincial Excise'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 7—STAMPS

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 52,43,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Stamps'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 8—FORESTS

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,14,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Forests'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 9—IRRIGATION, NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,66,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 10—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES)

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,81,55,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including working Expenses)'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 11—INTEREST ON DEBT AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS AND REDUCTION OR AVOIDANCE OF DEBT

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,80,27,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Interest on Debt and other Obligations and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 12—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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

"That a reduced sum not exceeding Re. 1, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Executive Council'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 13—COUNCIL OF STATE

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,14,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Council of State'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 14—LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPARTMENT

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,86,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 15—HOME DEPARTMENT

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,81,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Home Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 16—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES

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

"That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 34,45,800, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 17—DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 35,10,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Department of Information and Broadcasting'."

The Assembly divided:

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
 Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
 Anthony, Mr. Frank R.
 Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.
 Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
 Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth.
 Caroe, Sir Olaf.
 Chandavarkar, Sir Vitthal N.
 Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
 Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
 Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.
 Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
 Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardeshir.
 Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
 Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
 Ghuznavi, Sir Abdul Halim.
 Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.
 Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.
 Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
 Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.
 Inskip, Mr. A. C.
 Ismaiel Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
 Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
 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.
 Menon, Mr. P. M.
 Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur
 Sir A. Ramaswami.
 Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
 Piere Lall Kureel, Mr.
 Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
 Richardson, Sir Henry.
 Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
 Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Gulam
 Kadir Muhammad.
 Sheehy, Sir John.
 Spence, Sir George.
 Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala
 Prasad.
 Stokes, Mr. H. G.
 Sulfan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
 Sundaresan, Mr. N.
 Thakur Singh, Capt.
 Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
 Tyson, Mr. G. W.
 Tyson, Mr. J. D.

NOES—55.

Abdul Basith Choudhury, Dewan.
 Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
 Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.
 Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
 Ahsan, Mr. Muhammad.
 Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
 Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
 Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
 Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
 Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachalam.
 Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
 Chunder, Mr. N. C.
 Daga, Seth Sheodass.
 Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.
 Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
 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.
 Habibur Rahman, Dr.
 Hans Raj, Raizada.
 Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.
 Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
 Ismail Khan, Hajee, Chowdhury Muham-
 mad.
 Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
 Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
 Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal.

Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
 Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
 Mangal Singh, Sardar.
 Manu Subedar, Mr.
 Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad
 Muhammad.

Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
 Naidu, Mr. G. Rangiah.
 Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
 Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
 Neogy, Mr. K. C.
 Pande, Mr. Badri Dutt.
 Raghubir Narain Singh, Choudhri.
 Ram Narayan Singh, Mr.
 Ranga, Prof. N. G.
 Raza Ali, Sir Syed
 Reddiar, Mr. K. Sitarama
 Sant Singh, Sardar.
 Satyanarayana Moorty, Mr. A
 Sham Lal, Lala.
 Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
 Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
 Sri Prakasa, Mr.
 Srivastava, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad.
 Subbarayan, Shrinati K. Radha Bai.
 Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
 Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
 Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

The motion was negatived.

DEMAND No. 18—LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:
 "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,86,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council
 to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the
 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Legislative Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 19—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:
 "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,93,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council
 to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the
 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Department of Education, Health and Lands'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 20—DEPARTMENT OF COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:
 "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,49,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council
 to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the
 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Department of Commonwealth Relations'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 21—FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:
 "That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 13,22,900, be granted to the Governor General in
 Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending
 the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Finance Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 22—COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:
 "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,92,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council
 to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the
 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Commerce Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 23—DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:
 "That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 23,92,900, be granted to the Governor General in
 Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending
 the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Department of Labour'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 24—DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND AIR

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:
 "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,33,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council
 to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the
 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Department of Posts and Air'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 25—WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:
 "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,16,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council
 to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the
 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'War Transport Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 26—FOOD DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:
 "That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 37,00,900, be granted to the Governor General
 in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year
 ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Food Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 27—CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:
 "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,59,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council
 to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the
 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Central Board of Revenue'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 28—INDIA OFFICE AND HIGH COMMISSIONER'S ESTABLISHMENT
CHARGES

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:
 "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,13,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council
 to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the
 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment
 charges'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 29—PAYMENTS TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS, DEPARTMENTS, ETC., ON
ACCOUNT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF AGENCY SUBJECTS AND MANAGEMENT OF
TREASURIES.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:
 "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,02,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council
 to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the
 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Payments to other Governments, Departments, etc., on
 account of the administration of Agency Subjects and management of Treasuries'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 30—AUDIT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,25,07,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Audit'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 31—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,90,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Administration of Justice'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 32—JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,42,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Jails and Convict Settlements'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 33—POLICE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,37,14,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Police'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 34—PORTS AND PILOTAGE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,30,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 35—LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,43,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Lighthouses and Lightships'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 36—SURVEY OF INDIA

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,99,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Survey of India'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 37—BOTANICAL SURVEY

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,54,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Botanical Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 38—ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,44,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Zoological Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 39—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,62,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Geological Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 40—MINES.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,45,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Mines'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 41—ARCHAEOLOGY

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,66,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Archæology'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 42—METEOROLOGY

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,54,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Meteorology'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 43—OTHER SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,49,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Other Scientific Departments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 44—EDUCATION

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,81,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Education'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 45—MEDICAL SERVICES

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,06,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Medical Services'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 46—PUBLIC HEALTH

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,67,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Public Health'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 47—AGRICULTURE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,46,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Agriculture'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 48—IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,34,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Imperial Council of Agricultural Research'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 49—AGRICULTURAL MARKETING

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,99,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Agricultural Marketing'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 50—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,58,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 51—INDUSTRIES

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,74,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Industries'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 52—SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,23,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Scientific and Industrial Research'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 53—AVIATION

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 40,81,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Aviation'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 54—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL AVIATION MET FROM REVENUE

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation met from Revenue'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 55—BROADCASTING

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 93,83,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Broadcasting'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 56—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON BROADCASTING MET FROM REVENUE

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Broadcasting met from Revenue'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 57—EMIGRATION—INTERNAL

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Emigration—Internal'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 58—EMIGRATION—EXTERNAL

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,13,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Emigration—External'."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—41.

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth.
Caroe, Sir Olaf.
Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardeshir.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.
Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.
Ismael Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Kamaluddin Ahmad, Sahms-ul-Ulema.
Khre, The Honourable Dr. N. B.

Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.
Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Menon, Mr. P. M.
Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami.
Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
Piare Lall Kureel, Mr.
Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad.
Sheehy, Sir John.
Spence, Sir George.
Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
Sundaresan, Mr. N.
Thakur Singh, Capt.
Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
Tyson, Mr. G. W.
Tyson, Mr. J. D.

NOES—55.

Abdul Basith Choudhury, Dewan.
Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Ahsan, Mr. Muhammad.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.
Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fazl-i-Hag Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr.
Ghuznavi, Sir Abdul Halim.
Habibar Rahman, Dr.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.
Jehanfir, Sir Cowasjee.
Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal.

Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Lalljee, Mr. Hooseinbhoy A.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Manu Subedar, Mr.
Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad Muhammad.
Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
Naidu, Mr. G. Rangiah.
Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Pande, Mr. Badri Dutt.
Raghubir Narain Singh, Choudhri.
Ram Narayan Singh, Mr.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Raza Ali, Sir Syed.
Reddiar, Mr. K. Sitarama.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Satyanarayana Moorthy, Mr. A.
Sham Lal, Lala.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Srivastava, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad.
Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

The motion was negatived.

DEMAND No. 59—COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,10,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 60—CENSUS

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Census'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 61—JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,36,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Joint-Stock Companies'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 62—IMPERIAL DAIRY DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,20,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Imperial Dairy Department'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 63—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,18,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 64—CURRENCY

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 48,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Currency'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 65—MINT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,18,73,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Mint'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 66—CIVIL WORKS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,14,03,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Civil Works'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 67—CENTRAL ROAD FUND

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,08,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Central Road Fund'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 68—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,42,86,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Superannuation Allowances and Pensions'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 69—STATIONERY AND PRINTING

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,20,29,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 70—MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,38,06,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 71—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,81,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 72—POST-WAR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a reduced sum not exceeding Re. 1, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Post-war Planning and Development'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 73—CIVIL DEFENCE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,80,24,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Civil Defence'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 74—DELHI

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 96,33,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Delhi'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 75—AJMER-MERWARA

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,45,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Ajmer-Merwara'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 76—PANTH PIPLODA

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Panth Piploda'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 77—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (NOT MET FROM REVENUE)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,50,85,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs (Not met from Revenue)'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 78—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS—STORES SUSPENSE (NOT MET FROM REVENUE)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores Suspense (Not met from Revenue)'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 79—DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,11,12,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 80—COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Commuted Value of Pensions'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 81—INTEREST-FREE ADVANCES

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,51,86,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Interest-free Advances'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 82—LOANS AND ADVANCES BEARING INTEREST

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,82,67,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Loans and Advances bearing Interest'."

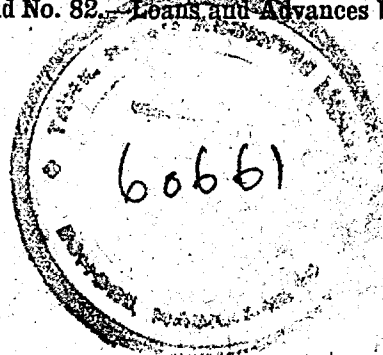
The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 14th March, 1945.

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