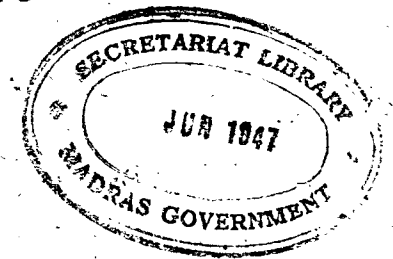


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THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Official Report

Volume III, 1945

(14th March to 29th March, 1945)



TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

OF THE

FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

1945



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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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, 14th 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

ASSOCIATING THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WITH POST-WAR ECONOMIC PLANNING

974. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) the reasons for Government not accepting the suggestion made in the resolution regarding the fifteen-year plan prepared by some industrialists of India, passed by this House on the 17th of November, 1944; and

(b) whether Government propose to associate this House in any manner or at any stage in the matter of their evolution of an economic plan for the future of India; if so, how?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to my speech on the cut motion on the 10th of March 1945.

(b) A Standing Committee of the Central Legislature will shortly be constituted to advise the Department of Planning and Development.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Apart from the Standing Committee, does the Honourable Member propose to create any other machinery by which he can take this House into confidence?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: No, Sir. Then the machinery would be too complicated and cumbersome.

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

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that the Central

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question. The matter has been debated only the other day.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Sir, I have to ask only one question. With regard to the powers that will be given to the Standing Committee, will they be so comprehensive that all the schemes will come before it for consideration?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: It will be on the same lines as the Standing Committees of the other Departments.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What will be the relation of this to the Policy Committees?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Policy Committees are separate committees which also advise the Planning and Development Department.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is any elected Member of this House present on those committees?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: There are Members of both the Houses.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Elected members?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Yes, Sir.

POST-WAR ECONOMIC PLANS UNDER GOVERNMENT CONSIDERATION

975. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) what the published plans are that Government have taken into consideration apart from the Bombay plan;

(b) whether the plan by Prof. Agarwal (called by some as the Gandhian Plan) was also considered;

(c) when Government will be in a position to evolve a final comprehensive plan and put it before the country;

(d) whether Government have come to any basic conclusions with regard to the establishment of any essential industries; and

(e) if so, what those industries are and what steps are being taken by Government to establish them at an early date?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) and (b). The People's Plan, the Gandhian Plan by Prof. Agarwal and suggestions in numerous papers have been taken into consideration.

(c) It is not possible to specify a time limit.

(d) and (e). The question of establishing a large number of essential industries, such as those for prime movers, automobiles and tractors, ship-building and marine engineering, electrical machinery, machine tools, light and heavy engineering industries, light and heavy chemical industries, electro-chemical industries, plastics, rayons, as described in the list of panels which was placed on the table of the House in answer to question No. 116 on the 10th February 1945, has been taken up. Panels with regard to these industries are being set up. Besides this, Provincial and State Committees are also considering the question of establishing some of these industries.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With regard to the answer to part (d), may I know whether the Government have come to any basic conclusion with regard to the establishment of any essential industries? May I take it from the answer that they have come to the conclusion that these industries must be established?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Panels are being established to consider the establishment and in other cases the expansion of these industries. We certainly want to make investigations as to the desirability and the possibility of establishing industries, and the extent to which these industries are to be established. I think I have already placed on the table of the House the directive issued to these panels.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if any time limit has been fixed by which these Panels are to submit their reports?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: No definite time limit has been fixed because different Panels will require different times, but, generally speaking, I might say that they are expected to submit the report within about four to six months.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Am I correct when I say that the Government have not come to conclusion about any of those industries which they are sure of establishing in this country, and they are still considering the matter?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The Panels are being established in the case of a number of existing industries, for instance iron and steel or Textiles. There is no question of considering the very inception of the industry but the expansion of the industry is being considered. Similarly, other Panels are being established for the purpose of investigating the desirability of establishing new industries.

GOLD AND SILVER SMUGGLING

976. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state how many cases were detected of (i) smuggling of gold outside India, and (ii) smuggling of silver or silver coins outside India?

(b) What was the punishment inflicted?

(c) How much of the material was confiscated?

(d) What are the methods adopted by the Customs Department for detecting such smuggling?

(e) Is any special staff maintained in connection with (i) water routes and (ii) land routes?

(f) Under which law is this done—under the Indian Customs Act, or under any special war-time ordinance? If so, under which ordinance?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The number of cases of attempted smuggling out of India detected since the imposition of the restrictions is as follows:

(i) Gold—1,119, (ii) Silver 73.

(b) Fines and penalties amounting to Rs. 38,01,583 in all, have been imposed in these cases. Six cases have been prosecuted in court resulting in five convictions.

(c) The following have been confiscated:

65,512 gold sovereigns; 6,864 tolas of gold bullion; one American 20 dollars gold coin; Gold jewellery valued at Rs. 54,802; 206 Silver coins; 12,238 tolas of silver bullion.

(d) The utmost vigilance is exercised by Customs and other officials at all likely points of exit for the purpose of preventing unauthorised export, and offences are dealt with drastically. Information concerning smuggling is exchanged between the ports.

(e) Special staff for this purpose is maintained only at the port of Bombay and at certain ports in the Province of Madras outside the port of Madras itself.

(f) Action in respect of such exports is taken under rules 84 and 90B of the Defence of India Rules, read with selections 19, 167(8) and 183 of the Sea Customs Act.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why don't Government plug up these avenues for illegitimate export by starting negotiations with the maritime States in Western India for some kind of common control?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As I said the other day, the Government of India have for a long time endeavoured to come to a satisfactory arrangement with the maritime States and if they have not done so, the fault is not, in my opinion, that of the Government of India.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: On what particular frontier most of this smuggling takes place, and may I also know whether it is by sea or land?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid I could not say off hand but I do know that a good deal of attempted smuggling of gold is from the Port of Karachi up the Persian Gulf.

INTENSIVE MILITARY CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS

977. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether the tempo of military works under construction is still as great as it was during the last three years?

(b) If so, what is the object of undertaking entirely new buildings to-day?

(c) If the reply is in the negative, will Government consider some means of releasing more building material for the civil population's dire needs in principal cities of India?

(d) How long do the Defence Department desire to continue this policy with regard to building materials, some of which can be produced locally in abundant quantities and could be supplied to civil population?

(e) Are Government able to use all the building materials which have been frozen and reserved for them?

(f) Have Government not got considerable surplus at various depots?

(g) Do Government propose to appoint a committee of officials and non-officials to go into this question?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To prepare India as a base for future operations against Japan.

(c) and (d). Do not arise in view of my answers to (a) and (b).

(e) and (f). In general there are no surplus stocks of building materials in military depots. In a few cases margins held against phases of the war which have now passed are being converted to other uses or disbursed to other Government Departments.

(g) No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know, having the command of all the building materials and having started new buildings, why it is necessary for Government to requisition residential buildings in Bombay and elsewhere, and also in such requisitions to introduce racial discrimination by taking the Hindu, Parsi and Muslim Gymkhanas and leaving out the European Gymkhana and the Yatch Club?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The resources at the disposal of military authorities barely suffice for military building requirements to prepare India as a base. As for the question of requisition, it is a matter for the Bombay Government. I am answering a short notice question later on in the day which will give further information to the Honourable Member.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware of the very acute discontent among the *bona fide* citizens of Bombay and also among war workers and war efforters who have been thrown out on the street and on which there is a considerable feeling throughout Bombay? There will be a Sheriffs' meeting very soon to consider this question.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I did not know whether there was going to be a Sheriffs' meeting very soon; the Honourable Member himself gave this information to me some days ago. I know that there is a certain amount of feeling in Bombay with regard to the requisition of buildings.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the fact that requisitions are made by a Department of the Central Government, will the Honourable Member convey to the Bombay Government that this Government would not tolerate such cases of racial discrimination?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not know whether there is any racial discrimination.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: The Honourable Member was informed by Mr. Manu Subedar that a European Club had been left out and Indian Clubs had been requisitioned.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am not aware of the fact.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member enquire if it is not a fact and see to it that this sort of discrimination is put a stop to?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: There is no question of racial discrimination. Every building is requisitioned on its own merits.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What have Government done with regard to providing housing for those unfortunates, whom they throw out of their present residences?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: This is also a concern of the Government of Bombay.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government write to the Government of Bombay that this sort of Hitlerism will not do?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I think my Honourable friend is anticipating my answer to the short notice question today.

BRITISH MAJOR INDUSTRIES IN COMMUNICATION WITH CAPITALISTS IN INDIA

978. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Planning and Development been drawn to—

“At one time I thought scientific research had become the monopoly of America and Germany and that British industrialists were resting on their oars,” stated Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar recently at a Press Conference in London. “Firms’ secrets shown to us reveal that they are willing to co-operate with us in India’s industrialisation” he said (*Bombay Chronicle Weekly*, 11th February, 1945)?

(b) Which major industries in the United Kingdom are according to Government’s information, in communication with capitalists in India?

(c) What facilities are Government offering for such communications?

(d) What steps have Government taken against the development of a situation leading to cartels, pools and monopoly prices against the consumer in India?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) I do not find the quotation referred to by the Honourable Member in the *Bombay Chronicle Weekly* of the 11th February, 1945. However I have seen the statement in other Press reports.

(b) I have no information.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The problem is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have not Government seen in this morning’s paper a statement from a British paper in which it is said that British firms will establish factories in India and will co-operate with Indian firms?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the position, Sir? Have you had any communication? Have Government had any communication with the United Kingdom with regard to the common venture on a large scale which would shut out all the small industries in India and create cartels and pools in this country under British and Indian big business?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: No, Sir. None at all.

WASTE OF PETROL BY MILITARY LORRIES, ETC.

979. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Has the War Secretary considered the enormous waste of petrol by military lorries, the enormous diversion of petrol by military contractors, and generally the waste involved in the use of petrol by the Defence Department?

(b) What steps have Government taken to check such waste?

(c) Is it a fact that unlimited petrol is given for all military purposes without any check of any kind whatsoever?

(d) Is it a fact that contractors get thousand gallon coupons for the mere asking from military officers, who do not check up for what legitimate purposes these coupons are taken?

(e) Are Government aware that the inconvenience to the civil population has reached the peak? If so, do Government propose to give some relief to them from economies effected by the Military Department?

(f) On what basis is petrol distributed to different Commands and through different Commands to the Defence Services and to the contractors?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member’s assumptions that there is enormous waste of petrol by military lorries and diversion of petrol by military contractors are not correct. Following the Motor Spirit Rationing Order of 1941 a series of instructions have been issued aimed at bringing home to all military personnel the paramount need for the conservation of stocks of petrol for operational purposes by the exercise of the strictest economy in the employment of military transport and in the use of petrol. Every military mechanical transport vehicle is taken off the road on at least one day in the week for routine over-hauling in order to ensure that it is in proper running order, and all mechanical transport of all arms and services of the army is placed under central local control for the proper co-ordination of its use. There are petrol and lubricant Inspectors in General Headquarters whose duties are largely concerned with the economical running of all transport and who give advice on the avoidance of waste. An economy campaign was launched in 1944 and the production of a pamphlet co-ordinating and combining all the various orders and rules for the control and use of military transport is under active consideration.

(c) No, Sir. Proper accounts of all petrol issued are maintained and are subject to audit.

(d) No, Sir. The general principle is that military petrol should not be used for contractors’ vehicles employed on military work, but that petrol for contractors should be obtained through the Civil Rationing authorities. Except in cases of emergency, when time does not permit of a prior reference to the Provincial Rationing Authority, or when civilian owned vehicles are hired by the Military for training purposes, supply from military sources

is only permissible against a certificate signed by the Provincial Rationing Authority to the effect that supply from civil sources has ceased to be available.

(e) Government regret that rationing of petrol should cause unavoidable inconvenience to the public, but no question of diverting military petrol for civil use can arise as the objective on both sides (civil and military) is maximum economy.

(f) Armies/Commands are responsible for estimating requirements of petrol for units of the Defence Services within their areas. These estimates are compiled monthly, cover a period of four months ahead, and are based on (a) past consumption, and (b) other commitments, e.g., special exercises, arrival of fresh troops, etc. These estimates are progressively checked and consolidated by Headquarters of lower formations, and finally by Headquarters of Armies/Commands and General Headquarters. The distribution of petrol to contractors is explained in my answer to part (d) of the question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that the circular referred to by the Honourable Member may be lost in thousands of other circulars which are also sent out, may I ask whether Government will consider the great public feeling on this subject of waste of petrol by military authorities and take some special measures to check it?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am prepared to reiterate these instructions to the military authorities.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will you take any special measures?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: It is not a question of special measures. The instructions will be repeated to the authorities.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member prepared to appoint an *ad hoc* committee to put a stop to this waste?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, Sir.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: What are the reasons?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: It is not necessary.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member aware that in Lahore military officers send these military lorries from place to place in order to arrange for card parties?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No Sir, I have not been to Lahore. I cannot be everywhere so I cannot tell you.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member aware that military petrol which should be used for the war effort is used for smuggling goods?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not know, Sir.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member aware that many cases of that kind have occurred?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: If the Honourable Member gives me a specific incident, I will enquire.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: A specific incident did happen in Baluchistan.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The Honourable Member can help by giving a specific instance. Generalizations do not help any one.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Chettiar.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is the Honourable Member aware that military lorries are used for hunting purposes?

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

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: No answer to my question?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next question has been called.

NEW PROGRAMME OF CONSTRUCTIVE WORK BY MAHATMA GANDHI.

980. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether Government have studied the new programme of constructive work put forward to the country by Mahatma Gandhi;

(b) the attitude of the Government of India over this programme of constructive work; and

(c) whether any Provincial Governments have consulted the Government of India over the attitude to be adopted by them in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (c). The Government of India have seen Mr. Gandhi's statement regarding the constructive programme. They are in full sympathy with any scheme for the promotion of communal unity, the spread of education, the improvement of public health and the uplift of the poor and the down-trodden. They feel, however, that there is a danger that certain persons who may not share Mr. Gandhi's views may use this programme as a cloak for their subversive activities. There has been some correspondence between Provincial Governments and the Government of India on this latter aspect of the question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the ground for thinking that this simple programme may be taken as a cloak for subversive activity?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Sorry, I could not catch a word.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the grounds for the Government for thinking that this simple programme of people going into the villages and working for the uplift of the poor may be converted into a subversive programme?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I think my opinion is very generally shared.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Has the Honourable Member himself read the programme?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Oh, yes.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: As there is no danger of Government being accused of subversive activities, may I know whether Government will put into practice that part of the programme which they consider useful?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Government have their own methods of uplift. I thought the object of this programme was to supplement the activities of Government.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Do Government mean by the programme the uplift of the people?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am sorry, I could not catch what he said.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know how by all these activities for the uplift of the people there will be subversive activity?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Confusion of thought seems to be in the mind of my friend opposite.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: That is exactly the trouble with the Honourable Member. Has he any evidence to show that the work for the uplift of the people will result in subversive activities?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is not what I said.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the confusion, will somebody clear the matter?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know whether any instructions have been issued to Provincial Governments to counteract this activity?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: There was some correspondence between the Provincial Government and the Government of India regarding the possibility of certain persons who do not share Mr. Gandhi's views using his programme as a cloak for their own activity.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any new Hallett circular?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Mudie circular!

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

LIMIT ON CHILAM AND CHEWING TOBACCO TO BE TAKEN OUT OF WAREHOUSE AT A TIME

981. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

- (a) whether any limit has been fixed to the quantity of *chilam* and chewing tobacco which can be taken out of a warehouse at a time;
 (b) if so, what the limit is and when it was imposed;
 (c) the objects in imposing the above limit, and whether it is carried under any rules;
 (d) whether this is causing hardship to the traders; and
 (e) whether Government propose to remove the same; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Where such tobacco is capable of being used for a purpose which would render it liable to a higher rate of duty, it must, on entry into a bonded warehouse, be held liable to the highest (or higher) of the rates appropriate to the several purposes to which such tobacco is known to be applied. If, when it is cleared from the warehouse, the owner can show, either by means of a special form of retail packing or by treating it in a particular way, that it is intended for chewing or for manufacture into *hookah* tobacco, or, again, if it is consigned directly to a licensed wholesale dealer who is known to manufacture, or to sell, tobacco only of that particular kind, it may be re-assessed accordingly. If, however, it is not so packed or treated and is sold to a licensed dealer who retails more than one kind of tobacco, it may still be re-assessed at the lower rate, provided that it is cleared in limited quantities and is stored separately in the retailer's premises and is separately accounted for in his books.

(b) This arrangement was made in May 1944 and such clearances to retailers dealing in more than one kind of tobacco were limited to 1 cwt. at a time. The limit has since been raised to 2 cwts.

(c) These orders were issued under Rule 233 of the Central Excise Rules and represent a considerable concession to the trade. The limitation on certain clearances referred to in parts (a) and (b) is obviously necessary in order to minimise the loss of revenue due to misdeclarations by traders.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know whether it is a fact that under the rules there is no limit prescribed as to the quantity of tobacco which can be taken out and that the limit now prescribed is a result of executive action?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The reason for my long reply was to explain why that limit had become necessary. It may be said to be the result of executive action. The position is that the trader may either pay the higher rate of duty or, if he wishes to clear at the lower rate, then he must comply with these executive requirements.

WOMEN EMPLOYED IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENTS

982. ***Mrs. Renuka Ray:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the total number of women now employed in the different Departments of the Government of India?

(b) What are the different grades (i) clerical, and (ii) officer, in which women are employed?

(c) What is the total number of women in each grade and the number of Indian women in each grade?

(d) What percentage of women now employed in (i) clerical grade, and (ii) officers' grade is likely to remain in employment in the post-war period?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (c). The information is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour which would not be justified, as it would be necessary to collect information from the larger central Departments which employ women, such as the Posts and Telegraphs Department with its branches throughout the country. It is presumed that the Honourable Member is referring to civil Departments, but if military offices are included the Honourable Member will be aware that there are a large number of women employed in these offices.

(d) Attention is invited 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 employment, in 30 per cent of the vacancies filled on a temporary basis during the war. It is not possible to forecast how many women will be able to secure permanent employment at the end of the war.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: As a matter of interest to women's organisations will the Honourable Member be prepared to make investigations in regard to the Civil Departments?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No: for the reasons I have given.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask, Sir, if there is any difference in the salaries and allowances paid to men and women doing the same kind of work?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That I need notice of. It would have to be addressed to the Departments concerned.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: It is a fact that Government are seriously considering the desirability of reserving posts in all their Departments for women in proportion to their population?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Also with due weightage!

HEALTH OF PREM JAS RAI, A DETENU

983. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the present condition of the detenu, named Prem Jas Rai of Delhi, now detained in the Ferozepore Camp Jail? Has he been admitted to the Mayo-Hospital at Lahore? If so, for what ailment?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: As promised in my reply to Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal's question No. 729 on 6th March, 1945, I have obtained further information about Mr. Premjas Rai. It is correct that he was transferred from Delhi to Multan and from Multan to Ferozpur jail. He is reported to be in fair health. He has complained of stomach pain and in consequence was admitted to hospital for X-ray examination and was twice X-rayed but no abnormality was discovered. Since his arrival in Ferozpur jail his weight has increased from 8 stone 12 lbs. to 9 stone 6 lbs. His case is periodically reviewed but his state of health does not furnish any special grounds for release at present.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are his relatives given any special facilities to interview him?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I imagine that he gets the ordinary facilities.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that he is not well, are his relatives given any special facilities, so that they might interview him more frequently?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: There has been no expression of any such desire to do so as far as I know but if they did, they would have to apply to the Punjab Government.

REPORTS OF CERTAIN RADIO DEBATES ON INDIA IN AMERICA

984. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state whether the Government of India have been supplied with full and unexpurgated reports of the radio debates that took place in America during the last few months on India, between Sir Frederick Puckle and Mr. Louis Fischer as well as Sir Frederick Puckle and Mr. Ahmed on the one hand and Mr. Norman Thomas and Senator Celler on the other hand? If so, will the Honourable Member please lay on the table of the House a copy of such reports?

(b) What is the position of Mr. Ahmed, and is any payment made to him out of Indian funds in consideration of his participation in such debates?

(c) Does Sir Fredrick Puckle act independently in his propaganda or with the collaboration of, and in consultation with, the India Agency General? Was the question of appointing a special adviser on India in British Embassy, or selection of the adviser, referred to the Government of India for opinion?

and is the Honourable Member in a position to state why such a special adviser was considered essential when there is a India Agency General in America?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The last part of the question does not arise.

(b) Mr. Ahmed is not a Government servant, and no payment is made to him from Indian revenues.

(c) Sir Frederick Puckle is a member of the staff of the British Embassy and is therefore independent of the India Agency General, Washington. The Government of India were consulted before the appointment was offered to him.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to part (a) of the question, do I take it then that in these matters the Government of India are not even kept informed by their Agent General?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: We were not informed so far as this matter is concerned.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it a fact, that a brief outline of one such report has recently been published in the press and has the Honourable Member seen the report?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have seen the report in the papers.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: With regard to part (b) of the question, in view of the valuable services rendered by Mr. Ahmed in placing the view point of the Muslim League before America and world opinion, will the Honourable Member see to it that on such occasions proper arrangements are made for the presentation of the Muslim League case?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: We do not make arrangements for any propaganda at all of this kind.

LITERATURE ABOUT ANTI-INDIAN PROPAGANDA IN AMERICA

985. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state if the Government of India are supplied with copies of all pamphlets, leaflets, books and other literature issued from time to time by the British Embassy, the British Information Service in America and the India Agency General in regard to India during the last five years? If so, will the Honourable Member please keep a full set of such literature in the library of this House?

(b) Do the Government of India keep themselves informed of the resentment that is sometimes expressed in America by the Americans themselves at the propaganda of the India Agency General against Indian interest? Is the Agency General expected to keep the Government of India informed in these matters?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) No. The pamphlets and leaflets reproduced in America are based on material supplied by the Government of India from time to time but we do not get a copy of every word that the Indian Information Services publish. No books are published by the Indian, Agent General or the Indian Information Services. The Government of India are not concerned with the literature issued by the British Information Services. The last part of the question does not arise.

(b) The Agent General does not conduct any propaganda against India's interests.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know whether when the Government of India furnish information to the British Embassy in Washington with regard to matters concerning India, they do not even try to keep themselves posted whether the terminological inexactitudes which they transmit are correctly reproduced in the publication issued there?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: We do not supply leaflets to the British Information Service.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member stated that material is supplied for the purpose of the publications mentioned. Is that correct?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Pamphlets which are produced here are sent there.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the constitutional position of the Government of this country, will the Honourable Member see to it that the sum of five lakhs now being spent on propaganda in U. S. A. is no longer spent either for or against India, and is discontinued altogether?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Nothing is spent on propaganda. Money is spent on publicity.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: What is the difference between publicity and propaganda?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Tweedledum and Tweedledee.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I want an answer to my question.

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

SALARY, FUNCTIONS, ETC., OF MR. T. A. RAMAN IN INDIA AGENCY GENERAL

986. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state what is the post and salary, functions and activities of T. A. Raman in the India Agency General? How many books on Indian subjects have appeared under his supposed authorship, and on what subjects?

(b) Is it a fact that Raman is sent round on behalf of the India Agency General to different University centres in the United States of America in order to meet Indian students and persuade them to attend speeches and lectures given by representatives of the British Embassy like Sir Fredrick Puckle? Is it a fact that he went to Boston before Sir Fredrick Puckle's visit to that place and asked Indian students there to attend the latter's lecture, giving them a warning that failure on their part to do so might jeopardise their future prospects?

(c) Is it a fact that Indian students in U.S.A., are threatened with penalties in regard to their priorities for return passage to India in case they associate themselves with any political movement, or attend public meetings not approved by the India Agency General?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Mr. T. A. Raman is employed as Information Officer with the Agent General for India in the U. S. A. on a monthly salary of Rs. 900 in the scale of Rs. 700—50—1,000. The function of the Indian Information Services in which he is employed, is to publicise India and India's war effort. He has published no books on India since he joined his present post. Before his entry into Government service he had published in America two books on India, entitled "What does Gandhi want?" and "Report on India". He also published the "India" number in the World Today series, in Great Britain.

(b) and (c). No.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member if the Government have satisfied themselves after a perusal of his dossier that he is fit to be employed by the Agent-General for India in America?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Yes, Sir.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask if his dossier is on a par with the dossier of people employed here in India by the Government of India in high positions?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: That I cannot say.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Are the replies given by the Honourable Member to parts (b) and (c) of my question, based upon any report sent by the Agent-General himself, or are they the result of any direct inquiries made in the various centres of education to which I have referred?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No inquiries have been made, nor is it possible to make inquiries in all the centres, but we have received definite information from the Agent-General.

ILL-TREATMENT TO MR. KAMALNAYAN BAJAJ BY SOLDIERS AT WARDHA RAILWAY STATION

987. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum** (on behalf of **Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha**): (a) Will the War Secretary please state if he has any information regarding the

ill-treatment meted out to Mr. Mamalnayan Bajaj, son of the late Seth Jamnalal Bajaj, by soldiers in the Second Class Compartment at the Wardha Station in the month of October last?

(b) If the reply be in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state what action was taken by the authorities on the representation submitted to them by Mr. Bajaj?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take in future to stop the recurrence of such affairs?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) The details of the incident are, that on the 4th of October last, Mr. Bajaj tried to enter a second-class compartment at Wardha Railway Station but two British soldiers who were in the compartment prevented him from doing so for some time. Mr. Bajaj was later given access to the compartment. I may add that the soldier who was responsible for starting the incident was a psychiatric case and in a nervous condition.

(b) On investigation by the Military authorities the psychiatric patient was posted to a convalescent depot; it is not known whether action was taken against him but the other soldier who took a minor part in the incident was admonished by his Commanding Officer. A letter of regret was sent to Mr. Bajaj.

(c) Strict orders relating to the behaviour of troops towards the travelling public have already been issued from time to time by General Headquarters to all military formations and disciplinary action is taken against personnel who infringe these orders.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why are arrangements not made for them to travel by special trains? Why should they be allowed to crowd ordinary passenger trains and insult and ill-treat civilian populations?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: There are special trains, but their number is not enough.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Did anybody accompany him to look after him? If he is a case for a medical specialist, he should be accompanied by somebody? Did he start suffering from his trouble after he got into the train?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: If he was suffering even before he left his station, does not the Honourable Member think that special precaution should have been taken?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not know, many nervous people travel by trains.

INDUSTRIAL ADVISERS IN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

988. ***Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee** (on behalf of **Sardar Sant Singh**): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state the number of Industrial Advisers in his Department? How many of them do not possess any technical qualifications and how many possess such qualifications? In the case of the latter, what are the technical qualifications of each?

(b) How many of such advisers are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Anglo-Indians, Parsees and Christians and members of the Scheduled class?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

No.	Designation of post	Number of posts	Name of incumbent and community	Qualifications	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Industrial Adviser	One	Mr. H. K. Kirpalani, Hindu.	I. C. S. (retired), lately Adviser to the Governor of Bombay.	
2.	Deputy Industrial Adviser.	Five.	(i) Mr. K. C. Cooper, Parsee. (ii) Mr. M. H. Mahmood, Muslim.	Lately Deputy Controller of Supplies, Bengal. M. A. (Oxen), Bar-at-Law, Lately Director of Industries, Punjab.	

1	2	3	4	5	6
		(iii)	Dr. M. K. Maitra, Hindu.	B.Sc., Ph.D. (London), D.I.C., A.R.C.S., lately Joint Chief Controller of Explosives, Labour Department, Government of India.	
		(iv)	Dr. Aswath Narayana Rao, Hindu.	B.Sc. (London), A. I. C., F. R. I. C., lately, General Manager of the Mysore Government Industrial and testing Laboratories, Tech. Assistant to Director of Chemical Engineering and Chemical Industries, Mysore, Tech. Secretary to the Mysore, Board of Scientific and Industrial Research.	
		(v)	Mr. K. D. Guha, Hindu.	M. Sc. (Liverpool), A. M. Ch. E., lately Director of Industries, C. P. and Berar.	Not yet joined
3.	Asst. Industrial Adviser.	Three	(i) Mr. Anand Swarup Bhatnagar, Hindu.	M. Sc., (Chemistry), lately covenanted Asst. in Messrs. Burma Shell.	
		(ii)	Mr. S. Dutta, Hindu.	M. Sc., lately Asst. Editor, Dictionary of Economic Products and Industrial Resources in India.	
		(iii)	Mr. Humayun Mirza, Muslim.	Lately Asst. Commissioner, Mysore State Govt., and Dewan of Ranganapalle.	

TECHNICAL OFFICERS IN SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

989. ***Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee** (on behalf of **Sardar Sant Singh**): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state the number of technical officers in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research? How many of them are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and belonging to other communities?

(b) Is there any qualified Sikh working in this Department? If so, for how long a period? What are the reasons for not promoting him to the post of an officer?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) The number of Technical officers borne on the cadre of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is 17, consisting of: Hindus—10, Muslims—6, Sikhs—nil, Other communities—1; Total—17.

(b) There is one Sikh working as Technical Assistant in the Laboratories of the C. S. I. R. since the 13th November 1942. His case for promotion will be duly considered according to his seniority in the cadre.

INDIANS TO BE SENT TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES FOR TRAINING

990. ***Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee** (on behalf of **Sardar Sant Singh**): Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state the number of Indians proposed to be sent to foreign countries for training under the post-war Planning Scheme? Is there any communal proportion fixed?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: There are two distinct schemes. The first is for sending students abroad for higher studies in technical and scientific subjects. It is proposed to send about 500 students this year. No communal proportion has been fixed but every effort will be made to see that adequate representation is given to minority communities provided suitable candidates are forthcoming.

The second scheme is for sending abroad 100 technicians already employed in industry for further training or for enlarging their industrial or professional experience. Provincial Governments and private employers have been asked to make their nominations and the Government of India will make a final selection from these nominations.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will any special opportunities be given to candidates from Harijan classes?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Candidates from Depressed and backward classes will be given special attention. A circular has been addressed to the Provincial Governments to that effect.

An Honourable Member: Will there be a selection committee.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: A selection board is being constituted.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Sir, may I ask the Honourable Member if any women will be included among these students.

OFFICERS IN TRAINING AT STAFF COLLEGE, QUETTA

991. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) how many officers are receiving training at the Staff College, Quetta;

(b) how many of these are British, Colonials, Anglo-Indians, Indian Christians, Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs; and

(c) how many are from each of the Provinces and States of India?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) 178.

(b) 144 are British; 1 Colonial; 2 Anglo-Indians; 13 Hindus; 10 Muslims; and 7 Sikhs. There is no Indian Christian.

(c) 24 out of the total of 32 officers domiciled in India come from the under-mentioned provinces and states. Information regarding the remaining eight is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house in due course.

Bombay—1.

Hyderabad—1.

U. P.—1.

Kashmir—1.

Punjab—17.

Alwar—1.

Assam—1.

Rampur—1.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know if the explanation for this disparity between the number of British and Colonials on the one hand, and the number of Indians on the other is due to the fact that admission to this College depends on the recommendations of Army Officers in the different military areas into which the country has been divided?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Admission to the Staff College is made on the recommendations of Army Commanders.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Member aware that years ago the procedure for admission was by means of a competitive examination and not on recommendation?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am not aware of that, but my Honourable friend is aware—I think he should be aware that this question of selections for the Staff College was discussed in the Defence Consultative Committee, and certain measures were taken, which it is hoped will lead to a larger number of Indian officers going to the Staff College.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: It was not discussed, otherwise the question would not have been worded in a hesitating manner, but would have been definite. Has the Honourable Member inquired what the procedure for admission was, say, five years ago, and what the procedure is, and whether Army officers favour competitive examination or recommendation.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I will have the matter examined, certainly.

W. A. C. (I.) OFFICERS IN TRAINING AT STAFF COLLEGE, QUETTA

992. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) how many W. A. C. (I.) officers are receiving training at the Staff College, Quetta;

(b) how many of these are British, Colonial, Anglo-Indians and Indians; and

(c) how many of these are from each of the Provinces and States of India?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) 36.

(b) The number of British, Colonial, Anglo-Indians and Indians among the W. A. C. (I) trainee officers is 19, 1, 10 and 2 respectively.

(c) One Indian officer comes from Madras and the other from Hyderabad. The 10 Anglo-Indians come from the following provinces and states:—

Central Provinces and Berar—2.

Punjab—1.

Bombay—1.

United Provinces—1.

Madras—2.

Mysore—1.

Orissa—1.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Where do the British members come from?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: They come from all parts of India.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I know if the curriculum for women officers is the same as for men, or does it include subjects which are of special interest to women?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have not seen any details, but my impression is that there is a special curriculum.

AN ON LATE MAULANA MUHAMMAD ALI'S ARTICLE ENTITLED "THE CHOICE OF THE TURKS"

993. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an article headed "The Choice of the Turks", written by the late Maulana Muhammad Ali, was published in an English weekly named *The Comrade* in or about the year 1914; whether the said article was banned under the Press Act; and

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what the present attitude of the Government of India towards the said article is, and whether Government have no objection to the republication of the said article in view of the radical change in the international situation since the year 1914?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) The security of the keeper of the *Comrade* and the *Hamdard Press* was forfeited because of the article referred to.

(b) The article is now of only historic interest and calls for no expression of views by Government: the question of re-publication is one for the publisher to decide.

INSTALLATION OF BROADCASTING STATION AT PATNA

994. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) the stage at which the proposal for the construction of a Broadcasting Station at Patna is; and

(b) the reasons for the delay?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to part (a) of Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall's Unstarred question No. 27, dated 8th February, 1944. There has been no change in the position.

(b) No progress has been possible owing to the non-arrival of the outstanding portion of the transmitting equipment.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: When is that expected to arrive?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The question should be put to an astrologer.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Honourable Member is a better astrologer.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I should very much like to have the equipment as quickly as possible, because it refers to Patna.

DISCHARGE OF ANGLO-INDIANS FROM THE ROYAL ENGINEERS

995. ***Mr. Frank R. Anthony:** (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state whether about seventy-seven Anglo-Indians who were recruited between 1941 and 1942 have been discharged from the Royal Engineers on the ground of their alleged erroneous enrolment?

(b) Is it not a fact that they were enrolled by the Recruiting Officers and the mistake, if any, was made by the Recruiting Officers?

(c) Is it a fact that many Anglo-Indians, as the result of false declarations and otherwise, have been wrongly commissioned as European King's Commissioned Officers?

(d) What is the number of persons of Asiatic domicile enrolled as European King's Commissioned Officers?

(e) Is it not a fact that in spite of their wrong enrolment these officers are being retained in their original cadres?

(f) Is he aware that there are Anglo-Indian wings in the British Army including a wing in the Royal Engineers recruited for the Middle-East?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). The position is that in 1941 the Government of India issued orders that Anglo-Indians, who are statutory natives of India, when recruited for service in transportation units of the Indian Engineers were to be enrolled under the Indian Army Act in the Corps of Indian Engineers. Due to a misinterpretation, however, of instructions issued by General Headquarters, local recruiting authorities irregularly enlisted certain Anglo-Indians under the Army Act in the Royal Engineers for employment in Transportation units. Government orders were issued in 1943 that those who were thus irregularly enlisted should be given the option of taking their discharge or of being correctly enrolled under the Indian Army Act. I regret that information regarding the exact number of Anglo-Indians discharged under these orders is not available.

(c) and (d). I understand that there are a few such cases; in the time at my disposal I have been unable to ascertain the exact number.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Yes, Sir.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I am well aware of the original order of 1941, but do the military authorities not consider that there is and was a moral—more than that a legal—obligation to have given these men some consideration? The Technical Recruiting Officers offered them certain terms and they accepted these terms when the military needed them; they fought for you in Burma and the Middle East, and suddenly in 1943

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is arguing and making a speech.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Will the War Secretary please inquire as to whether legally the military authorities were not bound to continue to employ these men?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I will certainly inquire, but legally they were correct in the action taken.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Is the Honourable Member further aware that after these men were thrown out they were given Rs. 24 for a suit of clothes and many of them have not received their dues for six months or more?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am not aware of that; but it is not correct to say that all of them were thrown out: only those of them that did not elect to be correctly enrolled were discharged.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: With regard to parts (c) and (d), when many people who have as a result of false declaration been given scales of pay and emoluments of European King's Commissioned officers, why could not these 70-odd persons have been retained, particularly in view of the fact that there is an Anglo-Indian wing of the Royal Engineers serving in the Middle East?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: It seems to me my Honourable friend is arguing and not putting a question.

DIFFERENCES IN BASIC EMOLUMENTS OF I. C. O.'S AND E. C. O.'S.

996. ***Mr. Frank R. Anthony:** (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state whether differences in basic emoluments continue to exist between I.C.O.s and E.C.O.s?

(b) If the differences still continue, how long do the military authorities propose to prolong this situation?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (a) of Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's starred question No. 649 on the 21st November 1944.

(b) I hope to be able to make an announcement very shortly on the question of improving the emoluments of Indian Commissioned Officers.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: With regard to the answer to part (b) I hope the Honourable Member will bear in mind the very widespread demand that there should be a real improvement in the scales of pay

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is not a question.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am perfectly aware of that.

HEALTH OF SARDAR SARDUL SINGH CAVEESHAR

997. ***Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the present state of health of Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar?

(b) Is it a fact that he is suffering from muscular rheumatism since long?

(c) Is it a fact that he is detained in Dharamsala jail and local treatment has done him no good?

(d) Is it a fact that Dharamsala has the largest rainfall in Northern India, only second to Cherapunji, and has a climate extremely injurious for rheumatic patients?

(e) Is it a fact that the Dharamsala Civil Surgeon reported last year that when the rainy season set in, Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar might be transferred to some other station?

(f) Why is Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar detained in the Dharamsala jail?

(g) What treatment is given to him at present?

(h) Has that treatment done him any good?

(i) Is it a fact that when the ordinary treatment did him no good he applied for diathermic treatment?

(j) Will Government allow him to try that treatment through some competent specialist?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). The general state of his health is good. His only complaint is occasional pain in the back and left leg.

(c) and (d). It is not correct that treatment has done him no good or that the climate has harmed his health. On the contrary, he has gained 13 lbs. in weight.

(e) No.

(f) He is detained at Dharamsala Jail because the medical authorities advised that he would keep better health there than in the plains.

(g) He is being treated by the Medical Officer of the Jail under the advice of the Civil Surgeon.

(h) Yes.

(i) and (j). The question of whether he requires diathermic treatment can safely be left to the medical authorities at the Jail.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know when was the case of Sardar Sardul Singh reviewed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That does not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know how it is that so many Congress people are getting ill there? Is there any machinery for the Government to make them ill?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am not aware that many Congress people are getting ill there.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: So many questions are being put.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is another matter.

LACK OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR PHYSICAL EXERCISE IN DHARAMSALA JAIL

998. ***Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether there is any open space for exercise for the prisoners in the Dharamsala jail where Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar is detained?

(b) What is the area of such space?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government of India detenus in the Dharamsala jail brought to the notice of the authorities that there were no arrangements in this jail for physical exercise? What action has been taken on this representation?

(d) Is it a fact that in all jails in the Punjab where the Government of India detenus are detained, there are regular arrangements for physical exercise of the detenus but there is no such arrangements in the Dharamsala jail?

(e) Why are the Government of India detenus kept in such a jail?

(f) Is it a fact that the detenus represented to the authorities that they should be allowed to have some exercise in the vegetable garden of the jail but no permission was given? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). Yes. There is an open space measuring 26' x 18'.

(c) Yes. No action was taken on the representation as it was considered that the space allowed for exercise was sufficient.

(d) It is correct that there are no facilities at the Dharamsala Jail for organised games such as badminton, but there are facilities for exercise and the prisoners there are not of an age to require regular games.

(e) The prisoners are kept in this Jail because the medical authorities advised that they would keep better health there than in the plains.

(f) Yes. Permission to take exercise in the vegetable garden could not be given because the vegetable garden is outside the Jail.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Has the Government made up its mind to shut him up indefinitely? Is there any possibility of his being released in the near future?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I cannot say unless I have notice of a question like that.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What is the arrangement provided for these gentlemen for exercise? Is it in the cell or in the vegetable garden?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The answer to that question is that there is a certain amount of space; and I would also refer to the fact that the previous question suggested that he had rheumatism.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if the Honourable Member is aware that after a certain period of detention prisoners are allowed to go out of jail into these vegetable gardens to get some exercise?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am not so aware.

CANCELLATION OF FACILITIES FOR BROADCASTING MESSAGES TO CIVILIAN INTERNEES IN TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY THE JAPANESE

999. ***Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) whether and when Government decided to cancel the facilities provided to the public for broadcasting messages to civilian internees in territories occupied by the Japanese; and, if so, the reasons for the cancellation; and

(b) whether Government are aware of the distress and hardship caused to Indian Nationals who have relations and friends in enemy occupied territories; and, if so, whether Government propose to revise the decision?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The broadcast of messages to civilian internees was stopped on 6th June 1944 for reasons of security.

(b) Government appreciate the distress which the cancellation of these facilities may have caused, but they regret that they cannot see their way to altering this decision.

DENIAL OF MILK GHEE RATIONS TO INDIAN SOLDIERS

1000. ***Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava:** (a) Will the War Secretary kindly state if it is a fact that Indian soldiers were always being given milk ghee right up to 1942?

(b) What was the quantity per week given to Indian soldiers of milk ghee and of vegetable product in 1943 and 1944 and the quantity given at present?

(c) Why is it that Indian troops are denied the daily ration of milk ghee?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In 1943 milk ghee was issued four times each week and vegetable product three times, and in 1944 the issues were milk ghee three times and vegetable product four times per week. At present the issues continue as in 1944.

(c) Because more milk ghee is not available for the Army. The decision about the quantity of milk ghee which could be made available for the army was taken after consideration of the quality required, the all India production and the needs of the civil population.

LAND ACQUIRED FOR AERODROME NEAR GAYA

1001. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) how many acres of land have been acquired for aerodrome near Gaya in Behar;

(b) whether the land has been acquired temporarily or permanently;

(c) how many zamindars and tenants have been affected by the acquisition of the lands referred to in (b) separately;

(d) how many tenants have lost all their lands; and

(e) the amount of money paid as price or compensation to the zamindars and tenants, separately?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) About 1,100 acres.

(b) Permanently.

(c) 44 zamindars and 703 tenants.

(d) 67, but most of these were landless labourers who had small pieces of bari land adjacent to their houses.

(e) I am collecting the information and will lay a statement on the table in due course.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: By what time can I expect to have that information?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not know, because it depends on the person from whom I have asked for the information. I have said the information will be collected as soon as possible, but I cannot predict when he will send it.

INDIAN PILOTS TRAINED AND UNDER TRAINING

1002. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the number of Indian pilots trained and under training from 1939 to 1944;

(b) the pay and allowances, if any, of the Indian pilots and their future prospects; and

(c) the number of pilots enlisted from Bihar from 1939 to 1944?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (c). Apart from 47 pilots who were trained for commercial licences during the years 1939 to 1941, all training of pilots in India since the out break of war has been for the R.I.A.F. I regret that in the interests of security I am unable to quote the actual number of pilots trained; thus, but I may say that 2 per cent. of the pilots commissioned into the R.I.A.F. from 1939 to 1944 came from Bihar.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to Air Force Instruction (India) No. 57 of 1942, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. A proportion of these pilots will be absorbed permanently into the R.I.A.F., and those not so absorbed may seek employment with the Civil Air-lines which will undoubtedly be in need of experienced pilots.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to part (b) of the question, is the Honourable Member in a position to indicate definitely what the post-war strength of the Indian Air Force is going to be?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am afraid I am not in a position to indicate at the present stage.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: When do the Government expect to come to a decision in that matter?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I cannot predict that.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

PROCEDURE re. WINDING UP OF ACCOUNT IN GENERAL OR RAILWAY PROVIDENT FUND

89. Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether a contributor to the General or Railway Provident Fund is entitled to finally wind up his account in that Fund while in service? If so, under what rule?

(b) If the contributor would be allowed to finally wind up his Fund, would the payment of the whole amount be made immediately? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to unstarred question No. 68, asked by Mr. Ram Narayan Singh, on the 6th March 1945. To this reply the following amendment may please be made:

For (a) read—“(a) A member of a Government Provident Fund other than the State Railway Provident Fund is entitled to wind up his account in the Fund while still in service only in the following special circumstances”:

and for (a) (iii) read—“(iii) 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. A member of the State Railway Provident Fund cannot wind up his account until he actually quits Railway service”.

(b) In theory the Provident Fund accumulations of a subscriber, who is allowed to close his account finally, are payable at once. In practice, however, payment cannot be made immediately, as some time is required for completing his final account. For this reason interest is allowed to run till the end of the month previous to that in which payment is actually made, subject to a maximum period of six months from the date on which the balance became payable.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

REQUISITION OF FLATS BY WAR DEPARTMENT IN BOMBAY

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: (a) Will the Honourable the War Secretary be pleased to state whether a large number of flats have been requisitioned in the City of Bombay by the War Department, amongst which are two buildings, containing about 50 flats, called “Sea Green” and “Chateau Windsor” on the Reclamation?

(b) For what purposes have these flats been requisitioned?

(c) Will equivalent accommodation in a similar locality be offered to the tenants who will be dishoused in very large numbers?

(d) Before throwing on the streets a large number of permanent residents of Bombay, have Government considered requisitioning other buildings not used for housing or business purposes?

(e) Is it a fact that a large number of refugees who have come to India during the war are residing in flats in good localities in Bombay?

(f) Have their flats been requisitioned?

(g) Are Government aware of the great consternation, resulting in wide-spread agitation in Bombay, caused by the present requisitions which are considered by the public as an act of harassment on the part of Government?

(h) Are Government interested in maintaining the morale of the people of India during war-time? If so, do they consider dishousing a large number of permanent resident born and bred in Bombay, conducive to the maintenance of such morale?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Sir, I am answering this question on behalf of the Defence Department.

(a) I am not aware that a large number of flats have been requisitioned in Bombay City at the instance of the Defence Services, but I know that preliminary steps have been taken to requisition the two buildings mentioned by my Honourable friend, namely, “SEA GREEN” and “CHATEAU WINDSOR”. I understand this preliminary action consists in the issue of warning notices.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

(b) These two buildings are required for the accommodation of Service personnel for whom it is essential to be in Bombay.

(c) and (d). I have not sufficient information to enable me to answer this question at short notice, but I am asking for a report from the Provincial Government. Meanwhile I am examining whether I should ask the military authorities temporarily to suspend further steps for obtaining possession of the two specific buildings mentioned by my Honourable friend.

(e) and (f). I have no information.

(g) I have seen two or three press cuttings which suggest that there is some feeling in Bombay over this matter.

(h) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative and I am sure that this aspect of the matter is taken into account by the requisitioning authority.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee: Is the Honourable Member aware that the Executive Health Officer of Bombay has said that more than two lakhs of people are sleeping on the footpaths?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am sure that this, if correct, is not due to the requisitioning of “Sea Green” and “Chateau Windsor”.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Has not the Honourable Member seen a telegram in the papers containing a statement made by a Bombay Government spokesman that more than 600 flats were required for housing the military personnel as the Commander-in-Chief had said that Bombay was going to be the main British base for the Pacific and South East Asia operations?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I make it my duty to read many papers, but I am very sorry that I have not seen this statement referred to by the Honourable Member. It may have appeared in the Bombay papers. I am not reading all the Bombay papers. Nor have I seen it in the *Hindustan Times* or the *Statesman*.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Is the Honourable Member aware that while the Hindu, Parsi and Islam Gymkhanas have been requisitioned in Bombay for war purposes since 1942, the European Gymkhana and other clubs have not been touched at all?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I don't know Bombay as well as my Honourable friend. If there is need for requisitioning any particular Gymkhana, I have no doubt the Provincial Government would consider the matter.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that the taking of measures like this make the armed forces thoroughly unpopular with the civil population?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I know that requisitioning is not popular, but the moment there is no need for requisitioning, it will be stopped.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Why was the European Gymkhana left alone and only Indian Gymkhanas were requisitioned?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am not aware of that fact. I said so in answer to a supplementary question put by my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar earlier in the day.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member aware that there are a number of evacuees, who as stated by Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, are occupying flats in this locality? Why were these evacuees not moved out to some other place and why were Indians dispossessed?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have answered that question. I have no information about it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Does the Honourable Member know that these evacuees and refugees from abroad have taken hold of these flats and are sub-letting to British army personnel and they are enormously profiteering by such sub-letting?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am not aware of that. I will call for information.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member make an inquiry into this and remove these evacuees from Bombay, as they have no business to be there at all.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will the Honourable Member convey to the proper department, if he does not represent it in this House, that the ill-feeling created by their reckless action is of a character which will do Government or

the war effort no good and will the Honourable Member also convey to them that if they continue this reckless action, Government will find themselves in a very awkward position.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I shall do so.

DECLARATIONS OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF FOREIGNERS ACT

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): Sir, I lay on the table a copy each of the following Declarations of Exemption under the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939:

- (i) No. 1/65/44-Poll(E), dated the 10th November, 1944.
- (ii) No. 1/66/44-Poll(E), dated the 22nd November, 1944.
- (iii) No. 1/67/44-Poll(E), dated the 29th November, 1944.
- (iv) No. 1/68/44-Poll(E), dated the 5th December, 1944.
- (v) No. 1/1/45-Poll(E), dated the 25th January, 1945.
- (vi) No. 1/3/45-Poll(E), dated the 23rd January, 1945, and
- (vii) No. 1/2/45-Poll(E), dated the 16th January, 1945.

No. 1/65/44-Poll(E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 10th November, 1944

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mr. Henry Ernest Sigerist, United States citizen, for so long as he remains in India in connection with the work of the Health Survey and Development Committee.

E. CONRAN-SMITH,

Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/66/44-Poll(E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla, the 22nd November, 1944

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to:—

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Miss Enid Fuller. | 5. Mr. Irwin D. Kaufman. |
| 2. Miss Helen Sexton. | 6. Mr. Joseph W. Mountin. |
| 3. Mr. Jerry N. Thompson. | 7. Mr. William P. Ryan. |
| 4. Mr. John C. Suarez. | |

A. W. LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/67/44-Poll(E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla, the 29th November, 1944

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Lewis Green and Palmer Hoyt Jr. for so long as they are in the service of the United States Office of War Information in India.

A. W. LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/68/44-Poll(E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla, the 5th December, 1944

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mr. Julius M. Pomerantz, United States citizen, for so long as he is employed by the United States War Shipping Administration in India.

A. W. LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/1/45-Poll(E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla, the 25th January, 1945

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mr. James K. Brinker, Assistant Port Representative at Bombay for the United States of America, War Shipping Administration, as long as he remains in his present post.

E. KEYMER,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/3/45-Poll(E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 23rd January, 1945

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Professor Ognev, a Russian national, for so long as he remains in India in connection with the work of the Health Survey and Development Committee.

V. SHANKAR,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 1/2/45-Poll(E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla, the 16th January, 1945

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mrs. Mani Berry, at present in the United Provinces a British subject by marriage but of foreign extraction, wife of the 2nd Secretary of the British Embassy in Moscow.

E. KEYMER,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): With your permission, Sir, I shall substitute the word 'five' for the word 'three' in my motion. I understand that would meet with the wishes of the Members of the House.

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 Legislative Department for the Financial year 1945-46."

This motion Sir, is made in pursuance of Mr. Essak Sait's motion, which was accepted by the House that there should be a Standing Advisory Committee, attached to the Legislative Department. Sir, I move.

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 Legislative Department for the Financial year 1945-46."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE DEFENCE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

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, six non-official members to serve on the Defence Consultative Committee for the financial year 1945-46."

Sir, the Committee met three times during the last year. Each meeting lasted for two days and the deliberations of each meeting took about 7 hours. On each occasion the Committee heard a review of the war situation on all fronts either by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief or the Chief of the General Staff. The review was followed in each case by a discussion. On two occasions, the Principal Administrative Officer, India Command, who is generally responsible for preparing India as a base, discussed with the Committee administrative problems in the military field. The discussion covered, among other things, the problems of transportation, labour and accommodation, welfare and morale of troops, particularly Indian troops.

As the House is aware, one of our biggest problems is the shortage of suitable Indian candidates offering for Commissions in the three Fighting Services, namely, the Royal Indian Navy, the Indian Army and the Royal Indian Air Force. The Indian Air Force, as the House is aware, has recently been honoured by His Majesty the King Emperor with the distinction of the prefix 'Royal', a distinction which, if I may say so, is richly deserved and which, I am sure, will give the Indian Air Force, the sister services and the general public great satisfaction. The Committee discussed at great length various means of remedying the unsatisfactory situation in regard to the officer material, and we have now adopted, in consultation with the Committee, several measures which, we hope, may go some way towards attracting a suitable type of Indian candidates. We decided some months ago to open a pre-Cadet College at Nowgong, near Jhansi, where candidates marked 'deferred' by the Selection Boards are sent for training for a period of a little over five months. The training is intended to develop self-confidence and leadership among candidates and to improve their physique and knowledge of English, and we hope that a large number of these candidates will, at the end of their training, be found suitable for Commissions. At present Selection Boards take three days for interviewing and testing a batch of candidates. It was represented to us by the Committee that the candidates should be given rest on the day of arrival and not be asked to plunge straight into work. We accepted the advice of the Committee and lengthened the period of three days to four days.

The shortage of pilots for the Royal Indian Air Force causes us considerable anxiety. The Committee and ourselves have, therefore, devoted a good deal of attention to this matter. On the advice of the Committee, we have

decided to extend the Indian Air Training Corps to all Universities, to encourage visits by college students to Air Force stations and to give prospective candidates and their relations free flights and latterly we have organised the Royal Indian Air Force Display Flight which, as Honourable Members are aware, visited Delhi this week. At the instance of the Committee, we have also strengthened liaison between Recruiting officers and serving officers on the one hand and colleges and Universities on the other and we have decided to open a register of candidates willing to remain in the Royal Indian Air Force after the war.

The Committee also considered the question of recruitment to the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) and its naval wing which is now called the Women's Royal Indian Naval service. It further considered the question of recruitment of technical personnel, particularly in the Navy. I venture to think that the question of recruitment to the Officer rank is a very important question: in fact a very vital one, because Indianisation of the services depends entirely on suitable Indian candidates coming forward for the Defence services.

The Committee also discussed problems relating to the post war organisation of the Army with particular reference to class composition and the future system of officering of the Indian Army, and the advice it has given us on these two very important matters will be of the greatest value to us.

The Committee made certain suggestions regarding improving the number and quality of Indian officers at the Staff College, Quetta. These suggestions have been accepted, and we hope that they will result in increasing the number of Indian officers at the Staff College. Staff Training, as the House is aware, is of very great importance and in fact essential for an officer aspiring to be a staff officer.

The Committee has been kept in touch with important developments in the Defence services in the administrative field: for instance, we discussed with the Committee the schemes of the Army for the development of local resources of fresh vegetables, milk, eggs and poultry. The Committee endorsed the steps taken to make the services self-supporting as far as possible and desired that, in view of the need for relieving civil economy, such steps should be intensified. We are continuously doing this.

Some Members of the Committee visited the Assam Front and sent reports giving impressions of their visit and making suggestions, particularly regarding rations and amenities for Indian troops. These suggestions have been accepted. Some Members of the Committee also visited the Tactical Training Centre at Dehra Dun, Kitchener College at Nowgong of which I have already spoken and the Staff College, Quetta. One Member of the Committee paid a visit to the Officers' Selection Boards. Sir, this is only a brief account of the work done by the Committee. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has asked me that I should take this opportunity of acknowledging publicly the increasing assistance he is receiving from the Members of the Committee. The Committee is a valuable link both between the Legislature and ourselves, and, if I may say so, between the public and ourselves. I would like to add that the Committee is meeting this week to discuss with the Reorganisation Committee some of the questions which are under examination by that Committee. The scope of the discussions will be very wide indeed, and I have no doubt that the views of the Defence Consultative Committee will be of great help to the Reorganisation Committee. Sir, I move.

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, six non-official members to serve on the Defence Consultative Committee for the financial year 1945-46."

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am glad that the Honourable Member in charge has made a fairly full report of the work of the Committee and also the attitude of his Department in that regard. But I wish to suggest one or two things for the consideration of his Department and particularly of this Committee. There seems to be a

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

sort of the anxiety on the part of the Department concerned to advertise the fact that the material at the College which they are able to recruit for officers for the Air Force is not very good, that the quality of the recruits is not up to the mark, that once they have been recruited and they are being given training they are found in very many cases not to be able to come up to the mark. Sir, I feel a bit suspicious about this propaganda that is going on. This is the youngest of our defence services, and as such, it has a much better opportunity of trying to make this approach towards nationalisation than the other two services. It is a notorious fact that in regard to the other two forces, especially of the Army, Indianisation has been going on rather slowly, criminally slowly. We were hoping that at least in regard to this latest service, Indianisation will be taken for granted and if at all any Europeans or Englishmen are imported or brought in, it would be only as a matter of exception. On the other hand I find—speaking subject to correction—that out of nine squadrons they have come to organise, as many as five are supposed to be manned by Indians. Sir, this is not a bad thing as a start, if really by Indians they mean really cent per cent Indians and not half and half or three-fourths and one-fourth and so on. Sir, I learnt that in many of these training centres, there are very many allegations made against the manner in which these examinations are being conducted periodically as well as final examinations and it is also alleged that certain candidates are preferred as against others and that pure undiluted cent per cent Indians are not given the same chance as others of various mixtures and that an honest effort is not being made to give these people a real chance to satisfy their so-called examiners, most of whom unfortunately happen to be non-Indians and therefore although quite a large number of Indians are being recruited as trainees, a very large percentage of these people are being ploughed and sent out as being unfit to be taken as officers. I cannot say, because we are kept too far away from these operations, how far these allegations are based upon truth, and I cannot say how much of truth there is in them. But I can vouch for this that there is a serious sense of discontent prevailing among a section of Indian trainees themselves. I am saying that advisedly because I am quite prepared to hear the Honourable Member say, taking advantage of the fact that these poor trainees will not be able to give a free expression of their own views and feelings, that all these trainees are completely satisfied with whatever is going on in the training schools. Therefore I say that amongst a good enough section of these trainees there is a serious sense of discontent at the manner in which they are being treated at these training centres and the way in which they are examined. Sir, we have not heard from any British authority in England about any serious discontent that they feel about the quality of the material that they are able to recruit from British universities. But surely it cannot be the case that all the recruits that they have been able to get are thoroughly satisfactory according to their standards. It must be because those people are anxious anyhow, even if necessary, to make a good job out of bad material, and they are trying to convert bad material into good material, a good material into better material; whereas on this side, in order that this service may not become thoroughly Indianised and nationalised in the shortest possible period, the department seems to be particularly anxious to go about saying and advertising in season and out of season that our material is not good enough that no good enough material is forthcoming, and when it is forthcoming it does not prove good enough. Therefore I want this Committee to obtain sufficient information in regard to this matter when it meets the department, and also to take sufficient care to see that our trainees are given a fair deal.

Sir, I wish to make one other suggestion and it is this. In regard to the examinations held for these people I want the Committee to assure itself that the majority of these examiners happen to be Indians and not Englishmen, that these examiners are sympathetic towards Indians and the Indians' right to get for themselves the best possible training, then to have a fair deal at their

examinations and later on to be taken on permanently as members of the staff.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Sir, I want to make it quite clear that in accordance with the policy of our Party under which we refuse to take any responsibility where we have no control over war affairs, our Party will not take part in the elections and will not put up candidates.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lallige (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I have been a member of this Committee for the last three years and it is a welcome move on the part of the Secretary of the Department to give us a short and brief but lucid resume of the work done in the department. I am sure my colleagues on this Committee will agree with me—and it is my personal experience—that so far as the members of this Committee are concerned, right from His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief all the officials who have been on the Committee have always given us all the information that we desired. In fact their courtesy and frankness has been such as might be easily followed by other departments too. When a member of the Committee makes a suggestion even to the President of the Committee, who is none else than the Commander-in-Chief, we get a full and complete reply from him which, I am sorry to say, we do not always get from many of our Honourable friends on the Treasury Benches.

With regard to the points made by Prof. Ranga, I may say that we have often been told about the feelings of the candidates and the large number of failures in the examination. The members of the Committee in the last two years have been visiting the different training schools and attending selection boards, and their invariable care has been to see that the rejections are fair and reasonable without prejudice to the young men's future career, and without any regard to caste or creed. There has been no difference made between Indian and Indian. Let that be clearly understood. I myself have often been there, my Honourable friend Mr. Deshmukh and others also have been there. We have invariably made it a point to attend the meetings of the selection board and the training college, with the sole object of finding out whether there is discrimination in favour of one or the other. The only difficulty we found was that many of our young men were not brought up for these services, because we in this country have not brought up our young men to prepare for a military career but only as scientists and so on. Therefore we have found that at the examinations or at the selection board they have not been very comfortable at first, but after some time they have felt quite comfortable.

I must also say that we should now insist that in our schools and colleges there should be regular training for our young men which will fit them for a military career. We have not done that. The other day we had a lecture in the Library when we were told that many of our young men have not had opportunities even to go to the seaside and see a big ship. That is not our fault; that has been our mentality. That is why we have got no openings in the Navy all these years. But now is the opportunity, and we the members of the Committee are trying to do our level best to see that our young men are given a fair chance in the army and navy, which is now a crying need for this country.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, when the Secretary of the War Department was speaking, my mind went back to the days when I was intimately connected with the Bombay University as its Vice-Chancellor. In the six years I was there I tried my best to plead for the expansion of the scope of the University Training Corps, and my experience was—and I am sure that was the experience of all other Vice-Chancellors—that the attitude of the Defence Department was very unsympathetic. Every attempt that we made to promote a healthy appetite among our own people for a military career was frustrated by the not only unsympathetic but unfriendly attitude of the Defence Department. The result was that we had a feeling that we Indians were not wanted in the army. Even

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after the war started; in the earlier two years—although I was not the Vice-Chancellor I was taking an interest in this question—the general feeling was that we were not wanted. When the situation became acute there was a clamour for recruits, and I must confess that in spite of the unsympathetic attitude of the Government in the past, the response from Indians has been very good indeed.

As regards recruitment, whatever may have been the justification for not getting fair treatment in the early stages of the war, I am prepared to admit that since the constitution of the Staff Selection Boards, I do not think there is much justification for that complaint. I will acknowledge that Government in appointing Indians on the Selection Boards—very prominent and independent Indians like Sir Raghunath Paranjpye, and Principal Mahajani have been selected. The Selection Board at Lonavla also has got experienced Indian officers of the U.O.T.C. As a result of enquiries that I have made, I have come to know that the anxiety of these Selection Boards is not to turn down the material but to convert bad material into good and good material into better. So there is not much justification for this complaint.

But there is another feeling for which there is really some justification. What about the future? Why people are still fighting shy of making military as their permanent career? A large number of Indians have joined and are joining the Army because they hope that the war is going to be over very soon and they may, at the end of the war, be absorbed in the Indian Civil Service, Indian Police or other covenanted services. There are however a large number of Indians who are anxious to make military as their permanent career but they are not sure of the ground whether the Army will be Indianized or not, and whether they can at least hope—not now, but after 25 or 30 years—to occupy high positions as Staff Officers, as Army Commanders as Generals and even as Commander-in-Chief. So long as that feeling is there, it will be very difficult for us to persuade our young men to go with a free heart and take up the army as their permanent career.

There is a feeling abroad that we are wanted there in the present emergency, but when the opportunity for throwing responsible positions to officers in the Army comes Indians may not get a fair treatment. I am not in a position to say categorically that there is any justification for this feeling, but the feeling is there and that, I would like to assure the War Secretary, is keeping back a large number of young Indians from taking up military as their permanent career.

As regards the Indian Air Force, I frankly confess that so long as the parents have got a control over young men, which they have to a greater degree in this than in other countries, and so long as there is the feeling among the parents that there is a greater danger to life in the Air Force than in any other branch of the Army, I am afraid this feeling will certainly hold back a large number of young Indians from joining the Indian Air Force. I can tell you from my personal experience. While recruiting candidates for other jobs I have often asked why when there was a large demand for the Indian Air Force they have not applied for commissions; the reply has been that their parents would not allow them to join the Indian Air Force.

Sir, I would like to emphasise this fact before the War Secretary that if the Government are really keen on getting our people to take up military as their permanent career, they must come forward and say boldly that their policy is to Indianize the Army and the Indians joining the Army will get into positions which are now held by Europeans and when the time comes they will be in charge of the Indian Army.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony (Nominated Non-Official): The remark from the Honourable the War Secretary that suitable material is not forthcoming in adequate numbers has constrained me to make a few remarks. I am afraid that I am bound to repudiate this contention that there is not suitable material and abundant material for the officer category of the Indian Air Force. Let me

tell him that because of the feeling that there are unnecessary restrictions to recruitment in the Indian Air Force that no less than four thousand Anglo-Indians have gone to England and are now serving in the different cadres of the Royal Air Force. And I could give him scores of instances where these Anglo-Indians have been awarded the highest distinctions for gallantry in the Royal Air Force. As a result of an intensive drive on my part Anglo-Indians are applying increasingly for the Indian Air Force. I could give him suitable first class material not for ten but twenty squadrons from my own community. And I feel the fault lies essentially with the Selection Committees. I am not prepared to accept the contention of my Honourable friend who has just spoken that the constitution of these committees is unexceptionable. I can give the Honourable Member instances, numerous instances, of absolutely first class men who have for no ostensible reasons, been rejected by these selection committees. I will give to the Honourable Member one instance of a lad who was rejected. He was an absolutely first class lad. I took the trouble of investigating his case and after interviewing him personally I brought his case to the notice of the present Viceroy who was then Commander-in-Chief. I fought this case with the greatest persistence. I knew that if you could reject a young man of this description then you could not build an Air Force because you could not get better material. I came back to the charge over and over again and the military authorities ultimately agreed to give him another chance. He was selected and given his training. That young man got his Wings recently. At the passing out parade he was awarded the sword of honour as the best officer. That is typical of the rejections that are being made by these selection committees. Only the other day, certain absolutely first class lads qualified in every way—academically, physically and socially—were rejected. I could not see any reason as to why they were rejected. Let me tell you, Sir, that there is a real complaint that since the authorities have enlisted the support of these psycho-analysts, psychiatrists, and psychologists, all kinds of peculiar mystic reasons are being assigned for the rejection of these young men. These psychiatrists and psycho-analysts themselves appear to be cranks and fit subjects for observation and entertainment in asylums. And let me tell the War Secretary that after all psycho-analysis and psychiatry are still very much in an empirical state and your methods ten years from now may, in the light of subsequent knowledge, be stigmatised as nothing more than quackery. And yet these psycho-analysts and psychiatrists are really rejecting today what we think is first class material. I do not agree with you when you say that you have not got suitable material and abundant material. I can give you first class material, material which will compare favourably with the material anywhere else in the world. I can give you material not only for ten but twenty squadrons from my own community.

I would ask the War Secretary to set up a Board for reviewing cases of rejection. I am sure they will find many cases of the type I have already mentioned, of Jones who was given a second chance and who qualified as the best officer.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: When was that? Was it under the old system or the new system?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: It was nine months ago. But even under the new system I feel that young men are irresponsibly rejected by these cranks whom you call psychiatrists and psycho-analysts. You are rejecting first class material. If you will set up a Board to review such cases you will find that many of these lads that are now being rejected, will be accepted and they will, I am certain, prove an absolute credit to your Indian Air Force.

Sir F. E. James (Madras European): I had no intention of breaking a lance with my Honourable friend, the representative of the Anglo-Indian community in this House, but I feel constrained to do so by his attack upon the psychiatrists who are members of these selection boards.

Let me first of all, endorse everything that he has said as to the services which his own community has rendered to the Armed forces, services which are

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, no.

Sardar Mangal Singh: ...and come up here after a few years and say: "Oh, the good Indian material is not coming forward". I was present in the Library of the House and have attended two lectures given by senior-most military officers. Both the Air officer as well as the Navy officer complained that the required material is not coming forward. In this regard I must say that the fault does not lie with the Indian young men but the fault lies with the method of selection and above all with the educational system of this country. You expect Indian young men to come up to the standard of those young men who have been turned out by the British Universities but the education which we give to our young men is far inferior. In this regard I would request the War Secretary that they should take charge of Indian young men at a very early stage. The experiment of the King George's School has proved successful. I wish the War Department to extend that system and to improve the educational curriculum of those schools. It is from those schools that you expect to get efficient Indian officers.

Before I sit down I wish to invite the attention of the War Secretary that they should also tap the source of the Indian ranks. The officers of the Indian army should be recruited more and more from the ranks, that would be an impetus for the young men to enlist themselves in the army. I have heard complaints that some of the young men who go to the army do not go there to adopt the army as a career. But they go there just to use the army as a spring board to get higher jobs in the political and other departments. I do not wish to go into this matter at this time but on the discussion of the Finance Bill I will deal with this matter more fully. But some people do go to the army, from where they might go to the Political or other Departments. I therefore, Sir, wish to urge upon the Defence Department that they must make sure that the young man who is coming forward will adopt the army as a career and they should encourage those young men who will join the army as a profession. I hope that the Committee will take interest in these matters and will make suggestions to the Army Reorganisation Committee which will deal with these larger questions. The Government of India, Sir, I think, have acted rather hastily in this matter. They are going to consider the whole question of the reorganisation of the army including such large questions as conscription and all that. The larger question of defence is very intimately connected with the whole economic and political planning of the life of the nation. You cannot have an efficient army, you cannot have efficient and well-disciplined defence forces, unless the whole life of the nation is organised and disciplined to that pitch. You must also reorganise the industry of the nation, in order to suit the requirements of Defence. You cannot build your essential industries within the striking distance of enemy.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, the debate is taking such a wide turn that it would more appropriately come in the discussion of the Finance Bill instead of delaying the beginning of that.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Joshi the other day had suggested that the Government Member making such a motion should give a review of the administration of the department when I pointed out that that sort of review would be not in order. The Government Member who moved this motion made such a comprehensive speech covering so many points that it has been impossible for me to hold the speeches, that followed, were not in order.

Sardar Mansal Singh: I therefore say that you cannot go into the question of the reorganisation of the army alone leaving the other aspects of the nation building to a different time. The whole question of the planning of industries, the building of the navy, the building of the merchant fleet and the reorganisation of the army—the whole thing goes together. Modern war is a total war. You cannot isolate it and confine it to one aspect of the nation's life. I would not take much time of the House. I hope that the War Secretary will bear these points in mind when he invites the committee for a meeting and when he makes suggestions to the Army Reorganisation Committee.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan (Madura and Ramnad cum Tinnevely Non-Muhammadian Rural): Mr. President, Sir, I do not want to take up too much time of this House but I would like to participate in this debate just to state that women as citizens are interested in the defence of their country and therefore they are as keen or perhaps even more keen than men are, that we should have a completely Indianised army as soon as possible. By army I mean all the three branches of the army, the army, the navy and the air force. I will waste the time of the House if I were to repeat every time the army, the navy and the air force.

Some Honourable Members: Say defence force.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Sir, women as mothers are also very keen that their sons and their daughters should be officered by men and women of their own nationality. Women of India, I submit, are second to none in their courage to send their children into the fighting forces, but they are rightly anxious that they should be given fair and just treatment. Unfortunately the political situation in the country is such that there is not much confidence in the people that Indians receive proper treatment at the hands of the Government.

Sir, if I heard the Honourable the War Secretary right, I think he said something about the unsuitability of candidates. We women of India do not accept that statement. We feel it is a slur on the women of India when the Government says that suitable candidates are not coming forth. But really, it is a reflection on the Government themselves when they complain that they cannot get suitable candidates. They must examine the question why they do not get "suitable candidates."

An Honourable Member: They must examine themselves.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: And after examination, they must take steps to remove the obstacles that prevent suitable candidates from coming forward to join the Army. Mothers and wives of men officers and mothers of women officers bombard me with questions with regard to conditions in the Army and the treatment which the boys and girls receive there. They have mentioned to me instance after instance, which have come to their personal knowledge, where our young people have not received proper treatment, and I have had sadly to admit that neither I nor my colleagues in this Honourable House can do much because the Defence subject is *purdah* and we cannot deal with it. We do not know what happens behind the *purdah*, and I would, therefore repeat the request that has been made, that this House should be given an opportunity to have a debate on Defence affairs. Of course Government can keep back information which is confidential, but I think this House is entitled to know how the Army is organised, and how young men and women are selected and trained. I asked a question this morning about the curriculum for women but I am sorry that my Honourable friend could not give me a complete answer.

Women of India are more perturbed now because our girls also are being recruited. We have no objection, in fact we feel pleased that our girls have got the courage to join the defence forces, but we should like to know something about their auxiliary organisations. When there is a small measure of social reform to be introduced, Government goes through an elaborate procedure: it appoints a committee to inquire into the matter, and then comes to a conclusion, but when they introduce such an innovation as the W.A.C.I. they do not consult any representative committee of women, and, as far as I understand, even this House was not consulted before starting this organisation and about methods of recruiting, and of training.

I think my Honourable friend the War Secretary said something about training for leadership. I would respectfully point out to Government that qualities of leadership cannot be roused in the people by foreigners. It is much better that our own people train them: they understand them much better than foreigners do.

Sir, I would again appeal to Government to let this House have an idea as to when there will be complete Indianisation of the Army. I referred to this

[Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan.]

subject during the debate on the Finance Bill last year, but I have not had an answer yet. I reminded Government then that this House had passed a Resolution in 1938 during the Simla Session asking for a Committee to go into this question. I believe a Committee was then appointed, but nobody has heard anything more about it, whether it has reported, and if so what happened to its report. In any case I think this House has the right to have a definite answer from Government with regard to complete Indianisation of the Army.

Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to say these few words on this subject.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore cum North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the last question that was put to the House was when there will be complete Indianisation of the Army. I am reminded of the answer which Mr. Tottenham the then Secretary for Defence gave in this House, namely, that even a congenital idiot will see that there will never be complete Indianisation. That was his answer not many years ago.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): That was not his answer: what he said was that at the rate Indianisation was proceeding there would never be complete Indianisation.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Mr. Joshi means the same thing. Mr. Tottenham used the words—even a congenital idiot will see that there will never be complete Indianisation. Now, Sir, it is really a fact that people are disturbed in their minds by the thought that those who are going to the Army will be utilised when the British Government want to utilise them, and that they will be thrown to the winds when they do not need them. The suspicion to which my Honourable friend, Sir Vithal Chandavarkar referred, is real.

I now come to the second question—why they are not getting proper men today. The answer is that for many young men their posts and commissions are mere jobs and there is no national appeal to which the fighting forces of a country should have. In England and in other free countries, the appeal that is made to young men is—fight for your country and save your freedom. But here, Sir, many of our members would have seen the advertisements, the appeal is—Good food given, good clothing given, you can learn a profession: these are the appeals made for recruitment. Does the War Secretary imagine that men with ideals will respond to such lower appeals? Boys from families with high traditions in this land do not want to join the Army today because it has no national appeal for them. Now service in the Army is not national service. If it were so, thousands of young men of high caliber and best education will join the colours and if necessary sacrifice themselves to the last. I heard the other day the Commander-in-Chief referred to the Indian Army and said it was national army. It is a pity that this word national has been misused many times. This Government has been termed national. The Civil Service in India is called national. This Government, Sir, with the four most important subjects entrusted to Europeans, is called national, and in this way there is nothing to which this word cannot be applied. And so, Sir, we should not be influenced by the use of this word. I appeal through the Honourable War Secretary—because he cannot decide the policy and can only carry out instructions—to the authorities concerned, and tell them that if they have the courage and strength to make the Indian army a national army, there will not be a dearth of suitable candidates. There will be so much competition that they will be hard put to it to select. So, Sir, if Government are really bent on getting good men, this is the real thing over which they will have to ponder; this is the real way in which they have to go, and if they do so, there will be no dearth of candidates. I am glad, Sir, that this opportunity was given to the House to discuss this matter.

Lt. Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I desire to join in this debate mainly because I have been a member of the Selection

Board for over three years, and have seen from inside the working of selection boards or what are known as interview boards. My Honourable friend Mr. Anthony said a good deal regarding psychologists and psychiatrists. In my own board we used to have a fairly large percentage of acceptances and those acceptances were ratified by the selection of candidates whom I.R.M. we sent up to the final selection board. As a matter of fact, the board on which I sat had a very high percentage of final successes. But ever since these psychologists have been brought in, things have assumed a very different aspect. I do not say that there should not be psychiatrists or psychologists on these boards; but there are a few matters which I would like to bring to the notice of my Honourable friend the Army Secretary, and they are these.

Firstly, so far as I am aware, far too great importance has been given to the opinion of the psychologists. They come to these boards as advisers to the board; they do not have a vote; yet in practice they seem to have the main say in the matter of selection. They tried more than once on our board to let us first hear their opinion as to which candidate in their opinion would be suitable. It amounted to this, that if we did not ratify their choice, most likely our candidates would be thrown out at the final selection board. The board of which I was a member had the courage to protest most strongly against this, and we felt we could not carry on if our judgment was interfered with in this way. I must say to the credit of the army authorities that the psychiatrists ceased coming to our board. But what was the result? The result was a remarkable falling off in the final acceptance of our candidates. We non-cooperated at one end; and at the other end there was more effective non-cooperation.

The second point I would like to make is this: if I am wrong I would like to be corrected—these psychologists are largely Harley Street specialists or physicians—some of them may not have had a very big practice in Harley Street; but they are largely people who have come from there. Now, my submission is that these men are not conversant with conditions in India. I am not at all convinced that they know the psychology or the get up of an Indian student. I would like to ask my Honourable friend, why is it that all these psychologists and psychiatrists are brought from abroad? In India there are a large number of psychologists of the most distinguished calibre who have made their mark in British universities and who have spent long years of training and teaching in this country—why is it that the army authorities are unable to bring such psychologists and psychiatrists also, if they must have them on their committee? Now, as Vice-Chancellor of a University with a very wide jurisdiction, I have been most interested in this question of recruitment: firstly and foremost because I am convinced that no country which attains its freedom—as we hope to before long—can defend that freedom or can make that freedom worth twenty four hours purchase if it has not the means, in a world such as ours, to defend and protect its freedom. I am, therefore, cent per cent. for the strengthening of the Indian Army. I would do my best—I have done so where my own children are concerned and where the men whose training is in my hands are concerned by urging them to do their share and to obtain the necessary military training. The Indian Air Force particularly appeals to the imagination of our young university men; I know that in my own university, the one thing which they want to do is to enter the Indian Air Force; it is up to the army authorities to consider the reasons. The reason first is that the number of rejections is appalling. In the case of university men that we sent up from our interview board—and some of them in my opinion would make the finest soldiers, officers and leaders,—the number of rejections was appalling. Suppose we accept the contention of the army authorities that they require a very high standard for airmen, and that these men have not had the back-ground or that they have some defect or other, I would like to ask my friend another question. Why is it that after these men

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have been selected—and the average selection is not even one in ten—after such severe elimination, why is it that so many of them are sent back during the course of training? Does the fault there also lie with the men who go up or does the fault lie with the trainers who are appointed by the army authorities? I think this is a matter which I would commend to the care of my friend the Army Secretary. I would like to have a reply as to why it is that so many men who are accepted after such meticulous care, after passing through so many boards and even after defying the psychiatrists, why are there so many not able to complete their training? Does the fault lie with the trainers, if not, where does it lie? I am not sure, but I would say this, that if men are required, this feeling which is now in the minds of our young men that their chances of selection are slender, that once they are selected they are liable to be sent away—and many are sent away—the feeling of our young men, that they have no promising career in the Indian Air Force exists, must be removed.

My final point is that we have had in our universities for many years officers training corps—they were formerly called the territorial force. I do not know what the reason is, but the regular army authorities had never looked with very great favour on these territorial forces and specially the University Training Corps. I would admit, and admit with gratitude, that in recent years we have been given better equipment and we have been taken a little more seriously. But the fact still remains that very little preference is given to men who have had training, sometimes long training, in the University Training Corps: they are not recruited direct for emergency commissions from there, as they are in England. I would like the army authorities to go carefully into this matter and see if some concession cannot be allowed to men who have been through the University Officers Training Corps; particularly at this time in the matter of the Indian Air Force I would urge it on them. The reason is that the army authorities have now agreed to establish these air force training centres at various universities. A centre has been established in my own university, and we have done our best to give them every facility; and I would like to impress this on the Army Secretary that something real should be made of this. Our feeling has been that men going through the training corps in the universities do not get any preference, that they are not seriously treated by the army. Is this story going to be repeated in the case of the Air Force as well? I hope that it will not be, and that the training given there will not be so much loss of money on the part of the taxpayer and so much loss of time on the part of our students.

Whatever I have said, I have not said in a spirit of carping criticism, but in the spirit of constructive suggestion. I have spoken as one who is cent. per cent. interested in the pushing forward of recruitment to the armed forces; and as I do sincerely wish that our young men should take advantage of this opportunity, I hope that these suggestions will receive the consideration of my Honourable friend.

(Some Honourable Members rose to speak.)

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not know if the Honourable Members or the House want to close the debate. Some Honourable members apparently want to speak; but if the Honourable Government Member wishes to reply now, there can be no other speeches afterwards. I do not know if the House wants to close the debate.

An Honourable Member: The question may now be put.

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

"That the question be now put."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, this is a question in which the country ought to take the greatest possible interest. I am glad the War Secretary has given the House a chance to discuss this question in an elaborate manner. Every time this question is raised,

it is said that there is a dearth of suitable candidates for officers' positions. This complaint does not surprise me. Since the advent of the British rule in this country, there has been a conspiracy to kill the martial spirit of the people of this country. After 1857 the first step that the Government took was that they passed the Arms Act. It was nothing but a conspiracy to kill the martial spirit of the people. After that, they confined the recruitment to only two or three provinces. Again, it was nothing less than a conspiracy to kill the martial spirit of the people in other parts. Before the British came to this country two or three centuries ago, India was independent. Was there then any want of capable candidates for generalship and commandership in this country? The British ought to be ashamed to say this.

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

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Sir, before the House adjourned for Lunch interval I was referring to the conspiracy on the part of the Britishers to kill the martial spirit in the country. First of all they disarmed the whole country by enacting the Arms Act and thereby killed the martial spirit of the people of this country. The next step in their conspiracy to kill the martial spirit was that they confined recruitment only to two or three Provinces in the country. In this way, the martial spirit of the people of those Provinces where they stopped recruitment was to be killed.

An Honourable Member: Was Bihar one of them?

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Bihar has always been known for martial spirit. It has a glorious history behind it, but this Government stopped recruitment from that Province. I know the reason why. The reason was that Bihar took a prominent part in the first Indian War of Independence, in 1857. By way of reprisal the Government stopped recruitment from that Province.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): This was the first. When is the second coming?

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: It will be coming at the proper time. They say that no suitable candidate is coming forward. I submit, Sir, that in order to infuse military virtues in the minds of young people there must be good and honest teachers. But where are the good teachers? The teachers are imported from British isles, and these teachers must be thinking all the while how to protect British interests in this country. If they declare Indian boys suitable for officers' positions in the military, well, how will they be able to import British people for these positions in the country? This complaint is nothing more, nothing less than the creation of justification for the importation of British soldiers and British officers into this country. In this country, the Rajputs, the Sikhs, the Pathans, the Mahrattas and people of many other classes, are all born soldiers and there can be no want of leaders among them. Can the Britisher say that he is a born soldier? How long have the Britishers been following military occupation in this world? They are a trading class, they are shopkeepers. When traders can turn into soldiers and officers, why can't Indians who are born soldiers become officers? Well, Sir, the thing is this: much depends upon teaching. If anybody fails to shoot a target, it does not mean that there is no target. There was a target, but the man who is shooting failed to hit the target. In the same way, in the boys they select where there is the spirit and the capacity to be officers, but it is these dishonest teachers who do not develop these virtues. Sir, the Great Guru Govind Singh is reported to have said:

"*Billi se main bagh marwawun, chiriya se main paj marwawun tab Guru Gobind Kahawun.*"

[Mr. Ram Narayan Singh.]

Which means that if I can make a cat kill a tiger, and a small bird kill a bird of prey, then only can I be called a teacher, otherwise not. It is these British teachers who are always anxious to deprecate the merits of our Indian boys. How can they make our boys suitable for officers posts in the army? Well, Sir, another complaint is as regards the treatment which is meted out to Indian officers. How can decent Indian people be persuaded to enter the army when there is so much difference in treatment between the Britisher and the Indian? Indian officers are not put on the same footing as British officers. Will the War Secretary tell the House whether any Indian officer has been posted to command a regiment consisting of purely British soldiers? On the other hand lots of Indian regiments are commanded by the Britisher? Why is this partial treatment? When the Indian boys pass the required examination and they are declared as suitable for entry into the army, why should they be denied the opportunity of commanding a British regiment?

As regards the class from which recruits are taken, there is also invidious distinction made. Now-a-days recruitment is confined only to the rich classes. Is military virtue confined only to the rich? The cultivating classes of this country form the backbone of this country. Rules and regulations are so bad and the expenditures are so high that it is impossible for the general mass of the people to enter the military schools and colleges of the country. If the Government are really anxious to take Indian boys of the right type, then they should recruit from the general masses and train them as officials at the cost of Government. Now, it is very difficult for the common people to spend so much money in order to become officers in the army. Besides, as I just now said, there is the difference in treatment which also acts as a deterrent to young Indian boys coming forward to be enlisted in the military. British soldiers and British officers are punished by decisions of court martial, whereas Indian soldiers and officers are dismissed and their pensions withheld under the simple orders of the military officers.

In conclusion, I should say that I am glad that the War Secretary has given this House an opportunity to discuss this question which the House has done in a pleasant manner. This is the question which must be given the first and the most important place in the future development of the country. Some day or other the Britisher is bound to go; this country will then be free and the people of the country will have to defend their own country. So, this question of recruitment to the officer class in the army is a very important one and should not be neglected. We must be cautious from now onwards so that our future Indian army is manned and officered by Indians alone. With these words, Sir I resume my seat.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I am very grateful—and so must be many of the Members—for the statement made by the Secretary of the War Department in which he laid before the House the whole case regarding the paucity of officers in the several branches of the Defence Forces. I have no doubt that this practice will be followed by him hereafter as well as by other Members of the Treasury Benches. I hope the War Department Secretary does not think that by making this comprehensive statement he has made a mistake. As a matter of fact I may say that no one would be better pleased than the present Commander-in-Chief who is more communicative and receptive of ideas than any one else; and I have no doubt that advantage will be taken of this debate not only by the Army officers but by the Army Reorganisation Committee which meets on the 17th and thereafter.

Now when we speak of the Indianization of the army we are concerned with Indian officers who are to command the Indian army and the paucity of officers in the three branches of the defence forces has been referred to. The main reason advanced is that the right type of candidates are not coming forward. The method of selection has been discussed by some Members here. I happen

to be a member of this committee, and but for the glowing praise bestowed on the selection board by my Honourable friend Sir F. E. James I would not have spoken at all. Before the present selection board adopted its present tests, the method was to take the certificate of the candidate's Principal that his conduct is good, another certificate from some one that he is a good sportsman; and on the strength of those certificates and probably also on the strength of some connection with the Government servants, the boys were taken in. Now this Board divides its test into two parts. One is the physical test; the boys are regularly examined for three days and no boy would be taken who is not physically fit. And whether these are individual or group tests, the boys themselves have said that they are satisfied with this part of the examination. But I must say that I and certain other people are not satisfied with the tests adopted for deciding the intelligence of the candidates or their ability to lead. And having heard so many complaints I made it a special point to see the selection by this Board of some of the candidates. I went to Bangalore and there I personally saw the test. One thing that struck me most was that one could not very well rely on the tests of intelligence employed by the psychologists nor the tests for leadership employed by the psychiatrists. When I said that I would like to be within the hearing of the candidate examined I was told that I could not be there. Then when I said that I should like to be examined by the psychiatrist I was told that that also could not be done. Therefore it seems to me that so far as this examination by the psychiatrist is concerned it is a closed chapter, and what Mrs. Subbarayan said was true that there is something even in this respect behind the *purdah*. As regards intelligence tests I was not myself satisfied with them, and I will cite an instance which I gave to the Defence Consultative Committee. In this intelligence test certain words are given with which to frame sentences. Even this everyone cannot see but this officer kindly allowed me to see this. One of the words given was "Lead". One candidate said, "Lead, kindly Light, lead thou me on". Another said, "Those who are backward deserve to be led". A third said, "Lead is a very useful metal". When I asked the officer which answer he preferred, he said he thought that candidate was best who said, "Those who are backward deserve to be led", because he said it showed his capacity to lead. I said he had not said by whom the backward were to be led; also that the candidate who said "Lead, kindly Light" might have thought that he would do well to show his literary knowledge and it would appeal to the examiner. I said that if they had been told beforehand that literary knowledge was not required but the test would be of their capacity to lead, the answers might have been different. I also said that some university has its motto, "Lead us from darkness unto light."

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: That is the Agra University.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Yes. What about this university then? I think this is entirely misleading and a wrong way to test the candidate's intelligence or power of leadership. I also said that it is customary among Englishmen—I lived with a person but I think it is common among all of them—to pray before meal, "Lord, give me my daily bread". That surely does not mean that he will not work for his bread but he expects it to come from above. I therefore think that these tests are entirely misleading. Then when I went to Madras I had a talk with the Vice-Chancellor of that university and he told me, "I entirely agree with you and I am disgusted with this thing. I am on the provincial selection board; the candidates are trained by army officers and then sent up to the selection board, but many of them are rejected; there is not even a fifty-fifty chance". Then I went to Aligarh and spoke to Sir Zia Uddin and he also said that this test by the psychologist and psychiatrist was a mysterious problem, and any candidate can possibly be failed for any reason. Therefore with regard to this selection board I may say that the first part is approved by the candidates themselves and I have nothing to say against

[Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh.]

that; it is only with regard to the second part that we have reason to complain. And I would have failed in my duty and I would not have done justice to my conscience if I had not spoken of this Board which was referred to by some Honourable Members in somewhat glorious terms. My Honourable friend must, I think, be glad that he gave us an opportunity to discuss this matter, for he has seen that the criticism of the Congress has been constructive. They have made various suggestions in regard to what should be done, and I hope that their suggestions will be carried out.

It was said that the education was at fault. There is no doubt about that; everybody says that it is primarily our system of education, which is at fault and because of it you do not get a sufficient number of candidates. The education that is imparted in this country is with the idea of making people good clerks and professional men. Hardly much emphasis is laid on the sporting habits of students. As a matter of fact, it is very rare that a man is spoken highly if he is a sportsman, but if he has good academic qualifications he is applauded. It is the sports side of the education of Indian students which is kept very much in the background and which is really responsible for many of our difficulties. The percentage of students coming with high university degrees is more than the percentage of those students who are physically fit for appearing in competitive examinations for the various Arms. But let it not thereby be understood that a sufficient number of candidates is not available, because we have got so many Universities and India is such a big country. Though our education may be at fault, yet we can supply a sufficient number of officers. Then why is it that we have not got a sufficient number of officers?

Certain causes have been mentioned and let it not be understood that these were not put by the members of the Consultative Committee before the officers concerned. Racial discrimination has been referred to, whether in the matter of allowances, or in the matter of treatment. When I returned from the Middle East, I brought these facts to the notice of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and other Army officers, and His Excellency assured me that instructions will be issued in this respect. So far as racial discrimination between the Indians and Britishers while they are in the mess or otherwise, is concerned, I suppose something would be done. But as regards the allowances to be given, unfortunately this is in a way involved with the finances of the country and when I made a suggestion in the Consultative Committee that our officers should be given more pay—and even on the floor of the House I put forward this question about two years ago—I was told that India had reached its taxing capacity. But we have seen that defence expenditure has gone up by crores and crores of rupees, and when it comes to the question of increasing the pay of Naiks, Havildars, Jamadars and other Indian officers and giving them better allowances, the plea is put forward that taxing capacity had reached. So, in a way if the allowances of our Indian officers are not what they should be and if their pay is not what they should get, I think the Finance Member is responsible for that to a certain extent. So far as I am concerned, I would say let there be more and more expense on our Indian officers. Just as my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, said the other day 'let there be more and more expenditure on development', I say 'let there be more expenditure on defence but expenditure on the pay of Indian officers, soldiers and the Indian Commissioned Officers; let more money be spent on them and not on non-Indians'.

Another political question is this: The Honourable Member must have heard certain statements made by the Vice-Admiral, Godfrey the other day. He said that a country's navy is what the country deserves and he said that the expansion of the Navy would depend on the mercantile marine of a nation which again depends on trade—coastal or otherwise. This point was put

forward in the Committee at one of its sittings and discussed. I put a question whether this matter was represented to the Government Member—the Member concerned with this matter is the Commerce Member—and whether it was brought to his notice that the expansion of the Navy depend on the expansion of the mercantile marine which ultimately depended on the mercantile trade of that country. When I put this matter in the form of a question to the Commerce Member, the reply was that it involved many constitutional difficulties—the Navigation Act will have to be amended, as also the Sections in the Government of India Act of 1935 regarding discrimination about which we are fighting. That matter was shelved. If more members were put on this committee, they would strengthen the hands of persons who want to put things more definitely and who want to take a very independent view of the matter.

As regards the Indian Air Force, the Selection Boards select candidates not only for one particular arm but they select candidates for all the three defences, and it is also a fact that most of the W. A. C. I. officers are examined by these Selection Boards. The tests are almost the same, excepting, of course, the physical test. So, one is not surprised that so far as the W. A. C. (I.) officers are concerned, Indians are few. It would therefore appear that so far as the type of officers—whether they are W. A. C. (I.)'s or for the three Defence Services—are concerned, it would depend much on the interest that the public takes in this matter. We have seen that the lady Member of this House, Mrs. Subbarayan, is not indifferent to the interests of the W. A. C. (I.)'s and I had in mind, when I was thinking of moving my amendment, the idea of her

being on the Select Committee so that she could personally be in touch with the W. A. C. (I.)'s and the W. A. C. (I.) officers and come to know their difficulties,—not that I do not come to know of them. But they would be more communicative to a lady Member and would be able to explain their difficulties more freely.

There are one or two things to which I wish to refer particularly about the Indian Air Force. Mention has been made that candidates are withholding themselves and not offering themselves for the examination. One reason for this was given by Sardar Mangal Singh, namely, giving them condemned types of planes for their training. Well, this was the prevalent belief, but when they were asked the question they said that they were satisfied that nothing was wrong with the machines. I think it would be much better for some of the Members to see that the training given is on the up-to-date aircrafts. But the problem facing these cadets—and this applies for all the three services—is this: If we join the forces what possibility is there that we will be retained? Shall we divert ourselves from our ordinary vocations and join the forces? If we join what guarantee is there that we would be absorbed in the Forces? And mind you, the present strength of the Army, the Navy and Air Force is not likely to be maintained after the war. If there is no guarantee, and they seem to think that the war is likely to end soon, then what is their good joining the forces. It is not merely that the parents do not want their sons to join. They also want to see what are the chances of permanency. It is not merely for the sake of training or of patriotism that anyone goes there. Leave aside India, even in Great Britain when that country was in danger of being invaded, it was not out of patriotism that every one joined the forces. The law of conscription had to be passed. So, there must be some force or chance of better prospects which can make men join the army. In this particular case, if men are to offer themselves as candidates for officers, there should be some guarantee that they would be retained.

Then there is the question of the ordeal they have to go through. First of all there is the examination by the selection board. They then join the first preliminary training class and after three months or more they are sent back,

[Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh.]

at times in batches of 25 and 30 persons. When candidates have gone through all this—first the Provincial Board, then the Selection Board, Headquarters, then afterwards this training, and then have to be returned, the effect on those who want to join is most depressing. These are some of the reasons which keep back even fit candidates from appearing before the Selection Board.

Propaganda has been referred to, but so far as the Navy is concerned, it has been a very belated propaganda. As a matter of fact complaints were made to me when I went to Karachi by the training Institution that more publicity is given to the Indian Air Force and little to the Navy, a fact which I brought to the notice of Members on the floor of this House. It is true that they have started propaganda, though belated, but the only thing they are doing now is to send men who are to visit the several colleges and the centres where they think that boys are likely to offer, to explain things to them and so on. But I have said that if the Vice-Chancellors have no sympathy, and they are decidedly against the present methods of selection, what chance is there for this propaganda to succeed? So, I would suggest that as far as the methods of selection are concerned—I mean the psychological and psychological parts of the examination—unless they are modified or given a go-by, we will not have more candidates. The other speakers have said that unless there is a guarantee for their being retained in these forces there is very little chance of success. There is also this to be said that unless they receive better treatment—I mean boys who are educated and come from families of social standing—recruitment will be poor. At times these boys when they appear before the Central Interview Board for the King's Commission are rejected. They are asked if they would accept the Viceroy's Commission. They sometimes do. Now these lads and even those who have been given the Emergency King's Commission are trained by sergeants who use language that is very insulting. It may be that the Englishman is accustomed to it and does not think anything of it. But the Indian mind is sensitive. When I made this complaint to a military officer he said that so and so was a Lord and he was going through the same mill. I said that the Indian mind is a sensitive mind.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Division: Muhammadan Rural): Not only sensitive but a refined mind.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: He comes from a refined society and is better educated. He is not likely to put up with this sort of phraseology. So there should be a better type of men to educate these boys.

If all these drawbacks which I mentioned are looked into. I have no doubt that more men will be coming forward and my friend will then never have the occasion to complain about the paucity of Indian officers; nor will he be able to say that we could never look to the Indianization of the Army and if anybody is at fault it is this country or the public men of the country.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): The Honourable the War Secretary was very enthusiastic in explaining the use of this committee and said that the right type of men were not available who had capacity for leadership and who could offer themselves for commissions in the Army, the Air Force and the Navy. He said that he had decided to open an officer-cadet college near Jhansi to solve this problem. Did he realize that this would not solve the problem at all? This piecemeal fashion of opening colleges here and there would not encourage any individual to offer himself. He said the right type of people were not coming. But did he realise that no proper appeal was made to the country, and for that I say this Government constituted as it is is not the right type of the Government which can make a proper appeal. Could an alien Government be fit to make a proper appeal to the people for securing the services of the flowers of the youth of any country? It has not been possible anywhere and it should not

have been possible here also. This Government is trying to give a false impression to the world that they are giving the same sort of treatment to this country as they are giving to the cadets of other dominions.

The Honourable the War Secretary is moving in a vicious circle and instead of removing the real cause, he wants to set up some colleges here and there and make amends for certain deficiencies which he feels are there. Although, there is no dearth of capable young men in India, as I said, yet the experience which those officers who are there have is making others more shy to offer themselves for those commissions. The discrimination which is there probably does not require a very great deal of argument and the War Secretary himself should know that many of the Indian officers holding commissions have resigned in disgust, because of that particular condition of discrimination. What happens is that sometimes if an Indian Officer is senior enough in a unit, he is transferred to another unit, so that his prospects may be deferred. Then again, the Indian officers do not receive at all that treatment which the British officers receive and the British other ranks would not even salute them in many cases. References have been made to the higher authorities but nothing could be done, because that superiority complex has to be maintained with the British officers, and with the British other ranks as well. That could not be taken away. In a mess they would not supply Indian food if there are one or two British officers. Why? Because, again; racial supremacy must be maintained and maintained in a manner that every thing of their choice, class and country is ideal and nothing could be ideal which comes from a country which is kept as a subject country to them. What I want to impress upon the House is that the British Officers do not even show courtesy to Indian officers and what happens is that these Indian officers have to be more or less orphans or make their own society with the few that they have there. British officers would not allow them to travel together in the same compartment, because of their sense of superiority. It is no news to the House and I think that the Honourable the War Secretary himself knows nothing about war conditions, because he is one of the "un-touchables" himself. Probably he is suffering from the disadvantages which any War Secretary in any other country would not suffer from. The Honourable the War Secretary may give himself the air of being something very important but the mere fact that he is an Indian does not allow him to receive any equal treatment. He has to swallow that fact but unfortunately as he belongs to the Government, he has to accept and swallow the pill whatever it may be worth. It may be sour or sweet and he knows what it is and what it is not. That is the position everywhere in his Department.

In our Party we found that we could not improve the lot of those Indians who accept commissions and we could not change the methods of this Government. We could not improve things at all and so we thought it was no use associating ourselves with this committee. It is for this reason that we have been exclusively out of this organisation, so that you cannot give the world the false impression that you are doing something with which we have associated ourselves, as we know that we are absolutely helpless. This is the point which I want to make. If the Honourable Member does not know or denies these things, enquiry may be held and if he cares to do that probably other Members will let him know what facts have come to their light and to their knowledge. With these few words I say that we will have nothing to do with this Committee.

One fact more, Sir, about the mention of psychologists. They have got psychologists to examine those cadets who offer themselves. But does he realise that among the British ranks and British officers there are many who do not possess elementary knowledge of their own mother tongue? Will he agree to set up a committee of educationalists who would examine their depth of knowledge and tell this House, the War Secretary and the Department that their elementary knowledge of their own mother tongue, English, is not even such as would give them the courage of writing one single sentence correctly. This is the last point which I want to impress upon the House.

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman.]

There is not only favouritism and discrimination in the matter of commissions but from the admission of an Indian officer to the time of his retirement he has to work under very difficult conditions and yet to ask for better type is just ignoring the truth. With these few words, we oppose the motion.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, this is a most important subject that could be discussed on the floor of this House for days together. Even then Indians will not be satisfied. Sir, I am a man who belongs to the gallant warrior class of the country. I have heard my Honourable friend the War Secretary saying that material is not available to train Indian officers, that men are not coming forward, suitable men are not available for training in military colleges. Sir, there are men available, in India, not only men but women also are available with martial spirit. Let my friend come to our country. I will show him stalwart women with martial spirit prepared to fight if they are armed and fed. There are even old men ready to take up arms and lead armies. But they are discouraged. Let me have arms in my hands, let me be fed fully and then you will see whether I will be able to lead an army or not.

The differentiation between Indians and Europeans is most miserable in this country. Sir, the Indian *sepai* is fed on 12 as. or a rupee a day, whereas a European or American soldier is fed on Rs. 6 a day. When I was travelling on 22nd July last from Madras an English soldier got into my compartment. He was standing aside. I was lying down and reading a book. Then I looked at him and after removing my bed asked him to take his seat. Then I questioned him—have you got a second class warrant? I have got a second class warrant, Sir, he replied. He addressed me very courteously, and I was very glad for that. Sir, he showed me a 2nd class warrant from Secunderabad to Madras and back from Madras to Secunderabad. Then I asked him: what is your daily rate of ration? He told me—14 ozs. of bread, 14 ozs. of beef, 10 ozs. of potatoes, cheese, butter, and so on. I calculated, and all this amounted to Rs. 6. What are you in the Army, I asked him. I am a trooper, he said. Then, I asked: what is the strength of your division? Fifteen to twenty thousand, Sir, he said. Is it fresh beef or tinned beef that you are getting? He said: it is fresh beef; tinned meat is not coming here. How are you getting that, I asked. Cattle are slaughtered in our camp, he said. How many cattle are slaughtered in your camp, was my next question. Thousand cattle a day, that is, cows, he said. What is there? Bones are removed, legs are removed, head is removed, skin is removed, what is there, so much. Thousand cattle are slaughtered, fresh beef is only so much, 4 seers, i.e., Delhi seer of 80 tolas. This is how a European soldier is fed whereas our *sepai* is dying with 12 as. a day. He is fed with dried bread, and tea-water. It is not real tea, there is no milk at all in that tea. Our *sepais* are fighting for you, for the British Government, and everywhere. At times these British officers praise the gallant spirit of Indian *sepais* and say that but for them we can not win the war, but they are very cunning. By praising Indians they take work from them. The Honourable the War Secretary says there are no suitable Indians. Being Indian and sitting on the Treasury Bench, he says on the floor of this House to these Members that suitable men are not available. They are available. You are not treating them well, you are not showing courtesy to them, you are degrading them, you are killing their martial spirit—Mr. Ram Narayan Singh said that since their advent into India they have commenced killing the martial spirit of Indians—not only killing the martial spirit, but emasculating them. What is your duty? You will not be here.

An Honourable Member: He will be here.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: In future he will be here, but this Government will not be here. This British Government will not be here after the war. You will see the spirit of Indians. Have you seen the martial spirit of the Punjab Sikhs, have you seen the spirit of Muslims all over India?

An Honourable Member: What about Andhra?

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Andhras are spirited, even the women of Andhra are spirited. Andhras fought for you and conquered Burma for you. Burma was conquered by us. We Andhras have fought so many battles in the country, we have established kingdoms, and all that has been forgotten. What about Tippu Sultan and Hyder Ali of South India. How did the British conquer South India? Sir, by creating dissensions between brothers and brothers, and brothers-in-law and brothers-in-law, and between husbands and wives. It was because of the cunning and selfishness of the British people that Indians have lost their country, and you are enacting your drama for the last 200 years. If wealth is lost, nothing is lost; if health is lost, something is lost; but if freedom is lost, everything is lost. In our country you are enacting your drama successfully, creating dissensions between Hindus and Muslims, between Parsees and Christians, and between Christians and Hindus and Muslims. Do you not see so many heroic Muslim Members sitting here on these Benches? I will lead an army now—I am now 75, I have not known what is fear in my life-time. Are Britishers so? Indians are fit for anything and everything, not only for land fight, but also for naval fight and fight in the air. On account of your self interest, on account of your cunning, to make your position safe you are doing so many things here. I warn you, Sir: being an Indian, sitting on the Treasury Bench, and drawing salary from them, you say that suitable candidates are not forthcoming. Show your courtesy, tomorrow I will bring thousands of young men, educated, graduated from the universities. Why, Sir, is English required in the Army? A Subedar with Hindustani commands a company of 100 men. Jemadars and Naiks with Hindustani are commanding so many soldiers and fighting along with them. Why is English required? Is it not wrong to say that Indians are not fit for the Army, because they do not know English? There are stalwart young men who do not know English, but who can fight. In our country there are those who can fight ten British soldiers each. In the Andhra country there are stalwart ladies—they are agriculturists; they were *rajas*, they were kings, producing everything, producing food for you and me and everybody, for the bird, insect and ant and all. There are such people in India and now you come forward boldly on the floor of this House and say, that suitable candidates are not forthcoming.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I hope you have finished.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: I am coming to the end. I repeat that suitable candidates are available in India; but you do not want to train them, because if they are trained being intellectual and intelligent and strong and gallant, they may snatch away your officerships from the hands of the Europeans who are living here on our money. That is your intention. But candidates are available in India; money is available and everything is available, but our mouths are gagged. We are gagged on all sides.

I was once travelling along with some Indian sepoy's belonging to South India and speaking Tamil and Telugu, and they struck up friendship with me; they said "The treatment that is given to us in the military is very miserable while the treatment given to European soldiers is most excellent".

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I think you have developed that point sufficiently.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: All right, Sir; I will finish in five minutes. This is a railway story. Those sepoy's said "It is very difficult to serve in the military nowadays; formerly those in the military were happy, but now their lot is miserable because of the ill-treatment of the officers. We want to escape because they will not accept our resignations. We want to abscond on account of ill-treatment and so many other troubles. They ask us to do everything and all the hard work, which we cannot do. The Indian sepoy's now recruited get so little to eat that they cannot even lift a rifle, because they are not fed well". Such men are being recruited. I told them "My dear friends, if you abscond you will be caught and you will be punished under the military rules. The rules

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are very strict and you cannot escape". But, Sir, I warn this British Government that from today onwards they must make up their minds that Indian young men should be trained; if you do not find men we are prepared to bring them and hand them over to you for training; and my Honourable friend must advise the other Members of the Treasury Benches and the cabinet and the Viceroy and others to take up this question of training Indians for officerships and it must be the first question to be discussed in the cabinet of the Viceroy.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Sir, the debate on this motion has covered a very very wide field indeed; and the speeches after the lunch hour have attained great heights of eloquence presumably as a result of sumptuous lunch. I cannot aspire to those heights of eloquence, but I shall attempt to meet relevant points made by my Honourable friends during the course of this debate.

My Honourable friend Mr. Ranga was rather suspicious of me. He thought that I had some sinister motive in emphasising before this House that there was a shortage of suitable Indian candidates offering for commissions in the defence services. I had no sinister motive of any kind. My motive and my object were to place facts before the House in order that the House and its Members may be able to help in getting suitable Indians of the right type to offer for commissions in the defence services. Several Honourable Members criticised the selection boards. I do not know whether any of the Members who did criticise the selection boards had actually seen them at work. The best way of meeting those criticisms is for me to suggest to Honourable Members of this House to visit a selection board at work. I will very gladly arrange for a visit: any Honourable Member may come and see any selection board he likes; and if a sufficient number of Honourable Members interested in the subject are forthcoming, I undertake myself to lead a delegation to any of the selection boards they choose. We have nothing to hide; they can see the board at work and satisfy themselves how it works.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: At what place?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Any board you choose—the boards are at four or five places; and any Member of this House, or all Members, are most welcome and I shall take them there; and I do suggest that the best way of seeing how the boards work and of examining their procedure is to see them on the ground and not merely make criticisms based on hearsay.

I see that the psychiatrist came in for a good deal of criticism. If I may be a little autobiographical, I may say that before this new system of selection was introduced I myself went to visit a selection board. I went there with a good deal of bias against the system; and in the end after the three days I spent I was quite convinced that this new system was fair and much better than the system which it displaced.

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): You mean also including the presence of the psychologist?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: If my Honourable friend will have a little patience, I am coming to that.

An Honourable Member: You are easily convinced.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No; I am not, as you will see from the speech. If the facts are convincing, I shall be convinced. As regards the psychiatrist, that he has been criticised in this House as a member of the board who rejects a large number of candidates; actually the facts are otherwise. In fact, I have got statistics to show that the psychiatrist is in actual practice one of the most lenient members of the board and on occasions he has let several candidates who have been rejected by other boards go through. It was at the instance of the psychiatrist that candidates rejected by other members of the board have been taken.

The next point raised was whether there was any provision for review. There is provision for review of border line cases. We do not of course have reviewed by another board all the candidates rejected by one board; but wherever there

is a border line case there is provision for a review; and if any of my Honourable friends bring to my notice any specific cases in which he or the candidate thinks that he has been rejected not on good grounds, or rejected on grounds with which he is not satisfied, I shall be quite prepared to have that case reviewed in the presence of the Honourable Member who brings that case to me.

The next point is about the system. We have now instructed the Boards not to reject all the candidates whom they consider unsuitable but to have some kind of grading by which, if they feel that a candidate has, by means of further training, a chance of developing the qualities which are essential in an officer, those candidates should be deferred. There is provision for deferred candidates being sent to the pre-cadet College at Nowgong. It is no pleasure to the Boards to reject candidates. The Boards themselves have been established in order to select suitable candidates, candidates who will make good officers. The Boards cannot contemplate, nor can the defence authorities contemplate that quality should be lowered, because it is essential that the best men should lead the troops.

My Honourable friend Mr. Ranga referred to discrimination in training institutions. I can assure him that there is no discrimination in training centres. If any Honourable Member wishes to see any training centre he has only to tell me and I shall take him or have him taken to any training centre. I shall make him quite comfortable. He can see things for himself.

I was also asked whether there was an Indian element on the Selection Board. Speaking from recollection, I think one third of the members of the Selection Board are Indians and our policy is to increase the number of Indians as much as possible. References were made by several speakers to discrimination. Whatever may have been the case in the past—and there may have been unconscious discrimination—I can assure this House that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is most insistent that there should be no discrimination of any kind and has personally instructed Army Commanders to impress upon the Commanding Officers of lower formations to this effect.

Reference was made to the difference in allowances between Emergency Commissioned Officers and Indian Commissioned Officers. Only this morning I said that I hoped to make an announcement on the subject shortly. I can say no more than that at present.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): That is the most important point.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: My Honourable friend Sardar Mangal Singh referred to a prevalent feeling—I don't know whether it was his own feeling or some others' also—that the machines supplied to the Royal Indian Air Force were inferior to those supplied to the Royal Air Force. I wish to say categorically that that is not correct. The Royal Indian Air Force is supplied with the same kind of machines as the Royal Air Force and the machines supplied to the training institutions for the Royal Indian Air Force are exactly the same as those supplied to the Royal Air Force. I wish that to be made very clear.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Why are there so many air crashes?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: It is due to disobedience of instructions, if you want to know that.

Then I was asked something about the size of the post-war army. I repeat what I said—that I am unable to say what the post-war size of the army will be. Naturally after hostilities cease, there will be demobilization and the armed forces will diminish in numbers. But what the ultimate post-war size of the army will be I cannot say. It will depend upon circumstances.

I was asked what was the policy about Indianisation. I think the aim is progressively to reduce the British element in the defence services.

I think I have covered most of the relevant points. I commend to the House my motion which I made several hours ago.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, six non-official members to serve on the Defence Consultative Committee for the financial year 1945-46."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election of Members to the Standing Committee for the Legislative Department as well as to the Defence Consultative Committee, the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations upto 12 Noon on Thursday, the 15th March, and that the elections, if necessary, will be held on Tuesday, the 20th March. The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10-30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EMIGRATION

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I have to inform the Assembly that the following non-official Members have been elected to serve on the Standing Committee on Emigration during 1945-46: (1) Shams-ul-Ulema Kamaluddin Ahmad, (2) Sir Syed Raza Ali, (3) Pandit Shambhudayal Misra, (4) Mr. Ram Narayan Singh, (5) Sir F. E. James, (6) Mr. Badri Dutt Pande, (7) Pandit Nilakantha Das, (8) Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, (9) Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, (10) Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi.

THE REPEALING AND AMENDING BILL

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal certain enactments and to amend certain other enactments.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is: "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal certain enactments and to amend certain other enactments."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Sir, I introduce the Bill

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1945, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1945, be taken into consideration."

As regards time limit on the debate on this motion, I have received a note to this effect: one hour for the Leaders of the Parties and the Members in charge and 45 minutes for all other speakers. I do not know if this is agreed to by the House.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): No, Sir.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Any other dissentient voice?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony (Nominated Non-Official): I oppose it.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Is there any other dissentient voice? Will those Honourable Members who are not in favour of this arrangement raise their hands—

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): I submit, Mr. Deputy President, that this is a new innovation. Before you take the decision of the House, I want to know whether this understanding holds good for this year only or whether this is going to form a precedent for future years also?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): For this particular debate only.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Only on the motion just moved.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Then I am quite agreeable to it. But I may point out that it is quite unprecedented that on the Finance Bill there should be a time limit. If in this particular year, this is to be the understanding, I have no objection. But it should not form a precedent for any future year.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): It is a question for the House to consider. I am not giving it as a ruling from the Chair.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: I submit with all respect, Sir, that this is not a question on which you can take the vote of the House.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): What is wanted is general agreement. If I find that there is a substantial number of Members to whom this is not acceptable, then it will be a matter for consideration.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: I submit, Sir, even if there is only one Member who wants to exercise his right on the Finance Bill, he should not be overlooked. We are elected representatives in this House. It is not fair on the part of organised Parties to come to some arrangement among themselves without consulting others who do not belong to any Party. This action of the organised Parties is in the nature of penalising the unattached Members and forcing them to join the one Party or the other. We have not been given any chance to put forward our views in the matter and it is not fair nor equitable to us that the organised Parties should come to this arrangement behind our back.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is whether the arrangement that has been suggested is generally acceptable to the House or not.

Will those who are against this arrangement being given effect to raise their hands?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Before you take the decision of the House, Sir, may I also submit that we, on this side who do not belong to any Party, do not get sufficient opportunities to put forward our views on most vital matters. I appeal to the Leaders of the Parties and to you, Sir, that we should also be allowed sufficient time. I do not mind if the Leaders of Parties get one hour each to speak. But I should also be given sufficient latitude, I must be given one hour.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Will those Honourable Members who are against this arrangement, kindly raise their hands?

Sir F. E. James (Madras: European): May I make a submission to you, Sir, and that is that this matter should not be settled by a vote of the House. I submit this is a suggestion that has emanated from Leaders of Parties. It is a suggestion that appeals to me as a very reasonable one, but there are some Honourable Members of the House who feel that it operates unfairly in their cases. Now, Sir, I think it is setting a very unfortunate precedent that a matter like this should we put to the vote of the House and decided.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: They do not care to consult others.

Sir F. E. James: I understood you, Sir, to ask those who disagreed with this to raise their hands.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Not by way of voting.

Sir F. E. James: Anyhow it is an indication that you are asking those who do not agree that they should make themselves known. I am suggesting that we should try and reach an agreement and if the suggestion made by my Honourable friend Mr. Frank Anthony meets with the approval of those who are in favour of forty-five minutes, namely, that the outside maximum of one hour should be allowed to all, well, most of us while speaking will occupy much less than that. This suggestion might be accepted or generally understood by the rest of the House. But I do put it to you, Sir, that it is unfair to ask for any form of voting on this occasion.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, may I submit to the House that I am responsible for this suggestion that is made. I quite agree that on a discussion of a Bill, in the sense of a formal way, there is no time limit, but during the debate last year on a similar occasion we found that the discussion went on, without any disrespect to any

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particular Honourable Member, in a manner which I think did not bring out all that was required for the purpose of understanding the views of the country on what they call the larger issues involved. Honourable Members got up and spoke at random for about 2½ hours each. True, it was their privilege, but in the interest of all of us put together, that privilege must be so exercised that we carry on the debate in a manner both useful and dignified. So, I do appeal to my Honourable friend Mr. Frank Anthony and to everybody that after all is said and done, forty-five minutes is quite a long period. If an Honourable Member wants to say anything useful, he can do so even in 20 minutes and I think forty-five minutes is quite long enough.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Laliye: But Malavyaji could speak for four hours and more. You amend the Rules and Standing Orders to that effect.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: I am speaking in a conciliatory mood and I dare say it should be reciprocated in the same manner. There is no challenge to anybody's authority or right. There is no desire to encroach on anybody's privilege. The whole object is to conduct the business of the House in such a way that would tend to usefulness. I submit this is not an appeal which should go in vain and I trust that if you Sir, ask the House in all conscience to agree to a time limit which will be very useful in regulating the debate even on wide issues concerning the Finance Bill, I am sure the House will agree.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): May I say a word, Sir? When the Government of India Act was passed, no time limit was laid down deliberately because there are certain matters on which there should be no time limit, and by coming to an agreement, the Parties are really introducing a rule which is against the spirit of the constitution. I am not suggesting, Sir, that we should waste the time of the House. That is not my suggestion. But, let there be no such rule regarding time limit. Let the time limit be laid down by each Honourable Member by using his own discretion whether he has a right to waste the time of the House. I myself feel that no Member has a right to introduced short cut methods for everything. If a man is behaving inconv- waste the time of the House. / Therefore leave it to the discretion of Members, leave it to the good sense of Members; let us all exercise our own moral influence upon each other, each one by showing by his own example that he does not want to waste the time of the House. We have to show, by our own example to others, and each one should exercise his own judgment and good sense. I therefore submit, let us not have any understanding of this kind, but let us exercise our own discretion in such a way that the time of the House will not be wasted. Let us also see that many Honourable Members will get an opportunity of speaking. So far as the organised political Parties are concerned, it is the easiest thing for them to exercise discretion by appealing to Members that generally they should not waste the time of the House. It is not, as if, the unattached Members alone who generally waste the time of the House. If I were to tell the House frankly, those who take sometimes two hours and sometimes more and who waste the time of the House do not belong to the unattached Group. I therefore suggest, leave it to the good sense of the House, let us all observe discretion and good sense and see that the time of the House is not wasted.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Sir, please allow me also to say a few words. I feel that we are influenced in political matters by what I call short cut methods. I know, Sir, that the Defence of India Act and Rules have niently: put him behind the bars by short cut method. No trial, no prosecution, nothing of the sort. Sir, from the speech of the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition—for whom I have very great respect, he should not doubt it, he should believe me—I see that he is also acting in line with these short cut methods. He is encroaching on the privileges of the House. Every Member has got the privilege to speak and to express the views of his constituency in this House on this occasion. On no Bills is there a time limit, and particularly

on the motion for consideration of the Finance Bill and during the later stages of this Bill, it is desirable that Honourable Members should have perfect liberty to express their views on the burning questions of the day.

Secondly, I want to make it quite clear that it is not for the Parties to decide how the privilege is to be exercised by other Members. There are un-

attached Members like ourselves who have the grievance that we are
4 P. M. not consulted when this kind of arrangement is arrived at. For instance, our cut motions could not be moved.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): No, it is not correct to say that the unattached Members were not allowed to move any cut motions.

Sardar Sant Singh: We could move only four cut motions and those too were reduced to a mere form and no speeches were made. Therefore these arrangements work to the prejudice of the unattached Members. I submit that it is the privilege of every Member to speak in the House and express the views of his constituency, and there should be no time limit imposed, particularly in the matter of the Finance Bill. It will create a dangerous precedent in future.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): Sir, the idea behind this arrangement was this—that so far as the rules and regulations are concerned, there is no limitation as to the length of time an Honourable Member can speak. But actually we are going to have a debate for six or seven days and only a certain number of Honourable Members can speak. Now if an Honourable Member goes on speaking for three hours, the result would be that so many Honourable Members on this side would be absolutely shut out. If you can induce Government to allot 30 or 40 days we could of course go on; but if there are to be only six or seven days, the fact has to be considered that there are so many Members wishing to speak.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The position is this. It is true that constitutionally there is no time-limit for speeches on the Finance Bill or any other Bill. It is therefore the prerogative and privilege of every Member to speak as long as he likes provided, of course, that he is relevant. On the other hand it has got to be remembered that although there is no time limit for any particular measure, after all there is a time limit for the whole Session; some time or other we have got to finish because we cannot sit here for the whole year. In that view of the matter there is bound to be a time limit,—either a limit on the number of speakers or a limit of time; there is no *via media*. Therefore it is to the interest of Parties and the Members that there should be some arrangement. If however there is no substantial agreement on this question, my decision for today is that there is no arrangement about time limit for today and Members will exercise their own discretion about the length of their speeches. I only hope that by tomorrow there will be some substantial agreement arrived at.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, there is a story of an elderly gentleman who wishing to visit the haunts of his youth, mounted the staircase of his old college in Cambridge and knocked at the door of the room in which he used to live as a student. After a little hesitation—so it seemed—a voice from inside irritably cried: "Come in". The elderly gentleman entered his old room and looked about and said, "This is the same old room and these are the same old walls". He proceeded further and said: "This is the same old mantel-piece and the same old fireplace". And he removed the curtain that divided the main room from the alcove and saw a long-lost vision of a blushing beauty hidden behind, and said, "Ah, the same old trick!" And the new incumbent undergraduate, unable to stand this nonsense any longer, said: "What do you mean, Sir? What do you mean? She is my sister". And the elderly gentleman said: "Ah, the same old lie!"

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The same old story!

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Sir, when I came back to this House after five years of absence to attend regularly this Budget Session, I was inclined to say that this was the same old Chamber; there were the same old questions and the same old

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answers. We heard the same old speeches and moved the same old cuts, and we also make the same old perambulations and peregrinations to the "Ayes" and "Noes" lobbies; and the results also are the same. And in order to soothe the lacerated heart of my very esteemed and most Honourable friend the Leader of the House, I have been entrusted by my Party with my own quota of lies so that I may unburden my soul before this House.

But before I do that, I should like to clear the decks of a personal matter so that we may have a certain amount of good will, as we fling our invectives across the floor during the next few days. I seemed to gather from what my Honourable friend the Finance Member said in his speech, closing the general debate on the budget, that some of us on this side of the House, have been personally offensive to him; and I found that he was feeling hurt in consequence. As Secretary of this Party, as one who has been the General Secretary of the Indian National Congress for many years, and as one who has been connected with the inmost executive of the Congress both in my province and in the centre. I should like to assure my Honourable friend that we of the Congress fight for freedom and we define that freedom in the abstract. We follow our great Leader who on the very first day of this Assembly, said that 'we fight without rancour and lose without malice.' I should like to assure my Honourable friend opposite that no harm was meant by anyone of us; and we entertain neither any personal nor any communal nor even any racial feelings in our struggle for our ultimate freedom. And if any one of us commits what may be regarded as a fault, the blame must go firstly to the exigencies of parliamentary debate which has been introduced into our country by friends opposite and also to the rule that every one must speak in English and not in his own mother-tongue. I shall therefore beg my Honourable friend opposite to banish from his heart any unhappiness that he might have felt owing to any incidents of the past.

It is lucky both for him and for me that I do not understand any finance; and I am no judge of the administration of the finances of my country during his tenure of office. Friends, for whose knowledge of finance and economics I cannot but have the greatest respect, have told me that the finances of our land, during the trying and testing times through which we have passed, could not have been in safer hands than his. Others who are equally qualified to speak, tell me that there has been a general muddle. But even those who do not agree with my Honourable friend opposite, testify to his sincerity and his integrity and appreciate his fight for my country's interest in many lands, as he understood them.

So far as I am concerned, before I leave this personal theme, I should like to say that there is one pleasing feature in my Honourable Member's temperament and method of doing things, which certainly attracts me and to which I should like to pay a tribute. In a country like ours where hoards of officials—both high and low—have been let loose on an unoffending people, and who think that they can do whatever they like, that they have no responsibility to any one, and who also feel certain that in all their actions they would be supported by their superiors, in a land like this, I feel happy that at least I have found one man—the present Finance Member—who has always been anxious to keep a check on the vagaries of his subordinates and who has taken immediate action whenever any wrong has been brought to his notice. I have had many experiences of this sort myself, and I have always found him alert and prompt. It is unfortunate that in a land like ours the man on the spot can always make it hell; and though I pay a tribute to my Honourable friend for his attempt to put things right, I am also bound to say that so far as I myself was concerned and so far as those individuals were concerned on whose behalf I wrote, they were harassed enough in a variety of ways, for no fault but this that a complaint had been made to the head of the department in the Centre.

Sir, it is a curious convention that in the course of the debate on the Finance Bill, Members of the House can speak of anything and everything; and it is a

pity that at the end, it is the Finance Member who has to reply. The Honourable the Finance Member, in his speech closing the Budget debate, said that there seemed to be no common ground between him and us; and that is something that is very true. I myself feel that he and I speak different tongues; and that because we view matters from different angles of vision, there apparently can be no approach.

In the Finance Member's mind the war looms large. Four years back when last I spoke on the Finance Bill, I happened to have said something about the war, which my Honourable friend did not like, for I remember his saying at the end that it was an ordeal to hear me. I should therefore, at the very start, say that I have absolutely no desire to hurt the feelings of the Honourable Member or of any other Member of the House; but I shall have to do my duty and say what I feel is in the best interests of my country fully and frankly. I have used what little intellect I may possess, in studying the psychology of this war which is the most important phenomenon in the minds of my Honourable friends, which seems to overshadow all other considerations; and for which every possible preparation has been made and is going to be made. So far as I have been able to study the objects of this war, I have found that there are two and only two objects. The first object is that the world must be kept safe for the Englishman. The British Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, in one of his latest pronouncements while visiting the Western Front on German soil, expressed his delight that he was on what he thought was the enemy's soil. He bestowed what I could not but feel, were only half-hearted praises for the work of the American and the Russian. In the end he said that the object of the war was that 'his Island Home and its people should be respected all over the world'. To his mind, the Russian, the American, the Chinese and the Indian, along with the members of the British colonies, were all fighting for England. To him England's safety meant the freedom for the world; to him any harm done to England meant ruination of mankind and the slavery of all. If England is well, all is well; if she suffers, all suffer. Verily—

'No one does England know,

Who only England knows!'

According to this British Prime Minister, the world must fight and fight on; and that the nations must be plunged in eternal warfare, so that England may be safe and great and powerful. George Bernard Shaw, who understands his Englishman better than many others, says somewhere that ordinarily the word 'treachery' should mean something very wicked and very bad; but to the Englishman 'treachery' means anything done that harms England, even if in that doing the native of a country may be helping his own land. And so here in India those of us are traitors who want to help our country if in doing so we harm the interests of England, and those of us are patriots who go against the interests of our own country if in doing so we help England.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

I may assure my Honourable friends opposite that I have for various reasons my own weakness for England, and I do not want any harm to come to her or her people. But we love our own country, and we want our country's freedom. We are struggling for it and we are bound to continue that struggle; and if in the struggle England's interests are damaged because she will not listen to us, because she is unreasonable, then surely we are not responsible. It is history that the great leaders of our land declared from the house-tops that the avowed objects of the war for which the allies (so-called) were fighting, were dear to their own hearts also; and they should like to help in the war and make it their own, under definite and specific conditions. Those conditions not forthcoming, it is no wonder that however much the Government of India may be at war, morally the people of the country are not at war.

The second object of this war, so far as I can judge, is to keep India in eternal bondage. I shall again quote the British Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill

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At the moment when he took his office, he declared in stentorian voice that he had not accepted to be the First Minister of the Crown in order to liquidate the British Empire.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Preside over the liquidation!

Mr. Sri Prakasa: If he and his fellow countrymen were seriously and really fighting for the freedom of the world, the first requisite was to liquidate the Empire, for freedom and imperialism, if I understand the words aright, can never go together. And not satisfied with that, he has now coined a new phrase. He refers to this conglomeration of countries and peoples, called 'the British Empire', which some persons in their innocence started calling 'the British Commonwealth', as "Commonwealth and Empire," an expression now used even in the King's speeches. What can the juxtaposition of these two words mean except this that so far as England and England's colonies were concerned, it was a 'Commonwealth', and so far as India was concerned, it was an 'Empire'. India is the only country of this conglomeration that consists of indigenous people. The English in their march for world conquest, have really exterminated the people who lived in the old American Continent or in Australia or New Zealand. There they have their own people now; and no wonder that the homeland and the inhabitants of these lands are one and the same and they can easily be called a Commonwealth. But the acid test is India; because India consists of the old inhabitants of the land whom the English could not exterminate as they could the peoples of other lands; and over whom they rule. Therefore if they are keen on freedom, they must see to it that our land is free. As long as India is not free, and as long as we are denied the elements of liberty, we cannot possibly believe that this war is being fought for freedom; and that is what accounts for our indifference towards it.

In fact, Sir, it seems to me that while England has declared war on Germany in Europe, she has also declared war on us in our land. British troops, the symbol of military strength, have been used against unarmed people; and I know myself how British troops have misbehaved in the course of the incidents that took place in the latter part of 1942. At Dohrighat in the Azamgarh district of the United Provinces, British troops ruthlessly burnt down the institution called the Gandhi Ashram, which was doing nothing else but producing khaddar cloth and offering social service to the people there and educating the children of the neighbourhood. And, Sir, in a letter that the Superintendent of Police of Gorakhpur wrote to his family—which has since been published in the papers—he says something that should ordinarily make us gape. I personally think that it is a mean thing to quote from private letters and the gentleman in me is hurt when I have to use a private letter, especially when it is from a husband to his wife.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: It has been made public.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In that letter he says:

"Trouton and his troops leave day after tomorrow and the Suffolks relieve them. We shall be sorry to see Trouton and his men go. They have done so proud and have never hesitated to go beyond the scope of their duties to help us over various tight spots, when we wanted them. I only hope that the Suffolks will be equally obliging."

This shows that the British troops, posted at various places in the land, have gone beyond their duties and have been used as engines of oppression against an innocent and unarmed people. When I asked a question on this subject, the Home Member replying said that he had himself visited Gorakhpur about that time and no one had made any complaint to him. I cannot believe that the Home Member—I am sorry he is not in the House; it is just as well he is not—is as innocent as an unborn babe; and that he does not know what terror his name was as the Chief Secretary of the United Provinces, in the countryside, at that time. I should have asked him, if he had been here, if he really believed that any one would have dared to approach him; if he had made any person enquiries, if he was accessible to all; if he really wanted to know the truth.

I mean no harm to the Honourable the Home Member—he and I personally have been good friends for 24 years and more—but the fact remains that there was so much terrorism in the Province at the time that anything could be done and was done; and that every excess was excused.

My Honourable friend the Home Member was deeply upset at the statement that India was a vast concentration camp; and he has been at pains to tell us that there were only a few hundred prisoners here; and that the proportion of those political prisoners was negligible when compared with the population of the country. A thing like that amazes one. When there was an earthquake in Bihar, some 6000 odd persons died. What was that proportion to the population of the land? Negligible, and therefore there was no earthquake in Bihar at all? How many persons have been killed in the course of the terrorist movements of which we hear so much, when compared with the population of the land? Negligible again. Therefore are we to say that there was no terrorism? What was the proportion of the population that suffered in the 1942 disturbances. Negligible again. Therefore are we to say that there were no disturbance at all? I cannot understand the logic of the Honourable the Home Member. I understand, Sir, that he is a Wrangler of my University. Wrangling may mean two things—knowledge of mathematics and unnecessary wordy warfare. His mathematics seems to be very poor; but his capacity for wordy warfare seems to be at its height.

What is the meaning of the words Concentration Camp? What does it signify? It signifies that persons in that concentration camp have no freedom of movement, have no freedom of expression, have to do allotted tasks: it means nothing else. Sir, that is exactly the situation in the whole of our country except this circular hall, in which we are able to say something; but we are not permitted to open our mouths anywhere else. People are being imprisoned without trial. Houses are being snatched from their legitimate owners. We are being forced to pay money; and any complaint against anything is stifled under the rules of the Defence of India Act. A lady doctor in Benares, who was a Congress-woman, was deprived of her house which contained her clinic as well, on a few days' notice, so that that building could house the railway offices of the East Indian Railway, because their buildings in turn were required by the Police at Moghalsarai. The Defence of India Rules have been used to deprive persons of their houses in order not to house military folks but civil judges and civil officers as well.

(At this stage, the Honourable the Home Member entered the House.)

Money is forced out of us and the one thing for which I cannot excuse the Honourable the Finance Member is the ecstatic telegram which he sent to the Governor of the United Provinces congratulating him on having made a big haul of money at one of the terrible drives through which we had passed in our Province.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Extortion.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I happened at the time to be the Secretary of an educational trust. The trust has some landed property; and when our agent went to pay the revenue to the Government treasury a certain portion of the money was taken away by the Tahsildar as war donation and the agent was required to bring the amount again in order that he could give his revenue in full.

An Honourable Member: Actual donation?

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Actual donation! I complained up to the authorities. The Commissioner of the Division said that he knew such things were happening, that he disapproved of them, and that if I would give him the receipt that I had got, he would see that the money was refunded. I gave it to him and lost both the receipt and the money. Though I wrote to them again and again that at least the receipt might be sent back to me so that the auditor may not catch me by the heels when he came to examine the accounts of that Trust, I received no reply. The House has been told of what pressure has been put on various

[Mr. Sri Prakasa.]

persons to contribute to what is called the Savings Drive. At least my agent from my estate has written to me to say that so thoroughly have the lands been cleansed of all money, that it is now difficult to realise rents in order to pay Government revenue at the next call. (Interruption.) What does my honourable friend say? My Honourable friend opposite knows how these things are done. Cases have been instituted in courts of law showing there was actual extortion practised to collect money in order to weigh an eminent person in gold. I should like to know from my Honourable friend how much is contributed to these funds by officers of Government? The other day I happened to travel with an Indian I. C. S. officer of my province, and I asked him how much he had contributed. He said that formerly he used to contribute, but that when he found European officers were not contributing, he stopped contributing himself also.

My Honourable friend, the Home Member, during the last Session, gave me a certificate that I was not a dangerous man; but all my letters are censored and in Benares four C. I. D. men constantly watch me. They have taken a little house in my neighbourhood in order to keep watch on me. When Lady Chintamani, the wife of the great journalist, happened to stay with me with some relatives—the wife and the mother, as I found, of an officer of Government here in Delhi—these C. I. D. men made the most officious inquiries as to who “these women” were. I lost my patience and complained up to authority against this; and I was solemnly informed that a strict surveillance was being kept on me, and that that strict surveillance would continue to be kept, because the Police have a fear that some persons visit me or are about to visit me who are wanted by the Police. I have been waiting for these men, but so far they have not appeared, neither have the C. I. D. disappeared.

Once while travelling by train, I had to undergo a gruelling cross-examination at 10 o'clock at night at Sonapore Railway Station. When the train got to Samstipur at 2 o'clock at night—that was the time when the Honourable the Home Member was the Governor of Bihar—I was shaken up, and asked to get down. I did not know what exactly to do at a strange place at that hour, and the train was detained in order that the Police may continue to harass me. If a person like me, who in the language of the Honourable Home Member is not a dangerous man, is put to such maltreatment, can we describe the conditions in which our lives are cast as anything different to the conditions of those who are in a concentration camp? It is not enough to say that only 1,500 persons are in actual prison. Our contention is that outside this circular hall where there is a great deal of freedom of expression, there is absolutely no freedom and the whole land is one vast prison.

Then, Sir, what about persons who are actually kept in prison by my Honourable friends opposite? Loss of weight and loss of health have been spoken of. People have died soon after their releases. When British prisoners of war lost their weight, and some of them died soon after their release from captivity, my old and very distinguished friend, the predecessor of the Honourable the Finance Member, now the War Secretary in England, Sir James Grigg, very loudly complained that that was most improper. But so far as things here are concerned, the predecessor of my Honourable friend, the Home Member, was quite satisfied in informing this House that ‘Mr. Satyamurti died a free man’ that was a matter of great consolation to him.

Sir, I do not want to give many instances, I can go on giving you many of humble folk who have suffered and died; but I will give just three to show how things go on in these jails. Two instances are of those who have been Members of this House and their cases may raise our special sympathy. There is the case of Chandra Bhai Johri. He had been keeping very bad health and his only fault was that he was a Member of this House on the Congress ticket. He had practically retired from politics and was devoting his time entirely to books. He was caught on the fateful 9th of August 1942 and put in

jail. In those days security prisoners were denied all amenities: no correspondence was permitted; no interviews were given: no newspapers could they read. There were orders that their movements from prison to prison could not be published in the newspapers; and my friend was transferred from Benares to Lucknow without any one knowing where he was. Then he got very ill; he was sent on to the Balrampur Hospital at Lucknow. Sir Reginald Maxwell informed this House that he was kept in a special ward. He was not kept in a special ward; he was kept in the general ward known as the 8-anna ward. He was not examined by the Civil Surgeon. The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell also informed this House that his family had been informed three days beforehand that he was very ill. The family was never informed at all. On the 31st of January 1943, his brother came to me at Benares—his brother lives at Lucknow—and told me that a friend happening to go to see a relative of his in this general ward in the Balrampur hospital, had happened to see Chandra Bhai Johri also, who was very ill. Then this brother tried to move heaven and earth in order to get him released. He and Mr. Johri's wife came to me at Benares to see if anything could be done. I tried to move the authorities at the time—and they were sympathetic, I am glad to say that at that time there were some sympathetic officers at least in my town. Then on the 4th of February I had a telephonic message from Lucknow to say that nothing was being done and that his brother's information was that Mr. Johri was dying. On the 5th February, his distraught wife rushed up from Benares to Lucknow; she saw the Home Secretary and she saw the Civil Surgeon. She did not receive much courtesy at their hands, because the Home Secretary was angry that she should come to him at a late hour at night and the civil surgeon said that no one had any right to know anything about security prisoners. He thus was not a doctor, he had become a politician! However, at 10 o'clock that night, Mr. Chandra Bhai Johri was at last released and given to his brother and his wife. A photograph of his was taken soon after his release and it is a pathetic photograph: it is said he would not speak; but the man could not speak—he had lost his voice—and though the family did all they could and spent a fortune far beyond their means, to save the valuable life, Mr. Chandra Bhai Johri died.

Then there was Khedan Lal. He also was caught on the 9th of August for reasons I shall never be able to make out, because he was an innocent man. In jail he was given two months of solitary imprisonment; and solitary imprisonment is no joke. The result was that he lost his mental faculties. He came out of jail almost as a lunatic. We sent him to Ranchi only to die.

Lastly, I come to the case of Shibbenlal Saksena, a Member of the Assembly of the United Provinces; and with that I will close. I have referred to the published letter of the Superintendent of Police of Gorakhpur. We heard that Shibben Lal had been badly treated in jail, that he had been kicked and cuffed. News from the jail does travel outside sometimes. In this letter that the Superintendent of Police writes to his family, he says:

“I interviewed him from 7-30 until 9-45 this morning (i.e., 7th of September 1942). I damned nearly did him to death in his cell.”

This confirmed our worst suspicions that an intellectual, a weak thin man, a graduate of the university like Shibbenlal Saksena, had been most brutally treated by an officer in jail. Thousands of letters written to and by us, the Government have caught under their own laws. I ask in all sincerity if in any of those letters they have found expressions like those used for those with whom we do not agree. Saksena is called “swine”; “bloody hypocrite”; “damn swine” in the course of this letter; and my Honourable friend Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar says that we must regard each other, even if we differ from each other, as moved by the best of motives and loving this land as much as any one else can.

Sir, I can go on in this strain for very long; but I should like to close with just one appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member. He has told us of the great prosperity of the countryside, and he has said that all the efforts he has been making to get savings certificates etc., was only to enable rural folk to learn

(i) In what stages and in what manner do they propose to achieve this result and to bring down the price of footwear in India?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) and (b). According to information published by the Agricultural Marketing Board in 1942 and 1943 the estimated production of hides and skins in India were as follows:

Cow Hides—2,00,00,000 per annum. Goatskins—2,75,00,000 per annum.
Buff Hides—57,00,000 per annum. Sheepskins—1,70,00,000 per annum.

Current figures are not available but it is considered the production today is lower than in immediate pre-war years, particularly in the case of hides.

(c) Cow Hides 100 to 150 per cent.

Buff Hides 200 to 250 per cent.

Goatskins 50 per cent.

Sheepskins 100 per cent.

(d) By negotiations with the various sources of supply.

(e) Yes.

(f) Government are aware that prices of footwear of every description have increased.

(g) *Part (first).* Government have assisted firms producing footwear for war purposes in the import of necessary material and machinery not manufactured in this country and by arranging supplies of leather required, where necessary.

Part (second). By diverting the increased capacity to civil needs, both internal and foreign.

(h) The steps taken are: (1) Fixing prices of footwear through Footwear Control Orders of 1944 and 1945; (2) Fixing prices of hides and buffalo leather to enable manufacturers to buy at reasonable rates; (3) Prohibiting or restricting export of certain types of hides, leather and footwear to make larger supplies available for the production of footwear; (4) Arranging imports and distribution of grindery and distribution of sole leather.

(i) Prices of footwear as notified are periodically reviewed by the Government Department concerned in consultation with all branches of footwear industry, particularly with a view to reduction in the notified prices immediately such reduction is possible.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The Honourable Member spoke of diversion of increased supply for civil population. Will he allay the public feeling on this subject by issuing a press note saying the amount so diverted and how much increased supply is the Government going to give?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I shall consider the question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to part (i) may I know by how much percentage the present fixed price is higher than pre-war prices?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I want notice, but I would suggest that the question should be addressed to my Honourable colleague, the Member for Industries.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: With reference to part (f) how much percentage was allowed on the pre-war level of prices prevailing in 1938-39?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That is exactly the question which my Honourable friend Mr. Chettiar asked just now and I suggested that it may be addressed to my Honourable Colleague, the Member for Industries who is directly in charge of fixing the price for civil population.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: The Supply Department has no say in the matter?

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

PRODUCTION OF POWER ALCOHOL

1005. **Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) What efforts has the Honourable the Supply Member made to increase the production of power alcohol in India?

(b) How many factories are now working?

(c) What is the quantity of molasses which is going waste in India?

(d) What progress has been made in the establishment of power alcohol plants?

(e) How many plants have been so installed since the beginning of the War?

(f) How many have been licensed?

(g) How many plants are on order?

(h) Do Government propose to give some indication of the target, towards which they aim with regard to the production of power alcohol in India and in what time do they hope to reach it?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Considerable quantities of the raw materials required in the fabrication within India of Distillation plants have been released.

(b) No Distillery is devoted exclusively to the production of Power Alcohol. A percentage of the production of the Mysore and Hyderabad State Distilleries, the Central Distillery at Meerut and the Daurala Distillery (U. P.) is in Power Alcohol.

(c) Statistics of molasses not utilised fully are not available.

(d) Against licences issued by the U. P. Government, Distilleries for the production of power alcohol and high strength rectified spirit are being erected at (1) Simbhaoli, (2) Shamli, (3) Hargaoon, (4) Gla, (5) Captainganj and (6) Deoria.

The Daurala Distillery referred to in the answer at (b) came into production in 1944 but the power alcohol Column is not yet in full operation.

(e) One, the Daurala Distillery.

(f) No licences have been issued solely for the production of Power Alcohol. 13 licences for the erection of new Distilleries for rectified spirit have been granted by Provinces since the outbreak of the war.

(g) Two, from the U. S. A. other plant so far licensed have, or are being, fabricated in this country.

(h) The question of developing power alcohol production will be investigated by a Panel under the P. & D. Department.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the Government of India had any communication with petrol interests and whether the Government can say anything about the general feeling that petrol interests are opposed to increased production of power alcohol?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The Government of India have had no communication on this subject with any petrol interest.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know whether the Panel Committee will enquire into the question how far it will be profitable for the State itself to undertake the manufacture of power alcohol either as a State monopoly or as one of the producers in the country?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I shall convey that suggestion to my Honourable colleague who is in charge of this Panel.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the extent of power alcohol that will be manufactured if all these plants are set up?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I am not sure, but I think about 25 million gallons were computed at one time.

SETTING UP OF HEAVY INDUSTRY FACTORIES IN INDIA

1006. **Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Has the Honourable the Supply Member seen in the latest publication of Sir M. Visvesvaraya called "Reconstruction in Post-war India" the complaint that heavy industry orders went to Canada and Australia and India was denied these orders?

(b) What is the total volume of orders, which will be the production of heavy industries, placed with Canada and Australia since the beginning of the War?

(c) Is it a fact that some of these orders were extended to new factories set up in Canada and Australia?

(d) What attempts, if any, were made by Government to secure the setting up of such factories in India?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) I have seen in the publication referred to the reference to certain orders having been placed on Canada and Australia. It is not correct to say that these countries had no heavy industries at the time the orders were placed. The orders were placed abroad for the reason that India either could not handle them or available capacity was already fully booked.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) Subject to the availability of plant and materials and the time factor Government's policy in regard to war demands has been to extend existing indigenous capacity or create new capacity wherever possible.

Statement

Item	Unit	Canada	Australia
Railway wagons (less wheels and * vacuum break-gears)	Nos.	8,000	...
Locomotives	"	434	...
Locomotives Boilers	"	100	...
Motor Vehicles	Dollars	Five hundred million dollars	...
Steel	Tons	34,000	62,000
Wagon component parts	Tons	4,110	250

*Coming from U. K.

Note.—The above does not include any orders which may have been placed by the Defence Services.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that Canada and Australia were able to install heavy industries plant even during the war and that some of these plants are supplying India, may I know why the Government of India did not install such plants in India instead of placing orders with these Commonwealth countries?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Because plants were not available, generally speaking, so far as India was concerned.

PURCHASING AT CONTROLLED PRICES ARTICLES SUPPLIED TO BRITAIN, ETC.

1007. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Supply Member been drawn to the address of Rai Bahadur Syamnandan Sahaya, C.I.E., President of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce, where he says as follows on the 25th of January, 1945:

"Then again every article supplied to the British Government has been at controlled prices, steel and pig iron has been supplied at pre-war prices with an allowance for increased cost of production, shellac was sold to America at controlled price and the same can be said of mica, manganese, and of skin and hides, etc. One wonders whether there is any other country among the Allied nations which has charged less from its overseas customers and more from its own countrymen. In these circumstances the desire of Indians to have the full value in return of these sterling accumulations is very legitimate indeed?"

(b) Are the facts stated therein correct, that controlled prices were charged and that these controlled prices were in many cases less than the prices which the civil population of this country had to pay?

(c) For what other articles not mentioned herein, were the controlled prices charged for (i) the United Kingdom, (ii) the U. K. C. C., (iii) U. S. A., and (iv) Australia and the Eastern Group countries?

(d) Have Government received any complaints from manufacturers that the controlled prices in some cases do not enable the concerns even to pay a six per cent. dividend?

(e) What is the total volume of purchase at controlled prices for all parties with the exception of the Government of India themselves, i.e., for (i) the U. K., (ii) the U. K. C. C., (iii) U. S. A., and (iv) Australia and the Eastern Group countries?

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

(b) and (c). It is not clear what exactly the Honourable Member means by "controlled" price. I presume the reference is not to statutorily controlled prices, in the case of which there can be no difference between the prices paid by Government and those paid by the civil consumer, but to stores the prices of which have been indirectly controlled during the war. The general position in this respect is that, while until some time ago the prices paid in respect of purchases made by Government were subject to a certain measure of control, as the result of negotiations with an Industry as a whole or with some of its efficient units, or as the result of carefully negotiated individual contracts, there was, save in respect of a few items, no similar control over prices paid by the civil consumer in the ordinary market. This position has now altered, and after the introduction of certain measures of control over "civil" prices there has been a steady attempt on the part of Government to reduce the margin between prices paid by Government for their purchases, and ordinary civil prices. This reduction could not, in the nature of things, be accomplished immediately, but is being steadily achieved, so that at present the average margin of difference is small. It must be understood, however, that certain differences are bound to exist, mainly for two reasons: that Government make their purchases in bulk, and are also able to eliminate distribution cost. Moreover, when Government have some control over the raw material and are able to supply it to contractors at a reduced price, as in the case of footwear, they pay less for the finished article than the civil consumer does.

I must point out that the mere fact that Government, in many cases, are able to buy commodities at somewhat lower prices does not mean that producers are being made to sell at sacrificial rates. On the contrary, all prices are based on an appraisal of the costs of production, and in many cases, e.g., hides and tanned kips, the loss of pre-war overseas markets is also taken into consideration.

With the exception of certain purchases by the U. K. C. C. and of shellac, mica, and East India Kips, by agents of the U. K. and U. S. A., all substantial purchases for H. M. G., the Dominions, U. S. A., etc., have been made by or with the assistance of the Government of India. No distinction could obviously be made between prices of stores bought for the Defence Services in India and those that were exported either to the U. K. or to Allied countries.

(d) No such complaints have been received.

(e) The information is not readily available.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: With reference to hides may I know if the Ministry of Supply is paying for Madras Kips a price which is about 10 per cent. higher than what it was in 1938-39?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That may be so, but this is virtually a negotiated price with the industry which the industry has cheerfully accepted.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: But was it not through the influence of the Supply Department which was to receive all these hides?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Not through the influence of the Supply Department but with the good offices of the Supply Department the industry has been able to get the price which it does now.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will it be correct to state, arising out of the Honourable Member's reply, that as it was not possible to distinguish between purchases made for any of the allied nations which were made jointly, the benefit of the small difference between the prices which the civilian population pays and the prices which Government pay has also gone to these Governments?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The purchases on behalf of other countries are made on exactly the same basis as purchases made by this Government for its own use. They are negotiated contracts, not prices at controlled rates, if by control is meant the prices arrived at taking into consideration the bulk purchases and the ease with which the seller gets money directly and the avoidance of distribution costs, the same price was paid by the Government of India and the same price has been demanded by other Governments to be paid to the sellers.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it not true that the civil population has to pay very much higher, e.g., for steel, cement and for other things than the negotiated price which Government pay?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That is what I have been trying to explain in this long answer. It is not very much higher but a little higher price. That is inevitable even in peace-time when Government were getting their contracts at lower prices than at what the civilian population was getting.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that unit per unit labour and industrial services abroad are remunerated in their own countries at a very much higher figure than in India, and consequently Indian goods are priced at much lower figures than goods of other countries, why is it that Government insist upon selling to other countries at prices cheaper than those at which they are able to purchase for their own needs?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That involves a long disquisition on the economics of international trade.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it a fact that some time ago the Metals Reserve Company, an official organisation of the American Government, offered prices for certain rare minerals which were not sufficient to cover the mining costs and that a complaint to that effect was made by the officers concerned to the Labour Department?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I must confess that I am quite ignorant of this. Perhaps the question may be addressed to the Honourable the Labour Member.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: That arises out of clause (b).

NATIONALISING ROAD TRANSPORT

1008. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** With reference to his statement on page 7 of his budget speech, will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether any of the Provincial Governments have come to any definite decisions on this matter;

(b) whether any Provincial Government has launched upon the programme of completely nationalising road transport and running it themselves, if so, which Governments;

(c) whether any Government proposes to run transport by launching big companies for this purpose; if so, which Governments; and

(d) the policy of the Government of India with regard to Centrally Administered Areas?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) It is not clear to which particular aspect of road-rail co-ordination the Honourable Member refers. As the recent meeting of the Transport Advisory Council all Provinces were unanimous upon the general need for road-rail co-ordination and six Provinces agreed to railway administrations acquiring a substantial interests in road transport companies provided acquisition of shares was by negotiation with the companies and in consultation with the Provincial authorities concerned. Seven Provinces had no objection to railways participating in the carriage of goods by road either parallel or complementary to railways. There was no objection to railways operating their own collection and delivery services for goods. The general position of the Provincial Governments at present appears to be that they are awaiting the views of the Central Government following on the discussions which have taken place in this House pending which they are themselves unable to come to any definite decisions concerning the methods of co-ordination.

(b) I am not aware that any Government has yet come to a final decision.

(c) Concrete proposals have been received only from the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar where the Provincial Government proposes to take shares in a joint road-rail transport company. The Governments of the United Provinces and Bombay have had certain schemes under consideration, but, as mentioned in reply to part (a), further progress is dependent upon the views of the Central Government.

(d) The policy in respect of Administered Areas will depend largely on that adopted by adjoining Provinces and States.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member state if motor transport running in the hills which does not compete with the railways will also be co-ordinated?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I hope so, yes.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: When the Honourable Member said that six provinces agreed to the Railway administrations acquiring a substantial interest, did he mean that they will get majority shares?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Not necessarily.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Then what is meant by "substantial"?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think I endeavoured to explain that to the House once before. I said that if there was to be any financial co-ordination it was obvious that it would have to be something more than 5 per cent. which would be an inconsiderable figure. But it need not necessarily be a majority holding.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: With reference to the decision of the C. P. and Berar Government, will the Honourable Member state what are the respective shares of the railways, the Provincial Government and other interests?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not think I have that with me at present. But, as I said, the whole position is suspended pending further consideration by the Central Government.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I think I heard the Honourable Member state that the C. P. and Berar Government had come to a final conclusion in the matter.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I said that concrete proposals have been received only from the Government of C. P. and Berar, where the Provincial Government propose to take shares.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: And what is the extent of these shares to be taken by the railways, the provincial Government and other interests?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No final conclusion has been reached.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that many Provincial Governments are awaiting a decision of the Government of India in this matter, do they propose to come to any conclusions about this?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Government of India had plans for proceeding, but then there took place in this House a debate which expressed contrary views, and obviously Government must have time to consider those views.

RAILWAY STATIONS CLOSED FOR COAL ECONOMY

1009. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) how many stations have been closed to economise coal in all the Railways in India after the beginning of the war;

(b) how many in the South Indian Railway;

(c) the average cost of coal for a train to stop in and start from a station; and

(d) the total economy of coal made by this step?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I am afraid it is impossible to differentiate between the numbers of stations closed, either for passenger or goods traffic, solely for reasons of the coal economy, and those closed in pursuance of the general policy of conserving all resources to enable our railroads to deal with the most essential requirements of civil and military traffic. I can, however, give the Honourable Member the approximate total number of stations closed, and they are 512 for goods traffic and 511 for passenger traffic. Of these, about 125 and 26 were closed on the South Indian Railway for goods and passenger traffic respectively.

(c) I understand that the elimination of one train stoppage results in a saving of anything from one to 3 cwts. of coal, according to the type of train, the local and operating conditions prevailing, etc.

(d) It is not possible to arrive at an accurate computation of the coal economies effected by the elimination of such halts, since the war began, as many halts have also been cut out at stations which still remain open.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to part (c) of the question, will the Honourable Member give the monetary value of the coal saved for a train to stop in and start from a station?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That depends upon the price of the coal.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: At the present rates?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It would be about one to three-twentieths of somewhere about Rs. 11.

SCALES OF PAY FOR INFERIOR SERVANTS, ETC., IN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

1010. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) the reason why there are two different scales of pay in each grade for inferior servants, postmen, clerical, and supervisory staff in the Posts and Telegraphs Department;

(b) whether it is a fact that people doing exactly similar work are receiving different scales of pay for the same; and

(c) if the answer to (b) be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to redress this grievance?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the old and revised scales. If so, there are two different scales of pay for all classes of staff. This is due to the fact that at the time of introduction of the revised scales of pay, officials already in permanent employment at that time were allowed as a special case to retain their old scales as a personal concession.

(b) Yes.

(c) No, as there is no real grievance as explained in the reply to part (a).

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: With reference to part (a) of the question, may I know what is the difference between these two scales for the same type of work, I mean difference in pay?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: It depends entirely upon the appointment. I mean we are dealing with clerks, we are dealing with postmen, we are dealing with runners and staff of all categories. I am afraid I cannot out of my head give the Honourable Member the exact difference.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is it proper to give different wages to people doing the same kind of work in the same class of workers?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: That, Sir, is being done in every other Department of the Government of India, and probably I think all over the world.

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

LEAVE RULES FOR ENTRANTS TO POSTAL DEPARTMENT

1011. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state: (a) whether the leave rules for persons who entered the Postal Department on or after the 15th July, 1931, have been altered;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that leave beyond 90 days in the case of superior staff and 30 days in the case of inferior staff is not allowed to accumulate and lapses; and

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, the reason or reasons which led Government to effect the change in the rules?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) Yes. The revised leave rules are of general application and not merely to the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

(b) It is a fact that certain categories of the superior staff (other than those of Non-Asiatic domicile recruited in India and entitled to passage concessions) and certain categories of the inferior staff, are not allowed to accumulate earned leave beyond 90 and 30 days respectively. When the aforesaid maxima have been reached, such staff cease to earn further leave. But earned leave does not lapse.

(c) The change was effected because it was considered that the leave rules should not be unduly liberal for persons serving in their own country.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the leave lapses if the worker is unable to avail himself of the leave owing to circumstances beyond his control? Is it a fact that even then the leave lapses?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: It is a fact.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is it fair that if a man is unable to avail himself of his leave because of the exigencies of service that he should have to forego his leave?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: That, Sir, is a matter of opinion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any proposal to abolish this distinction between Asiatics and non-Asiatics in regard to these privileges?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: That, Sir, is not a question for me to reply to.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Why is it considered to be unduly liberal to accumulate leave up to 90 days in the case of inferior staff and it is not considered unduly liberal in the case of higher staff to accumulate leave up to 90 days?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I have already pointed out that these rules apply not only to the Posts and Telegraphs Department but to every other Department of the Government of India, and I am afraid I am not in a position to reply to this question.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE TO INFERIOR SERVANTS OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT IN CALCUTTA, ETC.

1012. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) whether any conveyance allowance is being paid to the inferior servants of the Posts and Telegraphs Department in Calcutta, Madras, Bombay and Delhi;

(b) whether the same is being paid to other employees; and who they are;

(c) the reasons for the discrimination between the two classes; and

(d) whether Government propose to grant the conveyance allowance to the inferior staff as well?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) No.

(b) No Sir; except at Delhi where a conveyance allowance is being paid to Non-Gazetted Government servants in superior service drawing not more than Rs. 500 p.m. and living at a long distance from their place of work. It is presumably this allowance to which the Honourable Member refers.

(c) As Government servants in superior service residing at a distance from their offices habitually use conveyances to take them to work, it was considered necessary to compensate them to some extent for the steep rise in the rates for the hire of public conveyances. As inferior servants are not generally in the habit of using conveyances to take them to work, the question of compensating them did not arise.

(d) No, for the reasons explained in the reply to part (c).

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know whether Government have provided any accommodation for members of the inferior staff close to their place of business?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: In some cases accommodation has been provided, in other cases it is not.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: What is the upper limit of the pay of the inferior staff?

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

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know why it is considered equitable to grant conveyance allowance to people drawing high salaries and to deny the same to people drawing low salaries?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I have already given the reply to that in my reply to part (c) of the question.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: There is something wrong with the Government's sense of justice.

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

FOOD INSPECTORS ON RAILWAYS

1013. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state the number of Food Inspectors on the various State-managed Railways and the number of Muslims till December, 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I regret I cannot undertake to collect the details under present conditions.

RAILWAY PRIORITY FOR SALT

1014. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state:

- (a) what the priority allotted to salt is for purposes of transit by rail;
- (b) whether he is aware that in some places salt is sold at high prices at black market rates owing to paucity of supply;
- (c) whether he has received any representations to this effect; and
- (d) whether he proposes to consider giving to salt higher priority next to the foodgrains?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Salt for human consumption and foodgrains both of which have been included in the definition of essential food-stuffs receive the same priority for rail transport. The priority accorded varies slightly in the regions of the different railway priority controllers, but the lowest priority given to programmed movements and movements on Government account is class III.

(b) No, but when this is the case, it is for the Provincial Government to take action in consultation with the Regional Controller.

(c) I have recently seen some representations from South India in which it is alleged that whereas salt was formerly given priority in Class III, it has now been reduced to Class VI. But this is incorrect. The Regional Controller, Madras, has reported that salt required for public consumption moves in class III while that required for industrial concerns is moved in class VI. The movement of salt on the S. I. Railway has been zoned with the approval of the Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Collectors of Central Excise, Bombay and Madras, and no complaint from the Government of Madras has been received.

(d) Does not arise.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to part (c), the Honourable Member has said that the salt for human consumption is put under Class III and that for industrial consumption is put under Class VI. How does the Government make sure that a certain quantity of salt for human consumption is not made available to industrial concerns?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Presumably it depends upon the consignee.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I take it that when wagons are asked for carrying salt for human consumption they are put under Class III and when wagons are sent for the carriage of salt for industrial concerns then they are put under Class VI? Is that the way in which they do things?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Subject presumably to the verification of the facts.

WOMEN EMPLOYED IN RAILWAY MINES

1015. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state:

- (a) the number of women employed in mines owned by the Railway (i) for underground work and (ii) for surface work;
- (b) the number of women now working underground who used to work on the surface previous to the removal of the ban on such work;
- (c) the number of women working underground who are not wives of men miners working underground in mines;
- (d) the number of boys and girls between the ages of 12 and 18 working underground in Railway mines;

(e) the average wage of the miners referred to in (a) and (c) and the dearness allowance;

(f) whether the physical condition of these miners is medically examined before they are employed for underground work; and, if not, why not; and

(g) the facilities provided by Government for medical aid, care of infants and children of women miners and for protection of their homes when they are working?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) to (g). The information will be collected as far as practicable and will be laid on the table of the House.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: As regards (d), will the Honourable the Supply Member

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The answer is that the information will be collected and then supplied to the House.

DISCONTINUING EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN FOR UNDERGROUND WORK IN RAILWAY MINES

1016. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state:

(a) whether the Railway Administration have considered the question of discontinuing the employment of women for underground work in mines; and, if so, what their decision is;

(b) what steps Government have taken to secure more male labour in order to withdraw women from underground work, and with what result;

(c) what improvements Government have made in the condition in which miners work since June 1943; and

(d) whether Government are aware that the poor health of the miners is affecting their efficiency and the production of coal; and, if so, what steps Government have taken in the matter?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Railway Collieries are now under the control of the Supply Department. The question of discontinuing the employment of women underground in these collieries as in coalmines generally, has been examined a number of times recently and the decision is to make no change for the present.

(b) Special steps have been taken to recruit and instal Gorakhpur labour in the coalfields and according to recent reports the number of those now employed exceeds 15,000. Approximately 3,000 labourers from the Kolar Gold Fields have also been drafted into coalmines. Apart from this, a Labour Recruitment Control Order was promulgated in November 1944 to regulate the recruitment of unskilled labour so as to ensure an adequate supply of labour for collieries from the areas from which colliery labour is normally recruited. All these steps have helped to augment colliery labour but even so the situation does not permit of the withdrawal of women from underground work.

(c) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given in this House to part (c) of Starred Question No. 453 on the 21st February 1945.

(d) The health of miners is certainly capable of improvement and with such improvement, production *per capita* should also rise. The Coalmines Welfare Fund has been created to secure amongst other things and improvement in the medical facilities available to miners and in their housing conditions. A study of the nutrition of this class of labour will also be undertaken.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask Sir, what is the experience of the railway administration with regard to the introduction of women to work underground in mines and whether the production has improved because of their working there?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: On a previous occasion my answer was that the production of coal would drop if women were removed from those mines.

(At this stage Prof. N. G. Ranga attempted to speak.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Joshi.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Is it a fact that the workers who are brought to the mines from Gorakhpur and also from the Kolar Gold fields are paid more than the ordinary miners of the province, though they produce less?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The first part of the assumption of my Honourable friend is correct. With reference to the second part, at the initial stages their production is less but it gradually improves as they gain experience of this technical work.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What is the present position? Is their production as good as the production of the ordinary miners?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Those who have had sufficient training and experience do more or less produce the same quantity.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the railway administration come to a decision with regard to employing women underground according to their own experience or will they wait till the Labour Department comes to a decision on the matter?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It is not for the railway administration to come to a decision as this is under the Supply Department, but the Supply Department and the Labour Department will jointly come to a decision on this subject.

(At this stage Prof. N. G. Ranga again attempted to speak.)

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

MALARIA INSPECTORS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

1017. Mr. Muhammad Nauman (on behalf of **Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee**): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that on the Bengal and Assam Railway in the years 1943 and 1944 in the advertisements for the posts of Malaria Inspectors, only qualified doctors were required but some posts were given to non-Muslims with no medical qualifications?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of the Malaria Inspectors selected and appointed to the said posts during the said period together with their medical qualifications?

(c) Is it a fact that Muslims were debarred from this employment on this plea?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No; the candidates were required to possess certificates in practical field and laboratory work in connection with malaria, though the advertisement stated that preference would be given to candidates holding a diploma as a licentiate. The reply to the last portion of this part of the question is in the negative.

(b) I lay on the table a statement giving the number of Malaria Inspectors selected together with the qualifications of the persons.

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

Statement giving the number of Malaria Inspectors selected together with the qualifications of the persons

Number	Qualifications
Hindus—7	4 L.M.F. In addition, one possessed the L.T.M. in Malariology, one the L.T.M. and a third had completed the L.T.F. Course. 1 Health Inspector—Malaria Training. 1 held a certificate from the Royal Sanitary Institute, London. 1 held Compounder's Certificate (has not been employed as his name has since been removed from the panel.)
Muslims—1	L.M.F.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know if it was stated in the advertisement that they need not have any particular qualifications in respect of malarial work, or something like that?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is not correct.

SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS SELECTED FOR TRAINING AS RADIOLOGIST ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

1018. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman (on behalf of **Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee**): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Chief Medical Officer, Bengal and Assam Railway, selected non-Muslim Sub-Assistant Surgeons for training as Radiologists during the period from January, 1943, to February, 1945?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Muslims selected and given training for the said posts?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Parts (a) and (b). Government understand that the Sub-Assistant Surgeons on the Bengal and Assam Railway selected to undergo a refresher course for appointment as Radiologists had all undergone preliminary training in X-Ray work outside a railway hospital. None of these was a Muslim so there were no Muslims with this requisite training.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Was any Muslim given a chance to appear before and selection board for the purpose?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I understand the position to be that there were no Muslims with the requisite training.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: But probably no Hindu had the requisite training.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: They always possess the necessary qualifications.

CERTAIN POSTS SANCTIONED IN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

1019. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman (on behalf of **Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee**): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Chief Medical Officer, Bengal and Assam Railway, has got the following posts sanctioned by the General Manager in the year 1945:

(i) Assistant Medical Officers, (ii) Malaria Inspectors, (iii) Assistant Malaria Inspectors, (iv) Sub-Assistant Malaria Inspectors, (v) Clerks in higher grades, (vi) Clerks in lower grades, and (vii) Laboratory Assistants (Senior and Junior)?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state the total number of vacancies and the number of vacancies in each category to be filled by Muslims?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). The posts which have been sanctioned, and consequently the number of vacancies created, are given below:

Number of posts	Categoery	Duration	Rates and scales of pay
1	Assistant Medical Officer	12 months from 1-4-1945	Rs. 250—25—525 new Rs. 500—50—700 old
30	Sub-Asstt. Surgeons (A. B. Zone).	7 months from 1-4-1945	Rs. 120 fixed.
26	Sub Assistant Surgeons (E. B. Zone).	7 months from 1-6-1945	100 fixed.
4	Malaria Inspectors (Junior)	7 months from the date the posts are actually filled.	Rs. 100 fixed.
1	Malaria Supervisor	Do.	Rs. 100 fixed.
75	Sub-Assistant Malaria Inspectors.	Do.	Rs. 40 fixed.
1	Senior Clerk	12 months from 1-4-1945	Rs. 100 in scale. Rs. 100—10/2—120

The vacancies open to direct recruitment will be filled in accordance with the instructions relating to communal quotas, as far as practicable.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Am I to understand that no Laboratory Assistant will be appointed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not see any in the list.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

1020. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman (on behalf of **Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee**): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the Medical Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period January, 1943 to December, 1944, Muslims were not recruited according to their quota in all the vacancies advertised in papers?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the categories where the deficiency in their quota was made up?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Government are informed that due to the paucity of suitable Muslim applicants, the quota prescribed for them could not be observed. The deficiency will be made good, wherever possible, in accordance with the rules.

MUSLIMS SELECTED AS ASSISTANT SURGEONS ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

1021. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman (on behalf of **Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee**): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that in response to advertisements for the posts of Assistant Surgeons on the East Indian Railway in the year 1944-45 several qualified Muslim Doctors applied for the posts but only one Muslim was selected?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Muslims who applied for the posts and their qualifications and experience and the number of those who were selected?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Only one advertisement for the post of Assistant Surgeon was issued during 1944-45 and it was limited to Muslims. Of six Muslims who applied, three were over age and, of the remaining three who were interviewed, only one was found suitable and he was appointed to the post.

SUMMARY REMOVAL FROM SERVICES OF RAILWAYMEN

1022. *Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that Railway personnel are usually removed from service without any enquiry;

(b) whether he is aware that this procedure has led to the summary removal of Railwaymen with many years' service;

(c) whether Government propose to consider the question of according an absolute right to Railway employees to a departmental enquiry at which they can be represented by a lawyer before they can be removed from service;

(d) whether copies of the proceedings which have resulted in the removal or dismissal of Railway personnel are denied to those who have been so removed or dismissed; and

(e) whether Government propose to consider granting an absolute right to persons so removed or dismissed to get certified copies of the proceedings?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The rules dealing with the procedure to be adopted in connection with cases of removal from service are contained in Rules 1708 to 1710 of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is in the Library of the House, and it will be seen that these rules do not permit of removal from service without any enquiry.

(b) Government are not aware that the procedure laid down has led to the summary removal of railwaymen.

(c) Government have in the past, considered the points raised by the Honourable Member, among others, and the present rules represent the results of such consideration.

(d) and (e). The proceedings of departmental enquiries are intended for use by the authority passing orders in the case and for dealing with an appeal. An employee is not entitled to a copy of the proceedings and, since he is given an opportunity of cross-examining witnesses and of being accompanied by another railway servant, Government do not propose to modify the existing procedure.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: With regard to the answer to part (a), is the Honourable Member able to recall the facts of a case which I brought to his notice in which the driver from Bhusawal was summarily removed in twenty-four hours and in order to justify the removal a farcical enquiry was subsequently held in order to endorse this action?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member need not make a speech.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: No, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should resume his seat where he has put his question.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I recall the case into which I enquired very carefully and I was satisfied that no injustice was done.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: With regard to this case, did the Honourable Member look at the proceedings of the Court in which the officer alleged to have been assaulted by this employee was himself convicted?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir, I have enquired into the case. If the Honourable Member had put the question in a concrete form I would have refreshed my memory regarding the details of the particular case but I have nothing further to add now. I have investigated the case very closely and I do not propose to pursue it further.

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO AND CHEAP GRAIN SHOPS FOR POSTAL EMPLOYEES AT ALLAHABAD

†1023. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) With reference to the answer to starred question Nos. 490 (d) and 491 on the 17th November, 1944, regarding dearness allowance to the postal employees and provision of cheap grain shops for the postmen at Allahabad, will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state what has been the result of the examination by the Post Master General of this question?

(b) Has any increase in the dearness allowance been granted or not?

(c) Have any steps been taken for the opening of cheap grain shops for the postal employees especially in big cities, such as Allahabad, Cawnpore, Lucknow, Benares?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: (a) and (c). Great difficulties have been encountered in opening the proposed new grain shops, chief amongst which is the question of staff and accommodation. The matter is, therefore, still under consideration.

(b) Not yet but the matter is under the active consideration of Government.

REMOVAL OF GRIEVANCES OF POSTAL EMPLOYEES

†1024. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that on representation by the postal employees the Government was pleased to appoint a committee to enquire into the grievances of the Post Office Lower Grade Staff Unions of Bombay and Poona in December, 1944?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that the Postal Unions of other Provinces, especially of U. P., were assured that their grievances would also be redressed on the lines suggested by the committee and it was on that assurance that the notices from the postal employees for going on strike were withdrawn?

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

(c) What has been the result of the enquiry of that committee? Will their report be published and be available to the postal employees or their Unions?

(d) What steps, if any, have been taken in pursuance of that report?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) and (b). The facts are as stated.

(c) The report of the Committee has not yet been received by Government. The question of publication will be considered after the report has been received and examined by Government.

(d) Does not arise.

LANTERNS FOR LETTER BOX PEONS WORKING EARLY MORNING

†1025. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that in most of the big cities the hours of first clearance are early in the morning, for example in Allahabad the letter box peons are required to start from the office at 5 A.M. for opening the letter boxes?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that for this the peons have got to leave their houses as early as 3 to 4 A.M. when it is quite dark?

(c) Is it or is it not a fact that due to want of light the letter box peons are very much handicapped in their work?

(d) Is it or is it not a fact that in August, 1944, a letter box peon named Parmatma at Allahabad on opening a letter box found a snake sitting therein, and was just saved from being bitten?

(e) Is it or is it not a fact that representations have been made by this staff for the supply of lanterns or torches or some other light, but it has yet gone unheeded?

(f) Have Government considered the advisability of providing letter box peons with necessary lights? If not, why not?

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

(b) At Allahabad the peons leave office at 5-15 A.M. for the first clearance of letter-boxes. At other stations in the United Provinces the first clearance is not so early.

(c) No. Not to any appreciable extent.

(d) A peon brought to the Post Office a dead snake which he stated was found in a letter-box.

(e) A resolution by the Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union, Allahabad, in September 1944 for provision of lanterns for all staff required to leave their residences in the small hours of the morning was received by the Postmaster-General. Apart from any other considerations it was not possible to comply with this demand owing to the difficulty of obtaining lanterns and kerosine oil.

(f) No, but the Postmaster-General is considering the question of making late the hours for the morning clearance at Allahabad.

DEARNESS ALLOWANCES TO POSTAL DEPARTMENT PENSIONERS

†1026. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that persons getting less than Rs. 40 per mensem as pension in his Department are allowed a dearness allowance of about Rs. 3 per mensem?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that persons getting pensions below Rs. 200 find themselves in a difficult position due to the abnormal rise in prices?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the case of the old pensioners with a view to granting them a dearness allowance?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) to (c). Pensioners of the departments under the Posts and Air Department are entitled to the same temporary increases as are

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

admissible to other Civil pensioners of the Central Government (other than pensioners of Railways).

/I would therefore refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by the Honourable the Finance Member to starred question No. 481 on 16th November, 1944, asked by Mr. Frank R. Anthony, on the same subject.

NON-RECOGNITION OF ANDHRA RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSOCIATION

1027. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state how many Railway authorities, (Railways) have recognised the Passengers' Associations and how many have not?

(b) Why was not recognition given to the Andhra Railway Passengers' Association which is a registered body, functioning for the last twelve years?

(c) Does he propose to consider the advisability of suggesting to the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Authorities to reconsider this matter and accord recognition to this Passengers' Association?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Four passengers associations have dealings with four Railway administrations. Government have no information, however, as to the number of other passengers associations which may be in existence in the country or of their relations with Railway Administrations.

(b) and (c). I am not aware whether the M. & S. M. Railway have dealings with the Andhra Railway Passengers' Association, but I will convey the suggestion of the Honourable Member to the General Manager of the M. & S. M. Railway for consideration.

BOOKING AND TRANSHIPMENT FACILITIES FOR GROUNDNUT OIL FROM METRE GAUGE TO BROAD GAUGE AND VICE-VERSA

1028. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that booking and transshipment facilities are not made available from metre gauge to broad gauge and vice versa, especially for groundnut oil; and, if so, why;

(b) if it is not a fact that booking facilities are not made available for merchants who want to transport groundnut oil from places on the metre gauge of Guntakal and Bezwada to any places on the broad gauge of Bezwada-Nellore and Bezwada-Vizagapatam; and

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider this matter and allow the requisite transshipment of goods from one gauge to another provided the stations concerned are within the prescribed supply or demand zones for the commodity concerned?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), (b) and (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table.

CLOSURE OF TEXTILE MILLS DUE TO COAL SHORTAGE

1029. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state whether his attention has been drawn to the news which appeared in the issue of the *Hindustan Times* of Delhi of the 22nd February, 1945, at page 5, under the caption "11 Ahmedabad Mills to close down for 4 days" due to acute shortage of coal?

(b) Is he aware that due to such closure of textile mills due to coal shortage, the country is facing a devastating cloth famine?

(c) Has his attention been drawn to the proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly which appeared in the issue of the *Hindustan Times* of the 24th February, 1945, at page 6, where it is stated that suicides are taking place in Bengal for want of cloth? Does he find any link between the closure of mills at Ahmedabad and suicide in Bengal for want of cloth?

(d) Does he propose to make a comprehensive statement about the causes of such serious shortage of coal for this industry though it is estimated by him

that the output of coal has increased by 25 per cent. due to employment of women labour in mines?

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

(b) I understand that the quantity of cloth at present available for meeting civilian requirements is about four-fifths of the pre-war consumption. I must add that though the recent closures of textile mills due to coal shortages have undoubtedly affected total production and availability of cloth for civilian consumption, the loss is a small fraction only of present annual consumption.

(c) I have seen the proceedings referred to but no authenticated instances of such suicides have been brought to the notice of Government. The answer to the second part of the question is in the negative.

(d) No. In numerous replies in this House, I have given a sufficiently clear idea of coal production and distribution.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any special steps being taken by Government in the Labour Department to recruit more men miners and to train them as efficient cutters?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Yes, Sir, attempts are being made in that direction.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How many have thus been trained to be efficient coal cutters and introduced into the mines in the last one year?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I should like to have notice of that question.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is the Honourable Member aware that in the Punjab there is complaint about the distribution of coal to the ginning factories?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I would not be surprised if there was such a complaint.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know from the Honourable Member if he is doing anything to make the distribution more equitable to the ginning factories?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I do not agree that it is not equitable. Sometimes either owing to shortage of wagons or coal, there is a shortage but I do not agree that the distribution is inequitable. It is cut down to the same extent.

SELECTIONS FOR CONTROL TRAINING ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1030. *Lala Sham Lal: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Assistant Controller on the North Western Railway is a selection post, and that the candidates fit to receive training are nominated by the Selection Boards;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only certain categories of staff are eligible for selection for control training;

(c) whether it is a fact that certain candidates who were otherwise ineligible for selection for control training obtained facilities for the same on the plea that they will be willing to serve in danger zone on the Bengal and Assam Railway;

(d) whether it is a fact that candidates for training for service in danger zone on the Bengal and Assam Railway were selected on the condition that they would claim no benefit in appointments on the North Western Railway;

(e) whether it is a fact that after receiving training the candidates referred to in (c) and (d) backed out and refused to go on transfer to the Bengal and Assam Railway;

(f) whether it is a fact that the persons, so trained, have now been taken up as Assistant Controllers on the North Western Railway; if so, why the assurances given to other staff were violated; and

(g) what steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) No employee who belonged to a category ineligible for Control training was given this facility.

(d) The reply is in the negative.

(e) Government understand that some of the persons who volunteered for service on the Bengal and Assam Railway subsequently withdrew.

(f) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative; the latter part does not arise in view of the reply to part (d).

(g) This does not arise.

REVISION OF SCALES OF PAY OF CONTROLLERS ON RAILWAYS

1031. *Lala Sham Lal: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, in view of the recommendations in the Inglis-Appleton Report, the scales of pay of Controllers on the Railways were recently revised by the Railway Board; if so, whether the Honourable Member will lay a statement on the table of the House giving old and revised scales of pay for Section, Deputy and Chief Controllers on the North Western, Great Indian Peninsula and East Indian Railways;

(b) if the revised scales of pay for various Railways differ, and why;

(c) whether it is a fact that the policy of revising scales of wages as adopted in 1934 was to have common scales for all Railways; if so, why a departure was made in the case of Controllers;

(d) the racial composition of control staff on these three Railway systems; and whether it is a fact that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway employs less number of Indians and, has sanctioned, higher revised scales; if so, what are the reasons in fixing higher revised scales; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to equalize the scales of pay of the Control staff on all important Railways; if none, why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). With a view to improve Control work as a result of the Inglis-Appleton Report and to obtain staff of the requisite ability, general principles were prescribed by the Railway Board for the purpose of reorganizing Control working on Railways and these included the maximum rates of pay which were considered suitable for Control staff. These maxima having been based on the rates of pay for certain existing categories other than Control staff on Railways, it was necessary to allow railways to adjust the pay of the latter staff in keeping with the local rates. I lay on the table a statement giving the old and revised scales of pay for Section, Deputy and Chief Controllers on the North Western, G. I. P. and East Indian Railways.

(c) The reply to the first portion is in the negative; the rest of the question does not arise.

(d) The information asked for in the first two portions is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it. The reply to the third portion is in the negative. As regards the last portion, the fixation of slightly higher scales on the G. I. P. Railway was considered necessary in view of the higher scales of pay already obtaining on the railway in the case of staff of categories of equal importance.

(e) In view of the divergent conditions prevailing on railways, it is not possible to introduce uniformity in scales of pay.

[15TH MAR. 1945]

[15th M

Railway	Chief Controllers		Deputy Controllers		Section Controllers		
	Scales prior to recent revision.	Scales after revision.	Scales prior to recent revision.	Scales after revision	Scales prior to recent revision.	Scales after revision.	
North Western.	*Old.	Rs. 400-25-500	Rs. 425-25-500	375	360-20-400	260-10-300	260-10-300
	†Revised	Rs. 350/-	350/-	300/-	300/-	230/-	230/-
G.I.P.	Old	Rs. 450-25-600	500-25-600	385-20-10-395	425-25-450	300-20-20-5-345 & 200-10-250	250-15-325-EB. 25-400
	Revised	Rs. 400/-	400/-	300/-	350/-	275 & 180	180-10-235-EB. 15-300.
East Indian.	Old	Rs. 450-20-530 & 400-20-500	430-20-530 & 20-500	355-20-475 & 310-10-350	Particulars not available	Old { 300-10-400 85-10-165 & 85-10-145	Particulars not available 150-10-250
	Revised	350	350	260	300	Revised { 160 & 140 100-10-2-120	Particular not available.

*Those existing prior to 1st July, 1931.

†Those introduced in July, 1931.

DUTIES OF CONTROLLERS ON CERTAIN RAILWAYS

1032 *Lala Sham Lal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the duties of (i) Section, (ii) Deputy, and (iii) Chief Controllers on the North Western, Great Indian Peninsula and East Indian Railways, separately?

(b) Are Section Controllers given the assistance of a Recorder or a clerk on any Railway? If so, where and for what purpose?

(c) On which Railway are Section Controllers entrusted with both the duties of Train and Traffic Control?

(d) Which Controller, whether Section, Deputy or Chief, is responsible for stock allotment on the three Railways referred to in (a)?

(e) What are the maximum and minimum duty hours per day for Controllers on these Railways, separately?

(f) What is the average maximum and minimum number of (i) trains passed, and (ii) messages received and sent by a Section Controller in his duty hours on each of these Railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (c). Complete information is not available but is being obtained and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(f) I regret I cannot undertake to collect such details under present conditions.

RECRUITMENT OF TRAIN CLERKS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1033. *Lala Sham Lal: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the North Western Railways services Commission cannot find candidates for employment as Train Clerks;

(b) the number of candidates who offered for recruitment at the last selection, the number selected and the number which actually turned up for duty;

(c) how many vacancies of Train Clerks exist on the North Western Railway;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Train Clerks have to perform hard duties and that it is considered as a penal cadre for other branches of service whose members are demoted as Train Clerks as a measure of punishment;

(e) whether it is a fact that the prospects for Train Clerks are meagre;

(f) whether Government have under consideration the question of revising scales of pay of the Train Clerks or amalgamating grades I and II for them; and

(g) if the reply to (f) be in the negative, whether it is proposed to take some steps to make the Train Clerks' service, conditions of service and wages, attractive; if so, whether the revision will apply to old employees also; if not why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) It is not generally a fact, though on occasions the response has not been sufficient to meet requirements.

(b) Of the thirty-two candidates who offered themselves for recruitment at the selection held in January, 1945, thirteen were considered suitable by the Commission; one of these failed in the medical examination, four did not join the school for training and one failed to pass the course. The number who joined for duty at various centres is not readily available.

(c) 28.

(d) Train Clerks are required to perform duties for which they are recruited and trained. Whether these duties are hard or not is a matter of opinion. The reply to the latter portion is in the negative.

(e) No; apart from advancement in the higher grades in their own line, Train Clerks are also eligible for promotion as Guards or Yard Foremen if they qualify themselves for these posts and are considered suitable.

(f) The reply is in the negative.

(g) Thirty-nine posts of Train Clerks; Grade I, have recently been permanently upgraded to Grade II. Divisional Superintendents have also been authorized to sanction, at their discretion, temporary upgrading, if justified by a temporary increase in work or responsibility. This benefits the senior Train Clerks who are mostly on the old scales of pay. Their working conditions are also being improved as opportunity offers.

SCALES OF PAY OF ASSISTANT WAY INSPECTORS, ETC., ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
1034. *Lala Sham Lal: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the scales of pay—old and revised—for (i) Assistant Way Inspectors, (ii) Assistant Inspectors of Works, (iii) Assistant Signal and Interlocking Inspectors, (iv) Assistant Block Inspectors, and (v) Assistant Bridge Inspectors on the North Western Railway;

(b) the duties of each class of these employees;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Assistant Way Inspectors are responsible for the maintenance of Railway track and public safety; if so, whether their scales of pay are higher than those of other Assistant Inspectors referred to in (a) above; if not, why not;

(d) whether it is a fact that two grades of Assistant Permanent Way Inspectors are employed on the North Western Railway; if so, what their scales are and whether there is any difference in their duties and responsibilities; and

(e) if the reply to the last portion of (d) be in the negative, whether it is proposed to equalize their wages; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I lay on the table a statement giving information regarding the scales of pay and principal duties of the staff referred to.

(c) Assistant Way Inspectors, subject to the supervision of Permanent Way Inspectors, are responsible for the maintenance of railway track and public safety. The reply to the second portion is in the negative. As regards the last portion, the pay of Assistant Inspectors has been fixed in a manner commensurate with the duties and responsibilities attached to the posts and the technical skill required.

(d) Yes; the scales of pay of the two grades are shown in the statement referred to in the reply to part (a). As regards the last portion, while there is no difference in the duties and responsibilities of Assistant Way Inspectors, Grades I and II, the higher grade is earmarked for staff who possess higher qualifications and have had three years training as apprentices as compared with Grade I staff who are promoted from inferior categories after they have qualified in a course which lasts for five months only.

(e) No, in view of the reply to part (d).

Statement showing the scales of pay and principal duties of Assistant Inspectors of the Engineering Department, North Western Railway

Designation	Old scale	New scale	Principal duties
	Rs.	Rs.	
Assistant Way Inspectors:	125-10-155	100-10/2-120 (Grade II)	Assistant Permanent Way Inspectors in the maintenance of track
Ditto.	60-2-90-2/8-110.	65-5/2-85 (Grade I)	
Assistant Inspector of Works.	...	100-10/2 Yrs 120.	Assist the Works Inspectors in supervising the construction of, and repairs to, bridges, buildings, water supplies and other engineering works, which is entrusted to them, and execute all works in accordance with the standing rules and regulations.

Designation	Old scale	New scale	Principal duties
	Rs.	Rs.	
Assistant Signal & Interlocking Inspectors.	170-10-240 135-5-165	180, 160/140. 100-10/2 Yrs. 120	To carry out alterations or to erect and supervise a new sanctioned installation under open line working conditions. They are also responsible for carrying out alteration to existing safety measures in train working and for safe-guarding the working of trains in an emergency.
Assistant Block Inspectors.	170-10-240 135-5-165	180, 160, 140. 100-10/2 Yrs. 120.	To assist the Block Inspectors in the proper maintenance of double and single line Block Instruments, Signal Arms, Repeaters and Light Indicators, Key and Transmitters, slide and other equivalent apparatus, Electric Lever Locks, Electric Slots and or Reversers and Traffic Control Apparatus.
Assistant Bridge Inspectors.	130-10-160	100-10/2 Yrs. 120	To carry out Bridge repairs and renewals under traffic with due regard to the safety of trains and staff under them.

IMPENDING IMPORT OF MOTOR CARS

1035. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (on behalf of **Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha**): (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport 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 Edward Benthall: (a) It is true that 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.

(b) The number of cars expected is about 2,000, most of which will probably be 10 h. p. Austins, but it cannot be stated even approximately when they will arrive.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if these cars will be available for Government use only or for civilian use as well?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: They will be allotted in consultation with the Provincial authorities after taking the war needs into consideration.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR POSTS AND AIR DEPARTMENT

Mr. W. H. Shoobert (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, in the motion that stands in my name I request leave to substitute the word 'five' for the word 'three', which I understand will be in accordance with the wishes of certain Honourable Members of this House. 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 dealt with in the Department of Posts and Air, during the year 1945-46."

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 dealt with in the Department of Posts and Air, during the year 1945-46."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ROADS.

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 the Honourable the President may direct, six members to serve on the Standing Committee for Roads which will be constituted to advise the Governor General in Council in the administration of the Central Road Fund and such other questions relating to roads and road traffic as may be referred to it during the financial year 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, six members to serve on the Standing Committee for Roads which will be constituted to advise the Governor General in Council in the administration of the Central Road Fund and such other questions relating to roads and road traffic as may be referred to it during the financial year 1945-46."

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That, for the word 'six' the word 'eight' be substituted."

My object in moving this amendment is this. This Committee is becoming a very important one now. It was constituted under a Resolution passed by this House on the 10th of February 1937. Subsequently very important duties have devolved on this Committee, and now the question of Roads and co-ordination of road and railway traffic is also coming before it. The funds at its disposal are, I think, increasing a great deal. Therefore I think that this House should have a greater voice in the administration of this Fund, and accordingly I move this amendment.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, the Honourable Member is perfectly correct. This Committee differs somewhat from most of the other Committees of this House as it was set up as a result of considerable debate on a Resolution of the House. It was, I think, originally set up, as a result of the report of the Roads Development Committee, 1927-28.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have not put the motion to the House.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The point is, Sir, that this Committee was set up by a special Resolution of the House. There is a fixed representation of this House on it and the Council of State is also involved. I suggest, Sir, that if it is to be altered, the Honourable Member should really move a special Resolution to deal with it.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: May I make a submission? As he says, this Committee was set up by a Resolution of this House. I believe, Sir, and I think you will be pleased to agree with me, that this House has a perfect right to amend its own Resolution. This may be taken as an amendment to the Resolution. We are not barred from moving it.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): I rise to give my full support to this motion.

Honourable Members: Order, order.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question that has been raised is whether a Resolution of this House fixing the quota of membership for this Assembly can be altered by an amendment like this. I dare say that the number of members allotted to this House should be increased now that the co-ordination of Roads and Road Traffic have been added to the Railway Department. Still the question remains whether a former Resolution of the House which has been acted on for so many years can be departed from or altered except by another resolution. This is an important question, and I do not know if there is a precedent. I think that this resolution which has been acted on for such a long time can only be altered by another Resolution on which all the aspects can be fully considered by the House. I think the Members will be well-advised to bring in a Resolution. The amendment is not in order.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Sir, may I suggest that this motion stand over for a few days, and that Mr. Essak Sait or any other Honourable Member of this House may bring forward a Resolution amending the previous Resolution? That will get over this difficulty. It is very desirable, Sir, that this House should be fully represented on this Committee. My Honourable friend has pointed out that very important functions are going to be given to this Committee, and all the Parties in this House should be fully represented on it. Now that the Congress Members are attending the Session and are getting elected to the Committees, it is very desirable that they should get their full quota. The Muslim League Members should get their full quota. Then there are two

other Parties, smaller Parties, they should at least have one member each, and the unattached Members should have one. In view of all this it is very desirable that there should be eight members, and the previous Resolution should be amended to that effect. This motion may be moved again in this House.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Just one submission, Sir, on the ruling you have given. I accept the ruling. My only request is that Government should bring in a Resolution instead of leaving it to non-official Members to do so. If we have to bring in a Resolution, we shall have to ask for a day, it will have to be balloted, but it will not be a problem for Government to bring in a Resolution and get it passed by the House.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, may I point out this, before the matter is finally closed, 12 Noon that the terms of the Resolution which was passed applied to a different subject matter? Technically the Resolution may be the same. I accept your ruling. Sir, I wanted to intervene but could not catch your eye. But even if a formal Resolution is necessary, may I request that the matter can be put forward by the Government by way of Resolution on more or less agreed lines? I do suggest that because the fact is that technically the subject matter and the two Resolutions are different; but I accept your ruling; and in view of that may I suggest that we must come to some agreement on this matter and a Resolution can then be moved.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I quite see the point of the Honourable Member who has just spoken. One of the difficulties of course is that I think fifteen days' notice has to be given.

An Honourable Member: Not for Government resolutions.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It can be moved at short notice.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I would like to make one or two points which I did not think the Honourable the Leader of the Nationalist Party quite understood. When this Committee was formed, it was the subject of a considerable debate and as a result of the report of the Indian Roads Development Committee; and the method of electing the members from this Assembly and from the Council of State has been at various times the subject of discussion in both Houses. Originally there was nominated a panel of 12 members out of which Government selected 6: that was done away with and ultimately it was settled. I understand between the two Houses, that there would be six members from this Assembly and three members from the Council of State, which I understand agrees to special weightage to this House in view of the special functions which this committee performs.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: But the numerical strength of this House is twice as much—more than twice.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I understand that the usual proportion is about 5 to 3, and that special weightage is given because of the special functions of this Committee. The House will doubtless recall that in allotting expenditure from the Road Fund, a majority of the present and voting, who are members of the Legislative Assembly, is required. Therefore, this allocation between the two Houses has, I understand, raised some comment in another place, and a resolution would also be necessary there. That is one of the reasons why I am a little hesitate about suggesting any alteration of the Committee. Also, it is not correct to say that the functions of this Committee are being altered. It was set up primarily to allocate funds from the road funds, but it is also charged with advising the Governor General on any matters which may be referred to the Committee and it has as a matter of fact already considered certain aspects of the road policy. I think these facts should be before the House when considering this. All I can say in reply to the Honourable Leader of the Opposition is that I will consider the position in the light of what he has suggested.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then, is it the desire of Government that this motion should stand over?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then this motion will stand over.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election of Members to the Standing Committee for the Department of Posts and Air, the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations upto 12 Noon on Friday, the 16th March, and that the election, if necessary, will be held on Wednesday, the 21st March. The election, which will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYS.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have also to inform the Assembly that the following Members have been elected to the Standing Finance Committee for Railways during 1945-46: (1) Mr. Saiyid Haidar Imam; (2) Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan; (3) Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha; (4) Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar; (5) Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj; (6) Mr. Muhammad Nauman; (7) Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury; (8) Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad Shahban; (9) Sardar Sant Singh; (10) Sir F. E. James; and (11) Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now proceed with the discussion of the Finance Bill.

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha (North-west Punjab: Muham-madan): Sir, this is the only occasion where we can raise our protest in respect of certain matters on which we cannot otherwise express our views.

When I rise to speak, I do so with a little hesitation because when I plead the cause of my community in this House I shall be called a communalist—a most hated word with some of our friends—although they are practically the worst type of communalists themselves. But I leave it to be judged by the Honourable Members when I lay before the House the facts that I will shortly narrate about the Muslim representation in services, and in the direction of the country's policy. The question of services and the share of the Muslim community therein is an old subject and I think will never end for some more years to come. It was in the year 1935 that the Government recognised the existence of the Muslim community in this country, and their 25 per cent. share in the services; and a resolution was passed by the Government to that effect. I think that the subject of this resolution has been and will be the most talked of in this House. Besides its reference in the speeches of the Honourable Members every year, thousands of questions have been asked in the Assembly on the basis of this resolution and on the practical working of it by the Government. I regret to say that the Government have totally failed in carrying it out in right earnest. I do not for a moment think that the Government was ever anxious to do so; for if they liked it could have been very easily done.

The Railway department is the biggest department of the Government of India and in which the number of persons employed runs into lakhs. The recent report published by the Railway Board shows that out of 8,89,000 people employed by them, the number of Muslim employees is 2,09,000 only. To complete their quota about 18,000 more would have to be employed. The same report reveals that the percentage of the Muslim subordinates on scales rising to Rs. 200 is only 8.21 per cent, while Muslim gazetted officers are 9.86 per cent only. This shows the speed of the working of the Government resolution in twelve years, since the resolution was passed. In reply to protests and

questions of the Muslim representatives in this House it has always been urged by the Government that the resolution only covers new appointments in all departments and not grade to grade promotions and selection posts. Even if it be so, what about those departments that have been established after the passing of the Resolution, nay, even after the break of war, where hundreds of new appointments have been made in all grades of service. Sir, to scrutinize all these departments will be a very vast and tiring subject for the House and the limitation of time will not even allow me to do so. I will therefore confine myself to saying something about the two most recently set up departments, that is, that of our Honourable friend the Food Member whom I do not find in his seat and that of our Honourable friend the Member for Planning and Development, who also I think is not in the House. While speaking only with regard to the Muslim position in the services or otherwise, I would leave it to the good sense of the House to decide how ruthlessly the rights of the Muslim community have been massacred in these departments. Sir, I will take up the department of Post-War Planning and Development first. Sir, I have no illusions regarding the importance which Government attaches to the speeches of the Honourable Members of this House, nay, even to the Resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly. In the last November Session of this Assembly we passed a Resolution recommending that a committee of the 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, Agricultural and Industrial, with instructions to report to the House. The Resolution was passed without a division and yet it has met the fate of all other similar Resolutions which are not palatable to the Government. I notice from a reply given by the Secretary, Industries and Civil Supplies Department in the Council of State that the Government of India had decided not to take any action on this most important Resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly. This was really to be expected since the Honourable Member in charge of Planning and Development Department did not show this House even the courtesy of participating in the debate on the Resolution and explaining to the House and to the public outside the purpose and policy of his department. During my 15 years experience of the Legislative Assembly I can recall no other case in which the Member in charge of a department showed such complete indifference to the feelings and wishes of the elected Members of this House and yet we know that whenever it suits Government, they get a Resolution passed by the Assembly and then it becomes sacrosanct for all time to come. Sir, if we persist in raising this issue, it is not because we have any undue hopes of Government taking notice of it but because this is the only means left to us to record our protest against the policy and the plans of the Government of India regarding post-war development and the complete negligence of Muslim interests. Sir, you will recall that in my speech on the Resolution regarding the 15 year plan I mentioned that true to the Tata tradition to which he belonged, the Honourable Member for Planning and Development had taken good care to see that Mussalmans were conspicuous by their absence from all positions of responsibility in the new department. At that time there was only one Muslim Officer in that department and as far as I know since then only one more Muslim had been appointed to a comparatively subordinate post, although a considerable number of new posts had been created and filled. The important and highly paid post of Industrial Adviser fell vacant by accident and I learn has been filled by a non-Muslim I.C.S. officer, although there is no shortage of qualified Muslim I.C.S. officers, not to speak of technical men all over India. There is no indication to show that in the future Mussalmans will receive any better treatment in so far as appointments to important posts in this department are concerned. My prognostications regarding the colour and composition of the industrial panels set up by the Planning Department seem also to have come true. I said at that time that there will be the Birla Panel, the Walchand Hirachand Panel, the Purshotamdas Thakurdas Panel, the Kasturbai Lalbai Panel and of course the Tata Panel and so on and so forth. I must however say that I underrated the ingenuity of my friends. If there is any industry which the Mussalmans of

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India can call their own, it is the hide and leather industry. A large number of our people have been engaged in this industry for centuries and before the war it was the Mussalmans who had the virtual monopoly of the export trade and yet we learn that even for the panel for the leather and hides industry, the Planning Department has succeeded in finding non-Muslims for the Chairmanship of the panel as well as for the bulk of its membership. I have made inquiries from my numerous friends in different industries, particularly in the hide and leather trade and there are many obviously qualified men of my community who could have been, but have not been invited to serve on these panels. I did not wish to rely in this debate on hearsay information and I tried by means of a short notice question to elicit accurate information regarding the composition of the various panels set up so far. I regret to inform the House that this information has been denied to me. The Honourable Member is obviously conscious of the weakness of his position and feels shy to admit in public the manner in which he has permitted the interests of the Muslim community to be sacrificed in the setting up of the industrial panels. I can understand the reluctance of the Honourable Member and of his officials to exclude Mussalmans from salaried appointments but it is a matter of astonishment to me that they should also decline advice from qualified Muslims free of charge. Sir, so far I have drawn your pointed attention to the gross injustice to the Mussalmans in the filling of responsible posts and in the composition of the industrial panels. But this does not mean that we are hankering after petty favours. What we are concerned about, first and last, is the policy of the men who in an official or in an advisory capacity are going to formulate the post war policy and programme of the Government of India. Given the present complexion of the Planning Department and of its industrial panels, can any fair minded man blame the Muslim community if they feel that the sole object of the establishment of this organisation is to preserve and extend the monopoly that capitalists and financiers have been able to secure during the war. While Mussalmans by the hundreds of thousands have flocked to the army and laid down their lives in defence of the country and the Allied cause, our other brethren have been busily engaged, in the less risky and more profitable work of Government contracts.

Sir, I do not grudge the other communities their anxiety to improve their economic position. This is indeed a very laudable object. The masses of India are so poor that anything that is done to better their lot is to be welcomed. What I wish to do is to warn my friends against their short sighted policy of feathering their own nests and leaving the Mussalmans out in the cold. Let me quote to you from two speeches delivered by distinguished representatives in this House. Speaking on the Resolution regarding the 15 year plan on the 17 November 1944, Shrimati Radha Bai Subbarayan said:

"Therefore it is essential that any committee which undertakes the onerous task of planning should be fully representative of all interests in this country and inspire confidence among all sections of the people, particularly among those who are in an oppressed and backward condition."

Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi was no less emphatic on this point when he said that the 'real and full objective of a plan should be to secure all-sided development of the citizens of this country and secure for them equal status and equal opportunities, with all other sections of the population'. These are wise words and it is high time that the Honourable Member for Planning and Development and his collaborators took them to heart. He must realise that the body politic of India, can never be healthy so long as one of its limbs is deliberately starved and paralysed and that unless the minority communities and the Muslims in particular are given their due share in the economic and industrial development of the country, they will become a source of positive danger to all schemes worked out in the sole interest of the majority community. If any justification were needed for the Muslim insistence on Pakistan it is to be found in this exclusive and short sighted policy of the

Planning and Development and similarly managed other Departments of the Central Government. If the industrial development of India is planned with the object of reserving all the benefits for non-Muslims and if the new factories to be set up are in effect going to forge chains for the enslavement of the Muslim masses, then the 100 million Muslims of India will have no option but to dynamite these factories and nip this danger in the bud. I sincerely hoped that this state of affairs would not come to pass, but until those in power give a definite indication of a change of policy and change of heart, we have no alternative but to refuse the grant for the Planning and Development Department.

Now, Sir, I would draw your kind attention to the position of Muslim representation in regard to the Food Department. It is a pity that I do not find the Honourable the Food Member in his seat. Sir, although the Honourable Member for Planning and Development felt shy to supply me in answer to a short notice question with a statement showing Muslim representation on the various panels for Post-War planning, the Honourable the Food Member, I must admire, was bold and straightforward to give such statements regarding his Department and in some cases to say with pride that there was not a single Muslim there. I must also admire frank expression of his feelings towards Muslims as, not less than four or five times in a period of five minutes, while replying to questions on the 8th March, he said that he was not prepared to consider the recruitment of Muslim officers on communal basis, according to the much talked of Resolution of the Government. I would refer the House to the answer given by the Honourable the Food Member in reply to my own questions and that of my Honourable friend Mr. Abdullah on the 8th March. Answering Question No. 832, the Honourable the Food Member was pleased to state that out of 29 gazetted posts in the office of the Regional Food Commissioner and Sugar Controller of India, only two posts were held by Muslims and these posts are only of the Assistant Regional Food Commissioners, while in the Sugar Controller Department, none is a Muslim. When asked if the Honourable Member proposes to consider the appointment of suitable Muslims, he was pleased to say: "I cannot undertake to recruit to these posts on a communal basis". Sir, again in answer to my question no. 835, the same day, the Honourable the Food Member was pleased to tell us that out of 32 posts of Superintendents, Assistants and clerks in the office of the Famine Enquiry Commission, none was held by a Muslim, and when asked in a supplementary question by Mr. Abdul Ghani whether he drew the attention of the Commission to observe the communal ratio, again his reply was "No, I do not propose to do so". Then, again in reply to my question no. 836, the Honourable the Food Member said that in his Department, out of 29 posts, of Secretary, two Joint Secretaries, four Deputy Secretaries and two officers on special duty, 12 Advisers and special officers, four Under Secretaries and four Assistant Secretaries, only a post of special adviser and of an under Secretary were held by Muslims. When replying to my question no. 837 about the constitution of the Selection Committee set up for making appointments of and promotions to certain classes of gazetted posts in Division II and III of his Department, the Honourable the Food Member said that none of the permanent members of the Selection Committee at present is a Muslim. He further said that "it is not proposed to constitute the committee on a communal basis". Again in answer to my question no. 838, the Honourable Member was very frank to say that out of the nine officers in charge of the administration in various branches of the Department "it so happens that none of these is a Muslim". Sir, the figures given by the Honourable Member himself regarding Muslim representation in his department is a clear proof of the antipathy of the Department towards Muslim interests and total absence of any Muslim officer either from the Selection Committee or from the group of officers in charge of the administrative branches is still more evident and clear proof of that.

Sir, I would take some more time of the House to explain the position of Muslims in sections of the Food Department other than those about which the Honourable Member himself has given us information. Sir, the offices of the Food Department are divided into three main Divisions: Division I is probably the main Secretariat of the Department, which deals with the general and

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administrative policy of the Government. Out of 15 officers in this Division, only one is a Muslim holding the post of an Under Secretary. Besides that, there is not a single Muslim holding the post of an Office Superintendent or even an Assistant in charge. In the II Division which probably deals with food grains and rationing, out of 30 gazetted officers only three posts, that of a Food Executive officer, a Director and an Assistant Director of Purchase of Food Grains are held by Muslims and out of seven office Superintendents, probably only one is a Muslim. In the III Division, which is the most important section of the Food Department as it deals with purchase and contracts side, out of 52 gazetted posts down to the rank of an Assistant Director of Purchase only two posts of Joint Directors; three posts of Deputy Directors, three posts of Assistant Directors and one post of a Technical Adviser are held by Muslims. On the financial and the accounts Branch sides out of ten officers only one is a Muslim holding the post of an Assistant Financial Adviser. Out of seven Liaison Officers, none is a Muslim, while in the rationing section of the Food Department out of 13 officers only one post of Controller of Rationing (Distribution) is held by a Muslim.

Sir, in a Department where the Muslim representation in higher services is such as I have just mentioned it can be very easily judged what would be the position of Muslims in the matter of grant of contracts which are worth hundreds of crores every year. It is unfortunate that in reply to a question put in the Assembly the other day, the Honourable the Food Member did not supply us the number of Muslim contractors out of the registered 500 contractors and the amount of contracts given to them, otherwise the position of Muslims in getting contracts would have been very clear. But I leave it to the judgment of the Honourable Member to decide in the light of the statements that I have just given regarding the Muslims share in the services in the Food Department, if we are justified in raising our voice of protest. Sir, the record of the Food Department in the matter of anti-Muslim activities is not matter of pride for anybody, least of all for an educated person like the present Food Member. The few Muslim officers and clerks in this Department are being served with charge sheets for, what it would be a prostitution of language to describe as, offences. Non-Muslim officers who are known to be corrupt have not only not suffered but promoted and some of the officers do not feel the need to take any precautions to conceal their interest in particular firms, and inspecting officers are forced to destroy their adverse inspection reports, against their favoured firms. While all this is happening in broad day light, the Muslim staff who are in a helpless minority are harassed and persecuted for no fault other than that of performing their duties honestly and conscientiously. All these facts are known to us, but unfortunately our voice lacks thunder and our only hope is that it is still not too late for the higher authorities to realise the short-sightedness of their policy and the injury it is doing to Hindu-Muslim relations.

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin (Punjab: Landholders): Sir, I should like first of all to touch on a few subjects that concern the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations. I shall not say much about what is happening in South Africa because the attention of the whole House has been drawn to South Africa, and naturally we all resent the indignities that are showered on our nationals in that country. Furthermore, it is a matter of great shame that some of our Indian officers who travel to and from England on official duties were treated in a most shabby manner. After all South Africa and ourselves are supposed to be on the same side in this war, and the least that we expect is that at any rate our countrymen in uniform should have been spared those indignities. I will not say much but we have got one or two demands from our Government in that respect. Firstly, I would say that if there are any South African troops in this country they should be sent back. I yield to none in promoting the war effort and wishing our success in this war; but I do think that we can carry on this war without the help of the South African troops. Secondly, I understand that there are still a few South African officers in the Indian Army; I request the

War Secretary that these officers should be relieved of their command immediately. This is the least that we can expect from this Government.

Sir, then I come to East Africa. As regards South Africa it is sometimes said that it is a self-governing dominion; but no such plea can be put forward in the case of East Africa. In East Africa the best portions of the country—the highlands—are reserved for Europeans; and, mind you, they may be Europeans of any type. They may be German nationals or Italians, and so on. And yet it is a matter of great disgrace that Indians are excluded from those parts. If we look at the geographical position of East Africa we find that that country is next to Abyssinia, and if Italians had been holding Abyssinia the position of East Africa and the Kenya colony would have been very precarious. The whole world knows what part the Indian soldiers played in liberating Abyssinia. The services that the Indian soldiers were able to render were recognised in most generous terms by His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie, who said that the liberation of his country was to a very great extent due to the Indian soldiers. And so indirectly we can say that Indian soldiers defended East Africa; and it is therefore a great shame that Indian nationals should be excluded from the best parts of a country which the Indian soldiers have saved from being over run.

Then, Sir, I come to some of the Indian nationals in Great Britain. Some Honourable Members are aware that last year I had occasion to visit England, and while there I was requested by the Ministry of Information and others to address some of the Indian workers who are working in the factories in the United Kingdom. I had a chance of meeting and addressing them, and it appeared that these people are doing very useful work for the country of their adoption. But there is a great fear in their mind that as soon as the war ends and there is retrenchment they will be the first to be kicked out. I would therefore strongly urge on Government to take some action in this matter and I think our High Commissioner should be instructed to look after the interests of these people because they have helped England in her hour of distress. And really I was amazed to find how these people are doing some of the most important war jobs there. For instance, the enemy radio says if these people have a chance to indulge in sabotage they will do so and that sort of things. In some factories they are doing the most delicate type of work, and if they were so inclined they could blow the whole thing sky-high. But these people are doing very good work and they are trusted, and I hope their interests will be looked after at the end of the war and they will be treated as citizens of England where most of them are permanent residents.

Sir, I will touch briefly on the post-war employment of our present soldiers and officers. Naturally there is great fear among them as regards the future. We all know that these young people who have joined the army today cannot be retained because after all, at the end of the war, the army has to be retrenched, and so most of these people will lose their employment. In this respect I will suggest one or two things. When retrenchment comes, before any English officer is employed, the last Indian officer must be given a permanent commission. Because after all India is a country for the Indians and as many of our young people, who have come forward today, as possible should be given employment. And, further, there are going to be a good many post-war expansions, and I would request the Post-war Planning and Development Member (Sir Ardesir Dalal) who, I understand, has great influence with the financial magnates and heads of firms, etc., to make some effort to find employment for them. During these days good many business firms are making money out of the war contracts and I suggest that it should be made as one of the conditions at the time of giving a contract that employment would be given to ex-servicemen and ex-service officers. I think this is the least that a grateful country can do for those young men who came to help and defend her in her hour of need.

I may say that I have been one of those people who have conscientiously supported the war effort of this country. I have done so, and there are many

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millions of people in this country who have done so, because we have utter hatred for the abnoxious principles for which Nazism stands and we have always held that these obnoxious doctrines of Nazism should be fought under whatever flag it can be done. But we yield place to none in the love of our country. We are as much keen for the freedom of our country as anybody else, but we feel that the freedom of the world comes first, and surely there would have been no freedom in this country or in the world if the Axis powers, God forbid, win this war. There are other peoples who are supporting us in this belief and we draw great moral satisfaction that we are fighting on the same side as the democratic countries of China and Russia and also that we are fighting on the same side as the Muslim States of Middle East—Turkey, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, and so on. As far as Turkey is concerned, it has given a great moral fillip to the United Nations as well as to the Muslims of the whole world to have Turkey fighting on the same side. It is argued in certain quarters that Turkey entered the war when she was sure that the Allies were going to win the war. That is not the belief amongst the responsible people. The other day Mr. Churchill while speaking in the House of Commons said that surely the sympathies of Turkey were on the side of the United Nations, but it was only after the declaration of war that it was found that Turkey had not enough arms and so the arms were supplied to her under the Lease/Lend system for a very long time and she was able to render a great deal of help to the cause of the United Nations. When German pressure was being brought to bear on the Turks to give them way when our armies were in Syria and we were hard pressed they resisted it and thus Syria was saved from falling in the hands of Axis powers.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is not relevant. What has this Assembly got to do with all that?

Mr. M. Ghasuddin: Sir, I give up this point and bow before your ruling.

Coming nearer home I would say that great publicmen even in other Parties, like the Congress Party, have also believed in supporting the war effort unconditionally. For instance, there have been men like Dr. Satya Pal and Dr. Mahmood. Dr. Mahmood in his letter to the Viceroy, which he wrote some time ago, said that he did believe in unconditionally supporting the war effort and there was no difference between him and other people who have been supporting the war, excepting the fact that it took him two years to speak out what he believed in.

Then, Sir, a great deal of criticism has been levelled in press against us who went to the United States to propagate the war effort of this country. First of all, I would say that giving publicity to the war effort is war effort in itself. It is a recognized fact that each country gives publicity to its own war effort and thus hardens its Allies. While in England we came across people from the United States, from Canada, from New Zealand, from Australia and from other countries on the side of Allies, who had travelled all the way from their countries to Great Britain to give publicity to the war effort of their own countries. Similarly, while we were in the United States, we came across Englishmen and people from other allied countries who had also gone to the United States to give publicity to the war effort made by their respective countries. But, Sir, it has been said that we went to malign our country, that we did not go there to talk about the war effort but to tell the American public that India is unfit for Independence, that there are quarrels between Hindus and Muslims and we will be at one another's throat if a chance is given to us, and so on. I repudiate these allegations.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): American papers said like that.

Mr. M. Ghasuddin: I have got cuttings from some of the American papers which, with your permission, Sir, I would like to read to this House. Press representatives took down proceedings of the meetings, at which we spoke and

the Honourable Members will judge from these cuttings that we did not say any of these things which have been attributed to us. If anything, we always

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Did you not say that the two major parties in India, which represent the majority of Indians, were opposed to the war effort?

Mr. M. Ghasuddin: Will the Honourable Member show me any paper which has produced this remark as having been made by us?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I read it before this House and the Leader of the House accepted it.

Mr. M. Ghasuddin: I definitely repudiate it. I never said that the Congress and the Muslim League were quarrelling between . . .

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: What did you say?

(Interruption by Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.)

Mr. M. Ghasuddin: I am not giving way. Sir, I wanted to prove to the American public that millions of our countrymen and country-women were helping the war effort and therefore why should I have said all that. It would have weakened my case. I never said that, and I repudiate any suggestion that has been made that we went there to tell the American public that Hindus and Muslims were quarrelling and that we were not fit for self-Government and all that. I do not know wherefrom these people got these ideas.

Sir, I have a few cuttings from the American papers before me, and they give more or less the correct version of what we said there. Naturally, of course, all those Honourable Members of the House who attended these press conferences in various parts would know that it is something worse than answering supplementary questions on the floor of the House, especially in America where they are bombarded from all sides. The Party papers sometimes put the news in their own colour. I would just read a few cuttings.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Not long extracts.

Mr. M. Ghasuddin: I am not going to read all that.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member could read brief extracts.

Mr. M. Ghasuddin: Yes, Sir, I shall read brief extracts. This one is from *New York*. The headlines are:—

"INDIA'S HELP TO ALLIED CAUSE."

LION'S SHARE IN ROUT OF AXIS IN AFRICA.

'We have travelled many thousands of miles to give the great American public the story of blood, sweat and toil that India is giving to the common cause.'

This was told to a press conference in a joint statement today by Mr. M. Ghasuddin (M.L.A., Central, India), and Mr. R. B. Bhole, Indian delegates to the International Labour Conference, who arrived here on Monday. The statement continued: 'Here are some bare facts of our proud record: On the Burma Front more Indian units are fighting than the combined forces of all the other Allies. We have an army of two million and a navy twelve times the peace-time strength. The army is the largest ever assembled on India's soil for any cause.'

'India's industry is as much geared to the war effort as yours here. For the first time it may be revealed that over five-million men and women in India are now engaged in factories devoted to war production. The Aerodromes which have been built in India since Pearl Harbour, if laid end to end, would make a broad highway from New York to Chicago. Millions in our fighting forces, civil defence and war production, are no less determined than the Americans, not to cease and not to draw back from any effort or withhold any sacrifice till these eastern barbarians surrender.'

'India claims the lion's share of glory for tearing Mussolini's East African Empire to pieces, for the reconquest of Abyssinia, and for forestalling German schemes in Syria, Iran and Iraq.'

'It was an Indian Division that accepted the surrender of the Duke of Aosta, and thus resurrected the first victim of Fascist aggression. Rightly, indeed, might Field Marshall Wavell say that but for India's help Suez and the Middle East could not have been held, or the Axis kicked out of Africa. Even more eloquent perhaps, is the enemy's opinion. You may be interested to know that Rommel's Afrika Korps had standing instructions to stand by whenever there was any sign of the Fourth Indian Division moving. Today our troops are fighting side by side with your boys and their British comrades.'

[Mr. M. Ghiasuddin.]

Replying to a reporter's question. — Mr. Ghiasuddin said: 'Rumours that there is any sympathy whatsoever for Japan in India are false. We have seen the cruel treatment of our neighbouring Chinese at Japanese hands. We are resolved as a nation to hurl the Japanese not only from India but all the way back to Tokio.'

Then Mr. Bhole said something about the Negro question which I need not read to this House.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan (Central Provinces and Berar: Muhammadan): Do read it. It must be very interesting.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): No, no. No more extracts.

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin: If my Honourable friend wants it I can read it.

M. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must not read anything which is not necessary.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I hope it is not a verbatim report of what you said?

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin: Yes, it is. Do you object to my English?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I must ask Honourable Members not to go on interrupting.

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin: Continuing the report says:

"Mr. Ghiasuddin, who was invited to America by the West Virginia Federation of women's clubs to address its State convention, said to *Reuter*: 'We have spent the past few months in England, where we saw Indians holding responsible jobs in British war factories and talked with Indian sailors, doing a splendid job transporting food supplies at great hazard to themselves. It was gratifying to see the Indians' growing participation in the war effort and to realise that they were thereby earning the world's respect and consideration of some of their national aspirations. We were also impressed by the co-operation and fellowship between British and American personnel aboard the ship which brought us over, the operation of which was jointly Anglo-American.'"

Similarly I could quote from many more cuttings from American papers. I do not know from where they got the idea that it was part of our job to tell the American public that we are not fit for independence.

I won't use the strong word used by the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party for the Honourable the Leader of the House. But all I would say that it is not a fact. I am a very polite man.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi (Dacca cum Mymensingh: Muhammadan Rural): The Honourable the Leader of the House?

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin: Yes, he said that. Furthermore I would say that we have borne very patiently all these taunts and lies hurled at us for over eleven months and I am really thankful to you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to tell the House how false these charges have been. We never said that we were the representatives of this House. I remember at the press conference in London held at the Ministry of Information I said: "I do not represent either the Government of India or any political party". But I do say that I belong to India. I did not say I represented those millions of people who are helping in the war effort. That would be too presumptuous. I say humbly I am one of them. That is the claim we have laid and that is to what I adhere. I do not say that all these two million people joined the army because I asked them. I do not even claim that a considerable minority came forward because I asked them. Sincerely we have believed that it is in the interest of humanity and India to defeat the Axis and so we have worked for that end. For that reason one form of abuse or another has been hurled on us from the Axis radios. Of course the gentlemen who speak from Tokyo or Berlin have told my friend Mr. Bhole, who is soul of honour and integrity, and myself that we were the hostages of the British Government and when India was freed we would be treated as traitors. But I want to tell those miserable and contemptible traitors who have spoken from the radio stations of Berlin and Tokyo on the behests of their German and Japanese masters that their days are numbered.

(Interruption.) I do not know the names of those people. We were told by the Ministry of Information in London "This is what Berlin and Tokyo is saying about you" and we had a good laugh at it.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: I believe they come from the Punjab.

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin: I do not care where they come from.

I would now draw the attention of the Honourable the Leader of the House as to what is going on in America on the other side. I would say that some of the most obnoxious lies are uttered against our brave soldiers by some of those gentlemen who are Indians and who permanently reside in the United States of America. A regular whispering campaign is being carried on against our soldiers who are represented to the American public as mercenaries and cowards and further more they are painted in the light that when an Indian soldier is on the battle field with the British against the Japanese he is waiting to see whoever pays them more so that they would fight for them. It was really shocking to see such brave people, the flower of our youth, as honourable as anybody sitting in this House being libelled by our countrymen in this way. It is a whispering campaign. You cannot give the lie to them. I really do not know whether I should disclose the name of a certain very well known American gentleman who lent himself to that sort of thing. Because it is common knowledge that in America there are isolationists and since Pearl Harbour the isolationists went underground in a way but they are trying their level best to bring rupture between the relations of various United Nations and they are spreading false alarms and false reports. I will give you one instance. As Honourable Members are aware, when the Japanese forces came into India, they came as far as Imphal. One of the American papers published headlines "Road to Delhi Open". And then furthermore it gave what Subhas Chandra Bose said, "they have come to India they will capture Imphal, capture Calcutta and march on to Delhi". And the headline was that the road to Delhi was open. Whereas all gentlemen who know anything of the geography of India know that if it was a minor penetration, really it was no invasion at all. It was just infiltration and yet this is how the isolationist in America painted the story. I would further say that some of our countrymen unfortunately are going absolutely hand in glove with these isolationists' group in America, who are mostly of German descent and the publicity they get is tremendous and they are able to spread lies. They do not hesitate to include big names and that is because they do not publish them, they just whisper such and such a thing is happening in India, this thing is going on and the soldiers are ready to desert. I am sure it will be in the interests of Anglo-American co-operation and the co-operation between our Allies, if that sort of lies are met and answered.

In this House I was very sorry to hear some of the attacks that have been made on Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, who for a very long time was a most respected member of this House. All I can say is that all the reports that Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai is carrying on anti-Indian propaganda are absolutely false. He is as much a patriotic Indian as any Member of this House and I do not know how these things come about excepting that those people, when they find that some sort of reply is given to their lies, they start making all sorts of allegations around. The other day the *Hindustan* press published a big report and said that Sir Srinivasa Sarma admits that the mission was a failure. I do not know whether and how far that report is correct and if Sir Srinivasa Sarma did say these things I am sure he was speaking for himself alone, because the American public were very kind to us and listened with very great attention and we are quite thankful to them. I also take this opportunity to say that all those people who said that Indian soldiers are cowards and mercenaries, I know on the authority of some foreign observers, they had no right to bring those charges like that against these brave people and there can be no more effective reply to their lies than the statement of General Mark Clarke, who commanded these troops in Italy. He said that Indian troops were one of the best under his command and similarly other American impartial officers would say the same.

Now, Sir, I think I have taken too much time, not too much, I had to say

[Mr. M. Ghiasuddin:]

all these things and I say that we went to America in the spirit of duty, in the interests of the war effort. We did that to the best of our ability. We never indulged in politics but sometimes all those people who pose as very great patriots they put difficulties in our way and we tried to meet them as best as we could. Now I am glad to see that other people are coming to our point of view. For instance, we hear very good news from the Frontier, and I am glad they are falling into line with us. They will do now what we have been doing in the last four years and I welcome them. I have personal respect and regard for Dr. Khan Saheb and I think it will not be too presumptuous on my part to welcome him in our ranks. I hope gentlemen oppose will not blame us for doing the thing which we have been doing, now that they are following our lead after waiting for four years. Furthermore, I would say that I am going to support this Finance Bill because I believe that money voted in this House will be for our soldiers who will fight with young men of other Allied Nations, China, Russia, Turkey and other great countries. May God grant Victory to our Arms. Sir, I support the motion.

Mr. C. P. Lawson (Bengal: European): Mr. President, I am rather distressed to see that War Secretary has just left the House, because I wanted to catch him before he went. I have three subjects to deal with. The first is the most important, and I propose to leave it over until after lunch, because the Honourable the Food Member has informed me that he will not be here until after lunch and this portion of my speech greatly concerns him.

Sir, I have two other points, rather shorter ones, which I am anxious to raise, since they concern more closely my constituency. The first of these, Sir, is in connection with A. R. P. arrangements and Civil Defence generally in Calcutta. It was here that I particularly hoped the War Secretary to be present, because the military control that is exercised over lighting in Calcutta is at the moment rather tight, and, if I may say so, rather inflexible. I have had certain negotiations in Calcutta both with the Police and the Military authorities about the situation which I think is exercising all our minds very considerably. I am one of those unfortunates who for most of the days of the week have to return from work in darkness, and on my way home I am almost invariably confronted by lines of military lorries with very bright headlights shining straight into my eyes. And I am not alone in that. We civilians all have a very strict black-out on our motor-cars. We have had up to about a month or two ago just one masked head-light which I may tell the House for their information gives no light at all, because inside the mask there is not only frosted glass, but also a layer of newspaper. Therefore, Sir, we, with this one head-light obscured even when it can get through the mask, have to confront these long lines of military lorries which seem to have no kind of black-out restrictions at all. In a series of negotiations I am glad to say that I was successful in pressing a claim for two masked head-lights instead of one. The difference, Sir, that makes is that you can now just about see the ditch on your left. Hitherto you were able only to see a somewhat problematical white line, white in name rather than in fact. So, Sir, after considerable negotiations we have got these two masked head-lights, but we still have to confront these incredibly strongly lighted military cars which seem to observe no black-out restrictions at all. I understand that there are black-out restrictions for these military people, but they are not the same as our civilian black-out regulations. They do, however, exist, and the only thing I hear about them is that though they exist they are not carried out.

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. C. P. Lawson: Sir, is there a quorum in the House?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): If you bring it to my notice I have to take note of it; otherwise I would not.

(It was found after a count that there was no quorum.)

There is no quorum; therefore you have to wait.

(The bells were rung and more Members came in.)

There is a quorum now. You can resume your speech.

Mr. C. P. Lawson: Sir, before the House rose for lunch, I was speaking about the black-out in Calcutta and I was comparing the black-out regulations as applied to civilian cars and military cars. There are of course the black-out regulations which apply to houses and the streets; but that I will touch on in a minute. As the House rose, I was remarking that the military themselves have certain black-out regulations for their cars, but these black-out regulations do not appear to be generally observed. In the various negotiations that I have had on this subject, I once remarked to a senior police officer in Calcutta that certain differences appeared to exist between the black-out regulations as applied to civilians and black-out regulations as applied to the services, and I asked him in public as a matter of interest, if he could tell me how for obscurity a properly blacked-out civilian vehicle compared with a properly blacked-out services vehicle. His reply was not particularly helpful: he apologised that he could not answer me because, to be absolutely frank, he had never seen a properly blacked-out military vehicle. That illustrates the point that I will come to presently, when I sum up the whole matter.

During the course of my negotiations I have frequently been somewhat sternly admonished to the effect that the war is not yet over and that the Japanese are still in Burma, and I accept that admonition with due humility, but I am forced to remark that I cannot see why the Japanese should be able to discern my little masked headlights any more easily than they can discern the quite unmasked headlights of service vehicles. In fact, it seems to me that if these conditions still apply, the conduct of the services in this respect is inexcusable. If the need for these precautions still exists, obviously the services should be the first people to carry them out and to carry them out rigorously.

Now, Sir, whenever I go down the Calcutta streets and see our street lighting obscured and when I think of the coal shortage, I get quite a pain. We have had at one time and another gas restrictions owing to the coal shortage and all our street lighting in Calcutta is burning this extremely precious gas; and over the gas mantles is placed a little thing like a hat, so as to prevent the light even of that little bit of gas supply coming into the road. In fact, we are burning all this good coal to get our gas to light our streets, and then, as it is lighting up the streets, we put something on it so as not to let the light out. It seems to me to be an uneconomical, if necessary, method; and while I am not criticising the method for the moment, my point is this: that the black-out is a dangerous and wasteful process, which is introduced for specific reasons; and I do not want that wasteful and dangerous process to continue any longer than is absolutely necessary. The purpose of my remarks is therefore to ask the military authorities whether they will now review the whole of the circumstances of the war and see whether it is not possible to relax these black-out regulations and to avoid the danger and the waste that they entail. We are civilians and we presumably are not in a position to sum up the military necessities of the situation. All I am suggesting is that the military necessities of the situation may be considered, particularly now after the magnificent victories that the 14th Army have gained in Burma. If it is possible to let up a bit on these black-out regulations, it will undoubtedly relieve the danger that we all face in coming up against these very strong headlights which the services appear to be unable to control; and it will also make the streets safer in every respect. Our roads in Calcutta are deteriorating, have deteriorated to

[Mr. C. P. Lawson.]

a very large extent; and those of us who are restricted in petrol, frequently find it necessary to use more humble methods of conveyance, such as bicycle or a light motor bicycle. I do not know whether any of our Honourable friends on the Treasury Benches have experienced the phenomenon of entering a large pothole in the dark on a bicycle without many springs. If they have not, I would like to assure them that the shock to the system is considerable. I hope that the War Secretary who, I notice, is now not in his own seat but in some one else's will attend to this matter and perhaps for his benefit I might repeat once again that all I am asking for is a review of the military situation, particularly after the recent magnificent victories of the 14th Army, and an examination of the black-out regulations which we find irksome and dangerous, and which we would like removed as soon as that is possible in the military sense. We are not asking for anything which will damage the war effort and perhaps the necessity for certain military vehicles to abandon any black-out regulations may be accepted, although I do not think in all cases it can possibly be justified.

Now, Sir, while the War Secretary is paying us one of his rare visits I should like to mention one other point which I mentioned last year regarding the claims that are put in for damage to life and property. These matters are still being unduly delayed and I am getting quite a number of applications for expedition in dealing with these cases. While I am on the point I would like just to give the War Secretary one particular instance. On the 1st June 1943 a man by name Mr. Robson was knocked down by a military vehicle in Bombay and he finally died in hospital. He had a small tailoring business valued at about Rs. 60,000 and the medical expenses incurred were about Rs. 4,000. On the 4th August, compensation from the military authorities was paid to his widow and this compensation amounted to Rs. 500. I protested against the inadequacy of this compensation. A further claim was made on the 14th April 1944 and correspondence has ensued. The accident occurred in June 1943. The compensation of Rs. 500 was paid in August 1943 and since then we have protested and the last letter that I have received is dated the 24th February of this year. That is nearly one year and 9 months after the accident. It reads as follows:

"With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter of the 24th January I am directed to say that the matter is being investigated and every effort is being made to expedite the case."

I only mention that as an instance. I have had quite a number of cases of delay in dealing with these claims.

These are the only points that I had to raise, which concern the War Secretary and the real purpose of my getting up to speak was to raise a matter which I am surprised to find has not hitherto been raised by this House in debate. As regards the food position I have heard fears expressed regarding adulteration and regarding black marketing and a number of other pressing complaints but I have not so far heard any fears expressed regarding the future and I myself am not happy about the race which is taking place between the population of this country on the one hand and the food supply of this country on the other. We have had the Grow More Food campaign which has produced a certain amount of results but I think, more than the campaign, the high prices produced the extra supply which we so greatly needed and which have relieved the situation for the present. But the point that I wish to make is that this enormous increase in the prices of grains, which has resulted undoubtedly in a very large increase in cultivation, is a factor which is now fully exploited. We cannot exploit it again. That rapid increase that we have seen in the last two years is unlikely to be repeated. I suppose the population is increasing at the rate of something like 1 per cent. a year. In other words we have to find food for an extra 4 millions of people in this country every year. The population increase was winning the race with food production before the war and it is difficult now, with all the complications that have occurred, to know just how

that race is progressing. We were informed last Session, I think by the Honourable the Secretary, Education, Health and Lands, that the country was probably now producing something like a total of 60 million tons of all grains and if that is the case it means that roughly there is a pound of all grains per day per head of the population or was when he made that statement. Well, that is evidently enough. It is enough to feed the population as it stands but as I will indicate afterwards there are a number of factors which will undoubtedly influence that figure and which will lessen the margin of safety, if there is one. The whole point is that we have got to evolve a system whereby the food supply of this country increase normally by one per cent. per year. We may have a little safety margin now but there must be a permanent solution of this problem of the race between population and food supply. Unless there is a permanent solution, the palliative of high prices which cannot be applied again and we will soon land ourselves in another position such as we have found ourselves in the last two years and that, Sir, is why I am not happy about the situation. We may for the present have found a way out of our difficulties. But have we found a permanent way out of our difficulties? I think the answer to that is 'No'.

Now, Sir, I have often heard it said in this House that we should increase the acreage under crops. If we assume that there are now in India about 300 million acres under crops, in order to meet the increase in population of one per cent., we would need to increase that acreage under cultivation by something like 3 million acres a year. That, of course, is quite impossible. It could not be done. Moreover, Sir, if we did adopt that policy of increasing the acreage every year by one per cent. we would shortly reach the position of saturation. In thirty years, every acre of cultivable land would have been exhausted even if it is in fact cultivable which is extremely doubtful. Communications, roads and water supply have to be there, and they are not there. For that reason, the increase in acreage that is so much demanded is, to my mind, a completely wrong road. Our road should be an increase in yield and for an increase in yield, there is the widest scope. We could go on and before we reach the rice crop yields of China and Japan, we could double or treble our food supply. We do not know what food resources there are in the hands of various Governments. To a large extent, I take it that those figures cannot safely be made known because of market movements. But I would like to hear from my Honourable friends to my left, sometime or other, during this Finance Bill debate how they view the future. They know what reserves they hold and although the rest of their information is sketchy and completely inadequate, it would at least be something for us to go on. I personally am not happy about the situation. I think that the snake of famine has been scotched but not killed and while we may see this year through in safety, I am by no means certain of the year after that or the year after that, bearing in mind that every year, we will probably have to supply food for four million more people. So, Sir, I would like that statement from the Government Benches and I would also like to know what their information is regarding food that is being consumed in this country. We know that there has been a change over in diet. We know, for instance, that in many parts of U. P., the cultivators are now eating wheat because they can afford to do so and I am very glad they are eating wheat because it is infinitely better food, but that undoubtedly will have thrown the situation out of balance. The estimates that may be held of our wheat reserves may not now be correct. The country may equally be holding far larger reserves than usual of pulses and millets and these grains do not keep. Are we quite certain that the excesses in gram, for instance, that were found in the Punjab during the past six or seven months, are we sure that these surpluses are not being repeated in pulses and millets in private hands in other provinces. It seems to me that if we do not know what the dietary is of the people generally we might easily find that enormous reserves upon which we are counting are reserves which will not in fact keep. They may be the grains which perish in storage. I am quite certain that if any one goes short in these circumstances it will be the deficit provinces. That is why the Presidencies of Bengal and Bombay are extremely

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seriously affected and that is perhaps at the back of my mind when I raise this point.

Now, Sir, I will shortly enumerate the factors which to me render this food supply position dangerous. In the first place, the prices have not been stabilised. Food will always drift towards high priced areas. No matter what controls you impose, you will not be able to stop it. There are certainly 45 thousand miles of railways in this country and upon them you can control the transport of grain. But there are 300,000 miles of roads upon which that grain can and will be moved. That again, Sir, must obviously upset the balance of your supply. Then, there is at present owing to the increase in war industries, very considerable inter-provincial immigration. We have rationing in certain cities, but we have no rationing in the *mufassil*. We do not know really how populations are moving and therefore we do not know the consumption which occurs locally. The factor of grain deterioration, I have already mentioned. If it is large, if there are large surpluses of coarse grains, about which we know nothing, they may equally upset that situation which at the moment we regard as safe. Then, there is undoubtedly the safety margin that all the Provinces are providing themselves with. There is no Province, even the most surplus Province, that will allow their own grains to go below the level of complete safety. There again the deficit Provinces may suffer.

Now, Sir, although we have heard a good deal about State control and State interests in industries, we have heard very little about State control or State interest in agriculture. It seems to me that it is here that a solution must be found.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): But the Honourable the Food Member is sleeping.

Mr. O. P. Lawson: I am glad that my Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa has awakened the Food Member. I am sorry to have sent him to sleep.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member): I was never asleep.

Mr. O. P. Lawson: Undoubtedly this question of State interest in agriculture will be against the views of many Provinces, but I do most sincerely hope that Provinces will realise the necessity for joint action regarding this. On the matter of food supply, in the face of increase in population, as I have already said, I am by no means happy that we are not going just for palliatives and not for permanent cures. I would be interested to hear if in fact the Government have some rather further forward schemes for the solution of this problem. We have had a good deal of plans thrown at us at one time or another. What is their plan for this? There is the plan of grow more food which may have met the situation for the present. What is the further forward plan? Are we certain that there will be a progressive increase in the food supplies of this country, which quite apart from the present situation will cover the increase of four million people per year. I have detained the House long enough with these matters. But I feel them keenly and that is why I have raised them. I would again ask that some time during the course of this debate our friends on my left will give us some indication of their plans.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Sir, my Honourable friend the Finance Member has presented to this House his last budget. The debate on his budget must therefore be a review of his work in the last six years during which he has piloted the finances of this country. Much may I have differed from many of his proposals of taxation and in respect of many important issues which he has raised, I cannot help feeling that my Honourable friend Sir Jeremy Raisman has been more sinned against than sinning. Within the limits of the present constitution as it stands and with a war of most stupendous dimensions from which India had no escape—that is a fact—Sir Jeremy has always stood up for the interests of this country. I will give an instance of that. When the history of the war finances of India will be written my Honourable friend the Finance Member will get full credit for the way in which he has resisted year after year ever

pressure for the revision of the Financial Settlement of 1940 which, thanks to him, continues to remain the sheet-anchor for the purpose of allocation of war expenditure between India and His Majesty's Government. Sir, we do not know what passed at the Bretton Woods Conference at which he led the Indian delegation, but we have the testimony of the non-official members of the Indian delegation as to the Finance Member's integrity, fair-mindedness and cooperative spirit at that Conference. Moving a Resolution at the annual meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Mr. A. D. Shroff, one of India's non-official delegates at the Conference paid a handsome tribute to Sir Jeremy Raisman, and every one of the Indian delegation has spoken very highly of him, as regards the manner in which he discharged his duties and kept the interests of India in mind. I very much wish that he should continue to take interest in the affairs of India and particularly tell his countrymen in England about the war effort of this country; how India has contributed to that war effort, not merely in terms of recruitment to the army, navy and air force, but also in terms of human suffering which, even if it may not be comparable to the sufferings of the civilian population in England during the days of the Nazi fury, certainly proves that in this war none can escape hardship and sacrifice.

Sir, I wish to make a few general observations. The coming year is full of hope because victory is in sight. It was in this spirit of hopefulness that England and America took steps to make a beginning in the transition from war economy to peace economy. Unfortunately for my Honourable friend the Finance Member, he has so far been almost exclusively engaged in war finance, but the time has come when even in India the problems of transition from war to peace economy have to be faced and solved. It is a singularly difficult task, I realise, to prepare India's war-ravaged economy to meet the difficult and perilous period of reconstruction and transition from war to peace. But I hope and trust that his successor will seriously deal with this issue in a spirit of helpfulness to India and its economy.

Sir, in saying this I am not unaware of a few crumbs which fell from the table on which my Honourable friend was carving India's resources for distribution for war ends, and for civilian needs. What are these crumbs? A pitiful 20 p. c. initial depreciation allowance for new machinery, and an equally pitiful 10 p. c. allowance on buildings erected by industry from now onwards. Sir, crumbs do not make a loaf of bread. As I mentioned, India should prepare for the peace that is coming. The problems that are now constantly calling for solution require a radical change in the policy of Government. War-time restrictions on export and import trade are now out-dated. The sphere where economic warfare was necessary has almost vanished. No more there is any fear that our exports to an exportable country would ultimately be diverted to enemy countries. The enemy is at bay—encircled and isolated. Hence the whole basis of issuing export licences should be radically changed. The export licences have been much abused and the granting of export licences have been very arbitrary. I am not referring to the Honourable Member who is sitting before me; I am talking of the period when he was not a Member of that department. The principle hitherto pursued by Government has been to give export licences to established shippers only. But if there is or was a commodity which was never before exported to a particular country where could there be an established shipper? Furthermore, even if there were established shippers did the Government enquire and find out whether they were Indians or non-Indians? It was decided by Government that established shippers alone had a right to carry on export business. This principle, if I remember aright, was introduced by the then Commerce Member, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar in 1940, who had the advantage when he constituted the Export Advisory Council to constantly advise him on export matters. The Export Advisory Council functioned regularly only till the middle of 1942 and it was not revived till the end of 1944 by my Honourable friend who is sitting in front of me. Hence the Export Advisory Council

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pressure for the revision of the Financial Settlement of 1940 which, thanks to him, continues to remain the sheet-anchor for the purpose of allocation of war expenditure between India and His Majesty's Government. Sir, we do not know what passed at the Bretton Woods Conference at which he led the Indian delegation, but we have the testimony of the non-official members of the Indian delegation as to the Finance Member's integrity, fair-mindedness and co-operative spirit at that Conference. Moving a Resolution at the annual meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Mr. A. D. Shroff, one of India's non-official delegates at the Conference paid a handsome tribute to Sir Jeremy Raisman, and every one of the Indian delegation has spoken very highly of him, as regards the manner in which he discharged his duties and kept the interests of India in mind. I very much wish that he should continue to take interest in the affairs of India and particularly tell his countrymen in England about the war effort of this country; how India has contributed to that war effort, not merely in terms of recruitment to the army, navy and air force, but also in terms of human suffering which, even if it may not be comparable to the sufferings of the civilian population in England during the days of the Nazi fury, certainly proves that in this war none can escape hardship and sacrifice.

Sir, I wish to make a few general observations. The coming year is full of hope because victory is in sight. It was in this spirit of hopefulness that England and America took steps to make a beginning in the transition from war economy to peace economy. Unfortunately for my Honourable friend the Finance Member, he has so far been almost exclusively engaged in war finance, but the time has come when even in India the problems of transition from war to peace economy have to be faced and solved. It is a singularly difficult task, I realise, to prepare India's war-ravaged economy to meet the difficult and perilous period of reconstruction and transition from war to peace. But I hope and trust that his successor will seriously deal with this issue in a spirit of helpfulness to India and its economy.

Sir, in saying this I am not unaware of a few crumbs which fell from the table on which my Honourable friend was carving India's resources for distribution for war ends, and for civilian needs. What are these crumbs? A pitiful 20 p. c. initial depreciation allowance for new machinery, and an equally pitiful 10 p. c. allowance on buildings erected by industry from now onwards. Sir, crumbs do not make a loaf of bread. As I mentioned, India should prepare for the peace that is coming. The problems that are now constantly calling for solution require a radical change in the policy of Government. War-time restrictions on export and import trade are now out-dated. The sphere where economic warfare was necessary has almost vanished. No more there is any fear that our exports to an exportable country would ultimately be diverted to enemy countries. The enemy is at bay—encircled and isolated. Hence the whole basis of issuing export licences should be radically changed. The export licences have been much abused and the granting of export licences have been very arbitrary. I am not referring to the Honourable Member who is sitting before me; I am talking of the period when he was not a Member of that department. The principle hitherto pursued by Government has been to give export licences to established shippers only. But if there is or was a commodity which was never before exported to a particular country where could there be an established shipper? Furthermore, even if there were established shippers did the Government enquire and find out whether they were Indians or non-Indians? It was decided by Government that established shippers alone had a right to carry on export business. This principle, if I remember aright, was introduced by the then Commerce Member, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar in 1940, who had the advantage when he constituted the Export Advisory Council to constantly advise him on export matters. The Export Advisory Council functioned regularly only till the middle of 1942 and it was not revived till the end of 1944 by my Honourable friend who is sitting in front of me. Hence the Export Advisory Council

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Sir, from this platform from this very House, year after year I have been urging upon Government to grant comfort and facilities to the Haj pilgrims. My Honourable friend is not here, but this may be communicated to him. Sir, I would bring to the notice of the Honourable the Member in charge of Commonwealth Relations Department the huge muddle that was created in this year's arrangements for the Haj. A blunder was committed by the Government of India in the unfortunate appointment of Mr. Butt as Haj Pilgrim Officer. The post should have gone to no one else but a Muslim I. C. S. Many pilgrims from long distances travelled to Karachi and to their utter disappointment had to go back. Imagine their mental affliction. This inefficient handling of the pilgrim traffic by the Pilgrim Officer resulted in the suffering of many an innocent pilgrim who were not enabled to achieve the sacred cause for which he or she might have been waiting for years for this opportunity. Muslim sentiment was shocked by the filming of the Haj pilgrims and the showing of that picture in Calcutta and elsewhere. In this connection I would refer to a letter which the Special Haj Officer, Mr. J. A. Rahim, wrote to me as Chairman of the Port Haj Committee, Calcutta, on the 6th October, 1941, in which Government proposed to produce a film dealing with the Haj Pilgrimage. After consulting the views of my Committee I informed the Government that feeling was very strong against producing the film. My Committee strongly protested against any such filming. That was by letter dated the 16th October, 1941, to which the then Overseas Member replied that the Government had decided not to pursue the matter of filming the Haj Pilgrims any further. Why then did this Pilgrim Officer, who knew this fact in 1941 as an Assistant of the Department, film the Hajees this time and thereby gave rise to this strong feeling among the Muslim public? I trust and hope that it will never again be repeated.

Now, Sir, may I say a few words to my Honourable friend the Commerce Member. There is still much disaffection among the Indian seamen in regard to their wages and other amenities like housing, welfare, etc., I know that my friend has done and is doing what he can possibly do. I know also the limitations under which he works. I also know, apart from his being a Commerce Member, that when he was in England he did his very best to come to the rescue of these Indian seamen. When he was the High Commissioner he took up the work that he is doing. But he also knows, if I may say so, that the British seamen have been provided with best accommodation, best facilities regarding clubs, recreation, etc. I would like to have a full statement from my Honourable friend, the Commerce Member as to what actually he has achieved in this connection and what he actually intends to do, particularly in regard to their wages and welfare. That will help us a good deal and take us a long way to assure the Indian seamen that so far as they are concerned every thing has been done.

Sir, adverse criticisms have been made on my Honourable friend Sir Ardeshir Dalal, the Member in charge of the Planning and Development Department. I do not propose to go into the details of these criticisms but I do feel that much of this criticism is based on misunderstanding and wrong premises. Sir, it was gratifying to hear the other day a significant statement which Sir Ardeshir Dalal made on the Resolution which was moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar on what is called "commercial safeguards". The statement made by Sir Ardeshir was remarkable for its frankness, for its admission of a genuine case and, if I may say so, for a truly nationalistic sentiment. He said that he had actively taken up the matter of commercial safeguards with White Hall and promised to keep the Legislative Assembly well apprised of the situation as it developed. May I ask who else from the Treasury Benches have been so fair-minded and ready to help the national cause?

Sir, if I do not want to raise the issue of South Africa here, it is not because it is in any way less important. The Government of India which today claims

to have a majority of Indian members cannot escape responsibility from the fact that in their own land under their very noses racial discrimination, though not on the same scale as in the Union, is being practised. Requisitioning in a city like Calcutta and Bombay, for instance, has been such that the Indian residents and Indian owners have been deprived of their houses, and residents who were non-Indians have been very often spared. I know of cases in which golf links of an Indian Golf Club have been requisitioned while a nearby golf link where the Europeans play golf has been spared. At the fishing resort of Okhla, in the Province of Delhi certain portions of the river have been reserved exclusively for the Europeans and the Indian public is not allowed to enter them to fish there. I would suggest that an inquiry should be made into these cases of racial discrimination in this country itself.

Sir, by a cut motion moved by you, Mr. Deputy President, on behalf of the Nationalist Party, the cloth famine in Bengal was discussed threadbare. My Honourable friend the Commerce Member had given a complete reply. I agree. He also further stated that on the basis of per capita requirements of that Province he had given them much more than that basis and that he cannot interfere with her internal administration. It is true that he cannot interfere with her internal administration but my point is this: When the Centre takes the responsibility for the supply of certain commodities, it is the duty of the Centre to see that the distribution of that commodity is not mismanaged or done in such a way as people will suffer. They may give some directives, they may call upon the Provincial Governments to report what they have done, how they have distributed their quota. The Government of India should satisfy themselves that the quota for the distribution of cloth to the wholesale merchants or to the retail merchants, whichever is the arrangement made, is given to those who are in the trade.

Now, Sir, I will give you a shocking instance in this respect. The whole of the quota for yarn has been given—the Government of India allotted a quota of yarn for the Province of Bengal and just fancy what has been done there—the whole of that quota of yarn, instead of allotting to various yarn merchants for distribution, has been given to one man, who was not in the trade.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): It has happened everywhere.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: It has not happened everywhere. Unfortunately it happens in Bengal. Now, Sir, whoever this gentleman is, it is said that the arrangement of the profit was as between him and the minister. I am not anxious to know what is the arrangement between him and the minister, but what I am anxious to know is under what principle, distribution of this yarn was given to a gentleman who never dealt in his life with yarn or never knew what yarn was. I do not see Sir John Sheehy here. Where are your watchdogs in Calcutta? I do not know but it is reported that he has made two crores, more than two crores. He has made donations to the tune of about Rs. 15 to 20 lakhs, including what he has donated through His Excellency the Governor of Bengal. I am told that that man had not even Rs. 500 in his pocket in 1939. My Honourable friend Sir John Sheehy's watchdogs do not go near him.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Is this income of 2 crores taxable? Will it be considered earned income or unearned income?

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: It is for them to decide. My complaint is that 20,000 poor weavers of my district of Mymensingh have had to suffer because this man would not distribute the yarn to them. From a very respectable merchant of Calcutta, I learn that this yarn transaction alone would give him a profit of one crore of rupees at least. And still my Honourable friend Sir Azizul Huque says that he cannot interfere with the internal administration of an autonomous province. Was it not the duty of his department to see, before the yarn was given for distribution, whether the distributor was a yarn merchant or not, and then why should it be given to one man for the whole province?

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of Bengal? Distribution must not be in the hand of one man; and still no action will be taken by the Government of India. For they are unable to interfere with the internal affairs of an autonomous province run by a Muslim Government.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): I might say whether it is Muslim Government or Hindu Government or Christian Government, so far as my authority is concerned, it is equally applicable to all.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: What I meant was, a Muslim League Ministry is functioning. I must say before I conclude that my Honourable friend Sir Azizul Huque has done his best, but he thinks that under the existing Government of India Act he cannot interfere with the provinces. Under the existing Government of India Act under which he works he feels he cannot.....

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think I was slightly misunderstood. If I may interrupt for a second, what I said was this. If it was possible for me to get enough staff for the purpose of distribution throughout the country, even under the present constitution, I would have taken charge of distribution; but if for this vast country, I have not got that—and I do not think anybody will say it is possible to have that—the only alternative is to utilise the existing constitutional agencies that are available.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: I believe my Honourable friend has misunderstood me.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): He says you have misunderstood him.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: My point was this. Government of India give quotas for various purposes. Is it not their duty to find out who are the persons in the provinces who will distribute those quotas? I ask for a reply from the Honourable Member.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not like to interrupt, but I will reply to that.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: If he had asked for the names of those to whom their quota.....

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have now spoken for 35 minutes.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: There is no time limit.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I know there is no time limit, but you yourself said you were concluding.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: My point was this: that the Government of India when distributing the quotas should ascertain from the provinces, as to who are those people who will distribute, and whether they are of the trade to which the article relates. This kind of information they are entitled to ask, and if they would have asked for that information, surely the Bengal Government would not have dared to give this work to one particular person who is not of the trade. All the same, so far as Bengal is concerned, my Honourable friend the Commerce Member has been visiting Calcutta and explaining the situation, and thus has given relief. Many people, particularly the Chambers, are very grateful to him for the manner in which he has explained the situation.

Sir, as regards my Honourable friend the Food Member, I entirely agree with what my Honourable friend Mr. Lawson has said. You should take note of what he said if you do not want to have a second famine in Bengal. We thank you very much indeed, so far as Bengal is concerned, for what you have done for her. But nevertheless you are not out of the wood yet. Do not be complacent. Take the advice which Mr. Lawson has given to you, and prepare yourself for the future: otherwise you will regret to have another famine shortly.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: We are not complacent.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: I am glad to hear that. As I remarked before, in this war every country has had to undergo difficulties, sacrifices, etc., but I am sure the Indian population would have been spared to some extent at least

if the controls would have been periodically examined and reviewed. The value of this delegate would be lost if Government do not take the task in hand now. The best opportunity to do so is now. The Finance Member is retiring, a new Finance Member is coming in his place. With this change there is also another change. Victory is almost in sight. What better opportunity could any Government have than this, to take advantage of the situation, to revise their controls, to relax their rigidity, so as to give relief to the people?

In conclusion, Sir, may I offer my Honourable friend, Sir Jeremy Raisman, our warmest thanks for what he has done here during his period of six years as Finance Member? People may say what they like. I am sure my friends in the Opposition would not like the praise of my friend, but the praise is due to him. For six years this war has gone on; and it was not an easy task to balance his budget in the manner that he has done. I would ask him not to forget his land of adoption when he goes back to his country. Do not for a moment think that there are no persons in this country who have appreciated your efforts. There are hundreds and hundreds of them—let them say or let them not say. Remember India when you go back to your country: remember the country that you have served from an early age. Do not forget what Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan has said so strikingly:

"Statesmen of the Commonwealth, I say to them"—(*I address here to my European friends in India and elsewhere*)—"Does it not strike you as an irony of the first magnitude that India should have two and a half million men in the field, fighting and struggling to preserve the liberty of the nations of the Commonwealth and yet she should be a suppliant for her own freedom? How long do you think she will be prepared to wait? India is on the march; you may help her or you may hinder her; but none shall stop her. India shall be free within the Commonwealth, if you will let her and accord her the position which is her due, but without the commonwealth if you leave her no alternative."

Sir, I am sure India will be free.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya (Burdwan Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, from the beginning of this Session I have been sitting silently as a witness of the proceedings of this House and I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity of placing before this House my views in connection with the consideration of the Finance Bill.

Sir, I am really oppressed with a sense of unreality about this House. This Finance Bill is placed before us at every Budget Session; the Honourable the Finance Member does try his level best to do what he could possibly have done under the circumstances; and we have always been trying to defeat his Bill and vote out, knowing full well that our attempt is futile and puerile. We cannot change the present constitution by a comma or a semi-colon or a full stop.

As regards the Finance Bill, I shall say that the Finance Department is the department which is responsible for the weal or woes of India. Consequently, if we have to deal with it with a sense of seriousness and reality, we should try to be more sensible in criticising it. With regard to the present situation there is a huge deficit, because there is a war on. Consequently the Finance Member has to find means to meet it. If there had been a responsible Finance Member, responsible to this House and to the people, he could not have done any better than what he has done. This Finance Bill, at least this year, has not touched a single poor man, and therefore I say this Finance Bill deserves our support. The Finance Department is the feeder of all other departments; this is the most important department practically, it is the foundation on which this edifice of Government stands. Sir Jeremy Raisman has, during this period of war, conducted the affairs of finance in a way by which he has not allowed the rich to grow richer or the poor to become poorer. I know we have enough grievances against the Government for their acts of omission and commission. We as members of the Assembly have been dealing with him for the last five or six years: we have not been able to help him in any way—that is true—undeniably true.

With regard to the civil administration, I wish to say with all the emphasis at my command that the Honourable the Food Member has failed totally. He has

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not been able to improve the situation in any way. He says—and perhaps the Honourable the Finance Member has also testified to that in his speeches—that the food situation has improved. I say that the food situation has not improved a bit. If there were not a bumper crop of last January, the arrangements which the department had made would be of no avail; and at the present moment the controlled rate of rice in towns is Rs. 16-4-0 per maund. Does he mean to say that in Bengal the middle class and the poorer classes can purchase rice at this rate? We know that Government have purchased and stored rice to an enormous quantity and yet they could not bring down the price at least to ten rupees. I request the Food Member to take into consideration the

4 P.M. real steps that would really give relief to Bengal and other provinces which are deficit. Merely calling of conferences one after another will not help the people of Bengal and of the other deficit provinces. Sir, it was suggested to the Food Member many a time in the Food Committee that his only method is to set up producers' co-operative societies, co-operative distributor societies, co-operative consumers' societies under the Co-operative Societies Act. Nothing has been done in that line. The old traders have been taken into confidence. The whole thing has been in their hands. That black market is going on merrily without any sort of hindrance and it is high time that the Food Member should introduce this system. Corruption is rampant and working havoc.

As regards the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, only the other day there was a discussion in this House on the scarcity of cloth. Really a famine in cloth is going on in Bengal. This famine in cloth exists in many other places, even in Delhi. The Member for Industries and Civil Supplies had given us to understand that he was trying. In such an emergent period, if he only goes on trying, he would never be able to do the thing at the right moment and it is high time that he should rectify the mistakes which he has committed and remove the delay that has occurred in the arrangements for supply.

The civil administration can take credit only if they can at least keep the people clothed and fed, if nothing else. In this matter the civil administration has failed and really it is a pity that this should happen when the Honourable Members in charge of these matters are Indians. With regard to the Member for Commonwealth Relations, he too has failed because he had no sanction behind him to do anything which we liked him to do. That sanction is wanting; I know his difficulties. But with a full team of Indian Members of Council, he could have induced the authorities over them to take such steps as would really satisfy the needs and the demands of Indians in South Africa. In this he has failed. As regards the Law Member, I say that it would have been much better if he had given us healthy social laws during his regime, laws which would uplift the scheduled castes from their disabilities. He has done nothing in that line. I do not know if he is the author of the ordinances. I think he has nothing to do with ordinances. Therefore I should expect him to take up healthy social laws which will give strength to our social structure in future. He has not taken up this matter seriously.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): Will you support the Hindu Code?

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: Certainly. Any healthy law which will improve our social structure will be most welcome. I do not mind whether it is the Hindu Code or the Muslim Code. It must be a human code. Whatever is acceptable to humanity will be acceptable to all sensible men. With regard to the Information Member, he too has failed to give us the right sort of information. There are many things which come out with regard to post-war period, the future constitution which should have gone to the Radio Stations. It is not done. The Transport Member could have given more amenities to the third class passengers without losing much of his income. The Posts and Telegraphs Department might have given more amenities to the

postal people who have been loyally serving the whole Government in peace and in war. These things are very superficial. They are on the surface and palpably wrong. Every man knows that the Government is doing their level best but they are failing. Their failure means the sufferings of the people and their inefficiency. Now, there is a new Member for Planning and Development. A Government which cannot help the present can hardly be expected to help the future. It is a portfolio to decide the future economics of India. Unless a policy is adumbrated and placed before the country for the future constitution of India, this planning will not be acceptable nor possible. If the *status quo* will remain and if planning is made on the assumption that Indian people are not going to be free, then I say that that planning will never be successful and acceptable to the people. I am one of those men who believe in men, in humanity. I want to stand by the people. I want to stand as one of the people, I want to share the sufferings of the people and if this post war reconstruction is based only on the basis of government by the top men without giving any power to the people in general, then I emphatically say that is bound to fail. So, when we found that one of the authors of the Bombay plan had been appointed as the Member for Planning and Development, we felt that the Government were failing in their duty. This Government has no idea of the future free government of this country. They have no idea of a free people's government or Peoples Plan. They want to keep on to the old capitalistic government and perhaps the British capitalists, the American capitalists and the Indian capitalists will conspire and join together to exploit the people again. I give this warning to this House, to the people in charge of post war Reconstruction and to the Government that if they have had anything like this, in their mind, they should stop it. The only redeeming feature in the present Government is that they have carried on the war well, war efforts have been carried on right lines and this Government have helped the war in all possible ways and that is a great thing to their credit. If this Government deserves any thanks of the people, it is only on its war efforts. Sir, I am one of those who think that this is India's war, it is people's war. It is world war and India is not out of the world. If and when the Nazis had trampled the freedom of any nation in this world, then every Indian should feel the agony of that nation, every Indian should have thought that it is his war, every Indian should feel that he stands for the freedom of any country which is in danger of losing its freedom, when Hitler was trampling under foot Belgium, Holland France and other countries, every Indian should have felt that it was his duty to join the war and help the war efforts of the United nations. When China was invaded by Japan, we had our sympathy with China, but this Government did not go to war against Japan which they should have done. So Indians could not fight on behalf of China. Every Indian should have gone there to fight the Japanese. When Abyssinia was taken by Italy, the British did not help the Emperor of Abyssinia and Italy was left free to do whatever it liked with Abyssinia. I am glad that this wrong has been redressed and that the Emperor of Abyssinia has been installed on the throne again. This war is an eye opener to us. When Dunkirk fell, when France succumbed, nobody believed that the British people would rise again and continue this war to such success. It is this earnestness, this zealous protection of independence, this love of independence of the British people that should serve as an eye opener to Indians. If we have to enjoy freedom, we have either to fight for it or we have to co-operate and get it. All my political life, I have fought stage by stage. I began my political life forty years ago under the leadership of Sir Surendranath Banerjee. He was my leader. Then I followed Sri Aurobindo Ghose, then Mr. Bal Gangadhar Tilak—all these were my leaders. I had passed through all these stages and I need not dilate on that.

An Honourable Member: You were now following the path of violence?

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: I also joined the non-violent movement in 1919. Sir, in 1930, I was the Dictator.

An Honourable Member: Not for democracy?

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: Now, I am fighting for democracy. The gift of the twentieth century has come from Russia and not from any other country and had not that gift been so strong, so healthy, so helpful today the whole of Europe would have been groaning under Nazi heels. Today, I feel for my country. Today when the Congress is going to celebrate its sixtieth anniversary at Bombay, I feel that we are a divided house. The Congress has become a party only. We, in Bengal, expected that the Congress would be the only party in the country and on the other side the Government. That was what happened at the First Round Table Conference. Mahatma Gandhi did not attend the same. Then the Gandhi-Irwin pact came about and Mahatma Gandhi accepted the invitation and then the Congress became a Party, like the Muslim League or the Hindu Mahasabha. They all sat together to discuss our future. When the Congress came back from the conference to India, total failure was writ large, on the head of the great political institution. The communal award could not be avoided, Malaviya and Mahatma Gandhi both could not come to an understanding with our Muslim brethren, or the Muslim brethren did not come to an understanding with the Congress, I do not know; perhaps the third party might have done the trick. But, Sir, the failure was there and since then the Congress has become still less powerful and representative. Any one who had any solution to save the position or held any opinion not shared by the High Command was turned out of the Congress. That made the Congress weaker and weaker day by day. Nariman was turned out, our friend Dr. Khare was expelled, Subash Chandra Bose, the President elect was turned out, Mr. N. Roy was turned out. These people who were the greatest and strongest supporters of the Congress cause were all sent out of the Congress. Mahatma Gandhi could not accommodate them and thus allowed the Congress instead of being the platform for all people made it into a Party platform. I am sure the Congress would have been the only one party in the country and the Government the other. Our Muslim leader Mr. Jinnah was a Nationalist for 23 years and he was with us from every point of nationalist view, then he became a convert to Party cause and became the leader of the Muslim League. If only he had continued in the Congress he would have become the leader of the Congress as well. What led him to give up his connection with the Congress at its Calcutta session? Because it became a party movement, instead of becoming an all India united movement as was being discussed at the Nehru conference in Calcutta. There Mr. Jinnah attended and when he saw how the proceedings were being conducted, he declared that he was not going to stay in the Congress any longer. Nehru report separated him from the Congress. It may be that he was wrong. But no attempt was made to try and bring him back. This should have been done. We should have tried our level best to bring back the Muslims into the Congress fold. If we really wanted independence of India, that could not be achieved without unity. By simply begging, we cannot achieve independence, it has to be earned, we must stake everything for achieving freedom, otherwise we cannot get that. Look at the picture in Europe? What tremendous sacrifices they are making to retain their independence and freedom. They are laying down their lives, they are giving up their property, they are sacrificing everything for the sake of maintaining their freedom. Simply for shouting, nobody is going to thrust freedom on us.

I therefore appeal to my Congress friends and Muslim League friends that they should make up their minds to achieve freedom and I hope the unity which they are displaying in the House will continue outside the House also. I appeal to my Muslim brethren that they should give up this ideal of Pakistan. Pakistan is an impossibility. They know it for certain that Pakistan is an impossibility, it is only a slogan to unite the Muslims. India—this country—should be the cementing factor to enable us to unite to reach our goal, the welfare of the people should be your common slogan, freedom does not mean free-

dom at the top and that the masses will not be free. Sir, if we do not think on those lines, if we do not think on scientific and popular lines, if we only go on thinking on sentimental lines in politics, we shall not be able to do anything. For 40 years I have worked, and seriously I feel now that it should be a people's movement. It should not be a capitalist movement or movement of three per cent. of the people of property and education. It should not be thought that capitalism is going to survive in India while it is going to die in other countries. Europe has lost that capitalism; England has lost it. England has become a creditor country and the topmost creditor country. England cannot export any further capital to India. She depends either on India or on Russia. If India goes and England depends upon America, England will be a slave to America. Therefore I believe that we are going to get freedom as a result of this war. Force of circumstances and international situation will make India free. That freedom we can earn not by fighting with each other but only by making a united front on the fundamental principles of constitution. Mr. M. N. Roy is the man who has given that constitution. I know Mr. M. N. Roy much better than they do. He was a soldier to me when I was General and he is General to me today. His ideology, his fundamental principles, his constitution they do not read. They blame him for co-operating with Government; I do not. As Sir Surendra Nath Banerjee was the father of nationalism and constitutional politics in India, M. N. Roy is the father of leftism. You do not know what stuff he is made of. People call him dishonest, a spy, and so on. Lenin was called the Kaiser's agent. The Kaiser is dead; Germany is dead but Lenin is not dead; he is immortal and he survives. They call Roy an agent of the British; I tell them with all the emphasis at my command that the British will go and Roy will stay and he will be immortal. Royism will endure.

Sir, I am an old politician; I have laboured and suffered and staked everything for politics and for the freedom of my country. I know we have indulged in all sorts of sentimental politics. There was a time when racial hatred was so much rampant that we would like to kill every European in India. But surely that would not serve the purpose. There was a time when everything that came from England and from foreign countries was taboo in Bengal. Sir, our real political movement began with the partition of Bengal. You have no idea of the enthusiasm that Bengal had and the sacrifice that she was prepared to undergo in order to get that partition annulled. But it was not then a matter of freedom of the country; only a protest against Lord Curzon's indifference towards public opinion. And we did get it annulled, though I think that modification was not good for us, because we lost two districts Singhbhum and Manbhum which went to Bihar. This made Bengal poor and our population became less Hindu and more Muslim. The Delimitation Committee gave these districts to Bihar to give her the coalfields. We did not grudge it then and we do not grudge it now. But, Sir, unfortunately the enthusiasm which then prevailed in Bengal is no longer there. The repressive policy of the Central and Provincial Government had created secret societies and revolutionaries, bombs and revolvers. And Bengal showed that her sons and daughters could die like patriots in other countries for their own land. Those days are gone and forgotten. Mahatma Gandhi with his non-violent and non-co-operative movement has turned that Bengal into a Bengal of non-violence; I am not sorry for it. It was futile to kill Europeans in order to get freedom. Freedom will come out of our own actions. If we want to get freedom we can get it tomorrow. We shall not have to fight for it in this House where one side is no-changer and the other side is pro-changer. Government will not change their policy or personnel. If they had changed their policy they would have got the co-operation of the other side; but they still harp in the same old bureaucratic tune. Why don't they Indianise the Secretariat, where it has taken a long time to have five Indian Secretaries out of seventeen? Why not have all these Secretaries out of Indians? That would show at least that Government have a real desire to change their policy. Sir, the repressive

[Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya.]

policy only is there. Yesterday my Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa introduced stories of the miseries of politicians. These are old tales to me. I have seen the worst atrocities and the worst acts of terrorism. I did not care to know who was responsible; but those who feel that they are responsible know how to suffer. If we are true to our doctrines we do not mind going to jail or dying on the gallows. We shall not be sorry to suffer under the repressive policy of a foreign Government if we want to fight them for our freedom. There is no use appealing to the same party who are our enemies.

Sir, when the Congress came into the Provincial Governments, everybody thought things would improve, but we found that even labourers were shot. Section 144 was not rescinded. So whoever goes to Lanka becomes a Ravana; whoever takes the responsibility of Government changes and is metamorphosed into a different man. I should like to see the Leader of the Opposition come over to the Government Benches; let him take up the Home Membership; I would like to see how he changed. The question is not who is ruling us but the question is the system that rules us. The system must be changed. I shall welcome any Indian there with a system or a policy agreed to by the Congress, and the Muslim League and the Hindu Mahasabha. Let there be an agreed constitution. But if they do not agree, let them all put forward separate constitutions and let the people judge which one they would accept. Let there be hundreds of constitutions which should be discussed by a conference on which there should be judges to decide on one agreed constitution. Mr. M. N. Roy's constitution is already in the field. Congress and Muslim League do not represent the whole country. Sir Stafford Cripps had come with a gift only to be given to the Congress and the Muslim League and therefore he failed. Had he come to the people of India, he would not have failed. (Interruption.) Don't look at me. I was also a member of the Congress, and had I been a Congressman now I would not have been there; I would have been in the jail. Don't try for relief, try to be useful to your country, try to be a patriotic. But patriotism does not only mean 'going to the jail'. Patriotism means helping the people, poor ignorant people—masses of this country. Love them, serve them—raise them up. What have you done for them. What has the Government done for them? What have these rich people done for them? These rich people are the manufactured commodities of British Government, they have acted as commission agents of the European commercial people, as brokers, as lawyers, attorneys, and as solicitors. They have piled. Sir, it is these people who have to make sacrifices for the sake of the people. Let them make up their mind on the right lines and then they will be able to create a new world in India.

Sir, India is a great country. It has its past traditions. It has its great glories, it has its history. India cannot be trifled with. Mughals came to India and built up a great Muslim Empire. That Empire has gone. Englishmen came and they have built up an Empire. That Empire is already in liquidation. I therefore say to my Indian friends here and to those Indians who have been nominated by the Government of this country, to think reasonably, to think sensibly, think boldly and then to act. Let us not think on communal lines or on old obsolete national lines.

The Honourable Dr. Ambedkar belongs to the scheduled caste. He has scheduled caste mentality. Let us see that he gives up that mentality, let us see that he lifts up the whole scheduled class community. Muslims want to go to Pakistan knowing full well that Pakistan is as impossible as Akhandistan. (Interruption.) It is India, it is Bharatwarsh, and every man is an Indian, and every Indian has got a say in regard to the affairs of his country. Give him this idea of having separate regions and different nations. When we can try—here, why cannot we join and collaborate outside this House? Why do we Muslim friends say they want Pakistan, and why do our Hindu friends say they want Akhandistan? India indeed is one country with defined geography.

boundary. Some people say they want National Government. Can they explain what is meant by National Government? The old words, Government of the people by the people and for the people—drop the words for the people.

An Honourable Member: Ask congressmen.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: We belong to one family in India and let us give our strength to this and let us see that India is free as early as possible. (Interruption.) Independence has lost that significance which it had at one time. This total war has proved that nobody can stand alone; no nation can afford to keep aloof in this world. The whole world is one society of human beings and every country has alliance with other countries. Interdependence is the word. There is no culture which can claim purity—every culture is adulterated.

An Honourable Member: Who are the Allies of the British people?

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: They are allies of Russia. U. S. A. is ally. Don't you remember what feeling they had for Russia, and don't you know what feelings these Americans had against Russia? Don't you know what feelings we had? Russian literature was proscribed; we could not openly read any Russian literature. Now Russia is saving the world and the British and U. S. A. people are fighting along with Russians to defeat Nazism.

Sir, the European war is going to come to an end, and I expect that all political prisoners will be set free with the amnesty. In Bengal there are thousands of young men in jail, they have been there for more than eight years and even longer, and I hope that when the European war ends they will be released. How the European war will end, we cannot say yet, because there is apparently some rift amongst the Allied nations. It may or may not happen, and I wish it may not. Russia is now at the gates of Berlin, and on the Western Front the Allies are fighting very strongly, and there is the news that Ribbentrop is ready to surrender to Russia. This news may create some misunderstandings, but whatever may be the result of that, let us hope that after the war is over and amnesty is declared, not only our leaders and other political prisoners, but also those who were charged with having committed violence, will also be released. That is the nature of the British statesmen. After the end of the last war, those who were in prison and were supposed to be most stubborn and astute revolutionaries were all given amnesty. I am sure they will do the same again and it is a question of few months more.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There are many other Members anxious to take part in this debate.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: I will just finish up my speech.

I will therefore request my Honourable friends on this side and my Honourable friends on the Congress and Muslim League Benches to decide what they should do. Time is ripe now, time is mature to put a seal on this unity. I am sure the moment Congress and Muslim League unite, the Hindu Mahasabha will also join them and there will be a common demand.

To Government I say 'you have failed in your civil administration'. The Government, Sir, have failed in their civil administration: they have not been able to think of the people under their charge. They have failed to clothe and feed the people, which is their primary duty, so far war efforts are concerned—they deserve appreciation. Sir, with these words I support the Bill.

Mr. A. Satvanaravana Moorty (East Godavari and West Godavari, cum Kistna Non-Muhammadan Rural): This is the sixth Finance Bill after this country is involved in war without its consent. The objection that the country is involved without its consent stands. The continuous rejection of these Finance Bills by the Legislative Assembly proves our want of confidence in the present Government.

Sir, you are incurring Defence expenditure to the tune of 400 crores of rupees in the coming year. The leaders of the people have no knowledge or control over this huge expenditure. Even the European Group which is habitually supporting Government finds the necessity to carry a cut motion against wasteful expenditure.

[Mr. A. Satyanarayana Moorty.]

You say, in Europe, in Asia and in Pacific the tide has more than turned. If that is so why should the Defence expenditure go on mounting up so high.

Under no stretch of language or common sense reconquest of Burma and other lost colonies in the Far East for Great Britain can be called defence of India. Justly all that expenditure should be debited to Great Britain.

Let us see how our economy is affected by the War Finances. All the goods and services which we are supplying to Britain are taken on credit. We get a corresponding book adjustment as sterling debt due to us. Our people have been making great sacrifices as victims of inflation. The purchasing power of the rupee has greatly fallen. The earning capacity of professional and middle class people has largely remained static. You are not aware of the silent suffering of this large class of people. They go without the necessities of life, with a bold face. The necessary articles of daily use are scarce in this country. The Government that has the economic strings in its hand never cared to develop the industries.

What worse indictment can there be against the Government that even pins could not be manufactured in this country in sufficient quantities.

You boast that a debtor country has become a creditor country. But what about the terrible loss of life due to famine? We lost nearly thirty lakhs of our population in Bengal due to bad management of our economy. Has any country among the countries involved in this war suffered worse?

We have got 1,300 millions of pounds to our credit in the books of a debtor who is clever, powerful and influential enough to evade a bailiff. We demand an immediate liquidation of this amount by way of capital goods that we need and choose.

We must be able to buy our requirements in the cheapest market of our choice. The Finance member tells us, he is able to release 20 million dollars from the Empire Dollar Pool but we are not informed what the amount of India's credit in that pool is.

While every country, especially America and England are making arrangements to switch over to peace time economy from war economy, we do not see any signs of such activities here. A large number of committees are set up to prepare reports. Nobody seems to think of finding the money for these schemes. Dominions like Canada and Australia planned their war effort with long ranged view. They have established aircraft, motor and locomotive factories.

I charge the Government of India with either selfishness or callous disregard of the industrial welfare of this country. Can they present the country with a single full-pledged heavy industry as a result of this unwanted war thrust by them on this country?

Now we see from the papers that two lakhs of bicycles are being imported from abroad. You are not helping the Indian industry by dumping foreign goods. Can anybody with utmost goodwill give you credit for honest dealing. The tragedy of it is more poignant as the Department of Supply, Industries and Planning are under the control of Indian Members.

Will they, these Honourable Members, not realise what part they are playing in this sad game? The ambitions of British industrialists are unmistakable. They want to build their industry on the ruins of Indian industry. The Hydari Mission is an ominous portent in this direction. The news that sixty million pounds worth of British goods are being imported into this country is alarming. The fears expressed in all quarters are being realised. The sterling balances are sought to be dissipated in this manner. In the end capital goods also will be denied to this country. The plans of British industrialists to start their factories in India seem to be maturing. This is nothing short of industrial rape on this country. There are already several "India-limiteds" sucking the wealth of this country. I enter my strong protest against this iniquitous policy. You seem to be hoping for perpetual slavery of this country. Don't be under that delusion. If you impose your goods at the point of the bayonet, the

country will turn like one-man against the present policy. The spirit of boycott will manifest itself in its crude forms. That is a natural reaction to forcible dumping of foreign goods. I warn the Members in charge of Industries that they are bartering away the future of this country.

Then again, Sir, on the loss of Burma, we are confronted with food shortage. Great Britain lost her Far Eastern possessions but we did not hear people dying for want of food. Churchills and Edens would have been kicked out of their places if half a dozen people had died of starvation in the streets of London. Thousands die on pavement of Calcutta and the head of the British Government of India, the former Viceroy, had not the parting grace to visit Calcutta to see the results of his policy.

We have no plan in this country. We begin water-divining when the houses catch fire. England planned her food policy even by the time the war began. What are you all, well-groomed array of British and Indian officials here in Delhi doing? The effect of a bureaucracy enjoying unquestioned power and prosperity is seen in the deaths by the million.

Then, Sir, you do not want the co-operation of the patriotic flower of this country. You go on merrily with your blunders. You have imprisoned a lakh of great souls without trial. You do not want to release our great leaders still. You have blunted your moral senses. You fare well because there are worse people like Hitler to compare unfavourably.

Sooner or later, you have to hand over the reins of this Government to the people of this country. Do it with grace. Meanwhile, do not trouble the poor too much, with new taxes. Tobacco, you are taxing whenever you want. It is a luxury of the poor man. You want to deprive him of that small pleasure. He has no riches to indulge in costly pleasure. I am against the taxing of the tobacco and the betel nuts.

Judged even by the most liberal standard you are unfit to handle the present and plan for the future of this great land. Please quit and make room for the people's Government.

With these few words I take my seat, Sir.

Mr. H. M. Abdullah (West Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to take part in the debate on the Indian Finance Bill with a view to ventilating the grievances and difficulties of the rural classes in the Punjab whom I have the honour to represent in this House. I do not propose to make a long speech but would confine my remarks to a few salient points.

I shall first take up the question of the price level of the agricultural commodities. The Honourable the Finance Member in his Budget speech this year has stated that "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 it down to pre-war level and we have announced our readiness to intervene in supporting the market should prices fall unduly". In this connection I would like to point out that though Government might feel satisfied with the present level of the prices of agricultural products, the zamindars do not share their opinion. The price of wheat which at one time touched Rs. 15, per maund came down to Rs. 8, although the controlled price was Rs. 9/8 but the Government did not do anything to raise the price. Similarly the price of long staple cotton has fallen from Rs. 25 to less than Rs. 20 per maund. Other commodities have faced the same fate. While there has been a heavy decline in the price level of agricultural products, the prices of manufactured goods and other commodities are still soaring high. On account of this disparity in the price level the pursuit of agriculture has become less profitable as compared with other professions, with the result that agricultural labour is migrating to industrial areas where the wages are higher. The poor zamindar is at present faced with shortages of labour. The cost of production is rising while the reward of his labour is diminishing. It is time that the Central Government should take some measures to raise the price level of agricultural commodities.

[Mr. H. M. Abdullah.]

Another difficulty of the poor peasant is the high prices he has to pay for his live-stock, whose supply is becoming scarce due to the meat requirements of the army. It is the duty of the Government to help the zamindar in securing his livestock at reasonable prices, if they expect him to part with the fruits of his labour at moderate rates.

Sir, it is true that Government have opened some shops for the supply of agricultural implements to the cultivator. As the supply is not equal to the demand these implements can be purchased only by permits. The poor, illiterate and ignorant peasant does not know the complicated procedure how to obtain permits. It would be better if the procedure could be simplified.

I would now turn to the difficulties which the rural classes are experiencing in obtaining their cloth requirements. There is a cloth famine in the country and the people residing in the villages are the worst sufferers. Long cloth and muslin which are mostly used by the poor classes are notoriously not available in the market. The present situation is due to the introduction of control on the production and distribution of cloth and yarn. Previous to this the position was not so bad. After the imposition of control most of the cloth has disappeared into the black market with the connivance of the civil supply inspectors who are mostly dishonest and corrupt. It is really very discreditable for the Central Government that they have not been able to solve this problem. I think it is time that cloth should be included among the rationed articles. Rationing is the only method by which the poor illiterate masses can hope to get their share of this essential commodity.

Next to cloth the rural people are feeling the scarcity of kerosene oil, which is another commodity in short supply. I think in this matter the rural people must be given preference over the urban people, who can use electricity, where it is available. Kerosene oil also should be rationed in the villages. I am fully aware of the fact that the introduction of rationing in the villages is not an easy affair but in order to alleviate the distress which the people are suffering from all this bother must be undertaken.

I now turn to the Grow More Food Campaign, in which the Central Government shows so much interest. It is true that the Central and Provincial Governments are anxious that more food should be grown in order to improve the food position of the country but executive officers of the Provincial Governments are not faithfully discharging their duty in this respect. To support my proposition I would quote a concrete case. Last year I acquired on lease for three years a piece of railway land which was levelled up and made culturable. I, however,

needed canal water for irrigating it, for which I applied to the Canal Authorities who, after holding out a promise and keeping the application under consideration for several months, turned it down on the ground that the land was waste. In spite of their declaration to the contrary, I still maintain that the land is culturable, provided it is irrigated by canal water.

There are several other instances in which people have not been able to raise crops simply on account of the unsympathetic treatment of the subordinate officials who do not seem to be genuinely interested in the matter.

In this connection I would also like to voice the grievance of the petty zamindars regarding the present method of giving on lease Government lands for growing more food. Such lands are at present being given to big landholders who do not cultivate them themselves, but let them out at a profit to other small cultivators, with the result that the latter do not find it economical to raise crops on these lands. If, on the contrary, these lands are leased to people who till the land themselves at reasonable rates, much better results will be achieved. To every such lease two conditions must be attached, namely, that the lessee should reside in the locality in which the land is situated, and that he is actually engaged in the cultivation of the soil. I am sure that these few grievances of zamindars will receive the sympathetic consideration of the Central Government.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 16th March, 1945.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 16th 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

STEPS FOR EASING MILK SHORTAGE

1036. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) What steps has the Honourable the Food Member taken to ease the position with regard to the shortage of milk in India?

(b) What was the total import of (i) whole milk powder, and (ii) skimmed milk powder, into India in 1942/43, 1943/44 and 1944/45 (upto the 31st December 1944)?

(c) How is it that Government are encouraging the import of skimmed milk powder instead of whole milk powder, which would occupy the same shipping space, but which would have greater nutritive value?

(d) Have Government any information as to the source of supply of milk to (i) the Army, (ii) the American soldiers, and (iii) refugees, prisoners of war and other extraneous elements in the population?

(e) What steps have Government taken to represent to the American authorities to arrange for their own supply of milk, instead of falling on that which should go to the civil population of India?

(f) Have any milch cattle been imported into India for the Army by Government or by other parties?

(g) If so, what is the total number so imported since the beginning of the war?

(h) Have Government taken any steps for increasing the import of milch cattle and of whole milk powder?

(i) If so, what are these steps, from what sources, and when will these imports take place?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Attempts are being made by the Central and Provincial Governments to increase the production of milk in India. Imports of processed milk have also been arranged with H. M. G. as follows for the year 1945:

Full cream sweetened condensed milk, 2,000 tons.

Skim Milk powder, 2,000 tons.

Infants and Invalids milk foods, 1,631 tons.

We have represented to H. M. G. that we require additional quantities and negotiations are proceeding. We hope to be able to obtain additional quantities as follows:

Full Cream, 1,000 tons.

Spray skim, 3,750 tons.

(b) A statement is placed on the table.

(c) Government are not encouraging the import of skim milk powder, but the total available world supplies of processed milk are unequal to the demand and we have to secure what we can from supplies available. Skim milk powder is to be used in catering establishments in urban areas in order to set free supplies of fresh milk for distribution to the vulnerable sections of the community.

(d) 20 per cent. of the total demands of the Defence Forces and prisoners of War is met by local purchase; the remainder is supplied by the military dairy farms or by importation. There are no special arrangements for meeting the demand of refugees.

(e) Supplies to American troops are made up to a specified limit from the military dairy farms. The remainder of their requirements are met already by importation. I understand that in connection with our demand for imports for civil consumption H. M. G. are already endeavouring to obtain additional quantities from America.

(f) None by the Government and a few by the Army. The information whether other parties have imported any milch cattle is not readily available.

(g) 96 bulls and 175 heifers have been imported by the Army since the outbreak of the War.

(h) No steps have been taken to increase the import of milch cattle from abroad since such importation in existing circumstances is impracticable on any appreciable scale. As regards the import of whole milk powder, please see reply to (c) above.

(i) Does not arise.

Import of whole milk and skimmed milk powder into India

Item.	Unit	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45 Upto 31st Dec.
1. Whole Milk Powder	cwt.	7,777	4,440	8,921
2. Skimmed Milk Powder	cwt.	4,964	3,718	1,621

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that their prohibition of the slaughter of prime cows and buffaloes, which pleased this House, is not being properly carried out by the provinces and by the municipalities, and that the private interests of those who deal in cattle is destroying public interest in this direction?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not aware of the fact, but if the Honourable Member will bring any cases to my notice I will draw the attention of the provincial Governments concerned.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Member not aware that Bengal has not carried out this prohibition and the Government of India themselves had a complaint to make against them?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I cannot reply to that question off-hand; I am not aware of it.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know why milch cattle are not imported into India in view of the acute shortage of milk in this country?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already given the reasons in my answer.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have Government taken any steps to increase the number of dairy farms in this country for the purpose of producing more milk?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes, Sir; I believe the provinces have started a number of dairy farms. I am told that financial assistance in the form of interest-free loans has been given in one or two provinces to co-operative milk societies, and they have generally assisted in the improvement of milk supplies.

STEPS FOR RE-FORESTATION

1037. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) In view of the intensive utilisation of forests and the cutting down of trees for urgent war needs, what steps has the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands taken, or recommended to Provincial Governments and Indian States, for restoring the balance by reforestation?

(b) What proposals have been made?

(c) What is the extent of re-planting, which will be involved?

(d) In how many years cycle is it expected to replace what has been cut down?

(e) Have Government prepared any plan or scheme for this purpose?

(f) If so, will they circulate a copy thereof to the Members of this House?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). The matter, whether as regards Government reserved forests or privately-owned forests, is primarily one for Provincial and State Governments. The position as regards advance fellings in Government forests was reviewed in paragraphs 32 to 41 of the Inspector General's note on 'Post-War Forest Policy for India' copies of which are in the Library of the House. The Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries at its meeting in Simla last June adopted the following recommendation for the consideration of all the Governments concerned:

'The reserved forests be immediately examined and working plans revised or prepared to ensure the conservative management that will be necessary for a few years to repair the damage done by advance fellings during the war.'

The Policy Committee also recommended to Provinces an extension of the area under forests; particularly minor forests intended to provide the villagers with agricultural timber and fuel, and the assumption by Provincial Governments of additional powers to control privately-owned forests upto the extent of assuming full management if necessary.

(c) and (d). In forests under Government management advance fellings are made good by natural or artificial regeneration according to the working plan, as fellings take place. No question of a cycle arises but to the extent that to meet war needs fellings have taken place earlier than provided in the working plans, there ought, as soon as circumstances permit and for a few years to come, to be a slowing down of fellings to below the level provided for in the pre-war working plans.

(e) and (f). The suggestions of the Inspector General of Forests as set out in his note, entitled 'Post War Forest Policy for India' have been circulated to the Governments of Provinces and States with a general endorsement by the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. As already stated in reply to Part (b), Copies of the Inspector General's note will be found in the Library.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the responsibility of the Central Government with regard to food and the welfare of the community generally, will Government consider going beyond the stage of merely recommending to the Provincial Government? Will they take powers in regard to forests by declaring it a Central subject?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Government do not contemplate doing that at present.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know what has been the increase in the percentage of fellings during the war?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I think that over India as a whole fellings have gone about three years in advance of working plans. In some provinces I know that it is more, but over India as a whole it is about three years in advance, and that is, of course, infinitesimal compared with a rotation of perhaps 100 years.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the Honourable Member is aware whether the recommendations of the Policy Committee have been acted upon by the Provincial Governments?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We have had reports from some of the Provinces that they are revising their working plans.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Has any control been instituted over the private forests where the fellings are very much in advance of the plan?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Certain provinces have got legislation on the anvil. Bengal for one has got a Bill, to control private forests actually before the Legislature.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the suggestions of the Policy Committee will be placed on the table of the House?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I will examine that. I think it is already placed in the Library of the House.

MALARIA EPIDEMIO IN BANIYACHUNG

1038. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please refer to his reply to the supplementary questions

by Mr. K. C. Neogy on starred question No. 232 of the 25th February, 1944, and state what information he has received from the Government of Assam regarding the malaria epidemic in the village of Baniyachung in Sylhet?

(b) What is the decision of the Government regarding the suggestion of Mr. Neogy to depute the Public Health Commissioner to Baniyachung?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware—(i) that Baniyachung has lost over 14,000 people since the outbreak of the epidemic in March, 1943; (ii) that there is a difference of opinion between the Public Health Department of Assam and local doctors regarding the type of fever raging in Baniyachung; and (iii) that a large number of people in the village are still ailing?

(d) Will the Honourable Member please refer to his reply on the 25th February, 1944, to a supplementary question on starred question No. 232 when he said:—"We will certainly help the Government of Assam to the best of our ability" and does he propose to depute a committee of experts to Baniyachung to examine several cases locally and give their opinion regarding the nature of disease and recommend what effective method of treatment should be adopted?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A statement giving the figures of new cases of malaria treated in Baniyachung, which has been received from the Government of Assam, is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Government have decided that it is not necessary to depute the Public Health Commissioner to Baniyachung.

(c) (i) The total number of deaths from all causes in Baniyachung from March, 1943 to December, 1944 was 9,771 of which 5,891 were from Malaria.

(ii) Except for one junior Local Board Sub-Assistant Surgeon, whose diagnosis has been found to be erroneous, there is complete unanimity that the epidemic in Baniyachung was one of malaria—many of the cases being of the malignant cerebral type.

(iii) The epidemic in the village is well under control and only 54 new cases were treated in January, 1945.

(d) No. The Inspector General, Civil Hospitals, the Director of Public Health and the Director of the Pasteur and Medical Research Institute at Shillong have visited the village for investigation and have come to the conclusion that it was an epidemic of malaria.

Statement showing the numbers, of new cases of malaria treated in Baniyachung.

January, 1944	3,071	August, 1944	311
February, 1944	589	September, 1944	170
March, 1944	802	October, 1944	207
April, 1944	1,071	November, 1944	381
May, 1944	871	December, 1944	294
June, 1944	1,111	January, 1945	54
July, 1944	584	February, (upto the 17th), 1945	43

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if sufficient quantity of quinine was made available to that area?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We supplied quinine only to the Government of Assam but from the press note which the Government of Assam has issued I think it is made clear that they made very liberal distributions of quinine to the Habigunj Sub-Division where Baniyachung is.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Is the Government aware that in view of the acuteness of the situation, His Excellency the Governor of Assam visited that place in the last week of February? Is the Government aware of the steps which the Assam Government are going to take for the removal of this epidemic? Conditions there are not so easy as has been depicted by my Honourable friend.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am not aware that His Excellency the Governor has paid a visit to the village. I am glad to hear that he has. I have not also received any later information about the future intentions of the Government of Assam.

I know they established a special 50-bed hospital for a period, but I do not know how long they propose to keep it on.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Do Government think that one 50 bed hospital is quite sufficient for a village which is the biggest in the world?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: This is a special malaria hospital to treat specially complicated cases. The number of new cases, of malaria, treated in January, as I have said, was 54, and in February up to the 17th, 43.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Did the Honourable Member make enquiries from the Provincial Government after receiving this question?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, we did.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: The fact that the Governor visited the place even in February does not fit in with the rosy picture which the Honourable Member has drawn.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Government of Assam did not inform us about His Excellency's visit.

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

TRAINING OF STUDENTS ABROAD

1039. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (on behalf of Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar): Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) with reference to the *Press Communiqué* of his Department, dated the 27th January, 1945, regarding training of students abroad, what the other studies envisaged in items 14 and 15, namely, other forms of applied science and technical subjects not covered above, are;

(b) whether the Selection Committees mentioned in paragraph 2 have been established; and

(c) when they expect to issue the advertisements and select the students?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The entries were purposely vague. They were intended to cover any additional subject, over and above those specified in the *Press Communiqué*, in which a Provincial Government or a Department of the Central Government might suggest sending a student. They will be omitted when the list of subjects is finally complete.

(b) The Central Selection Board has not yet been established. Certain Provincial Governments have reported that they have set up their Selection Committees.

(c) An advertisement inviting applications to be submitted by the 15th April, 1945, has already appeared in the press.

I may add that it appeared yesterday.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the Central Selection Board will confine its selection to the students from the centrally administered areas or will draw upon other parts as well?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The division will not be quite on those lines because it is conceivable that students from Centrally administered areas might apply through provinces and also that persons from the provinces might apply for studentships sponsored by the Government of India. The Central Selection Board will deal primarily with all those who apply from whatever source they apply, for studentships sponsored by the Government of India. If we get too many applications from the Provinces, the Central Selection Board will probably be asked to advise with a view to thinning them down a bit.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know when the Central Selection Board will be formed?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Very soon, I hope.

RESTRICTION OF SUGAR PRODUCTION IN BIHAR

1040. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Food Member been drawn to the following remark by R. Bahadur Syamnandan Sahaya, C.I.E., President of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce, in his address on the 25th January 1945:

"The fixation of price of sugar and sugarcane has been the cause of bitter comments in the press and on the platform and I would not tax your patience by enumerating them here."

but there is one thing which I might usefully point out, that it was not long hence that, in spite of the best efforts on the part of the mill-owners, they were not allowed to crush all the cane that was available and some cane had actually to be burnt or used as fodder in this Province. An apprehension of over production of sugar was given as the cause for this decision. Later on it was found that the apprehension was not justified and that we had to export so much sugar that there was actually dearth of sugar in the following years and in some parts of the country sugar was sold even at the rate of Rs. 40 per maund?

(b) Under what circumstances are the facts stated here correct?

(c) Under what circumstances was the production of sugar artificially restricted and how much production was lost?

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

(b) The speaker was referring to the year 1940-41 when the sugarcane industry was a provincial responsibility and there was no central control over sugar.

(c) In the year 1939-40 there was over-production of sugar leading to a ruinous fall in prices. The provincial Governments of U. P., and Bihar, therefore, found it necessary in the interest of the sugar industry and of cane growers, in the following year to restrict production with a view to stabilise the market and enable the financing of production by Banks to be effected. Though no statistics are readily available this policy resulted in some of the available cane crop being destroyed on the ground.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the policy of the Government when such surplus cane is either destroyed or is supposed to be used as fodder? Do Government give any sort of compensation to the peasants affected?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am afraid I am not concerned with that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who is concerned?

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee: How did the Government come to the conclusion that there was surplus sugarcane and it should be destroyed?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As I have already stated, at that time sugar was not Central responsibility. This was done by the Provincial Governments of United Provinces and Bihar.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the very serious state of affairs disclosed in this matter, may I know what steps Government are taking to ensure that such affairs do not arise once again even when the control is with the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As the Honourable Member knows the Central control is only a war-time control, and I do not think there is any chance of this sort of thing arising during the war.

EXPORT AND PRODUCTION OF SUGAR

1041. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state how much sugar has been permitted to be exported from India and by whom?

(b) What was the total amount of sugar produced in India before the war in the year 1938-39?

(c) What was the total consumption in India before the war, what is the total amount produced now, and what is the total consumption now?

(d) What are the factors leading to the increased consumption of sugar in India?

(e) Are they due to the increased British army, the Americans, the refugees from Poland to Hongkong, the Italian and other prisoners of war?

(f) Are Government aware that sugar ration is extremely low in many parts of the country and there are complaints that the poor people never see any sugar?

(g) What is the price of sugar per maund compared with the price of sugar before the war?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) In the year 1943-44 a quota of about 17,000 tons of sugar for export to neighbouring countries was permitted by the Government of India. The figures of export for the years previous to 1943-44 are not readily available, but as far as I am aware the exports were less than 25,000 tons a year.

(b) 7,67,000 tons of sugar were produced in 1938-39.

(c) The civilian consumption of sugar before the war was approximately 11 lakhs tons a year. 12.2 lakhs tons of sugar was produced in 1943-44 and 10.5 lakhs tons made available for civilian consumption in that year. The civilian quota for consumption this year has not yet been finalised as the exact production is not known.

(d) and (e). The factors leading to increased consumption are increased population, increased requirements of the Defence Services, higher purchasing capacity of the public and the large increase in urban population, particularly industrial, leading to diversion of the demand from gur to sugar. The requirements of refugees and prisoners of war are relatively very small.

(f) Government are aware that the sugar ration is low in many parts of the country. But it must be remembered that poorer people still generally consume gur which is unrationed.

(g) The present price of sugar is about Rs. 16/4/- per maund as compared to Rs. 11 per maund in the immediate pre-war period.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the answer of the Honourable Member, may I know whether Government will take steps to prevent the export of sugar from this country as there is a very serious outcry from many parts of the country that the sugar ration given is ridiculously small?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Well, Sir, I am myself most anxious. But some of the countries which receive sugar from us are Afghanistan, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, and Tibet. They have always depended on India for sugar supplies and I think the House would agree that it would go very hard on them if we refused them the small supplies which we give them.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Which are the other countries? These countries having been dependent on India for sugar, I agree you should not cut them out. I refer to the export of sugar by sea. Will Government stop all such exports?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The other countries are the Near East, Saudi Arabia, South-East Persia; those are the major recipients.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee: Where these countries dependent on India before the War?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am unable to answer that question.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Do the figures that are given refer to refined sugar or to any other sugar?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: What other sugar?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Is it refined sugar or the khansari sugar?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Not as far as I know.

SCARCITY OF SALT IN BENGAL AND OTHER PLACES

1042. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the amount of salt imported into India in the year 1938-39?

(b) When did salt imports into India from abroad cease?

(c) Have Government noticed the public outcry with regard to the scarcity and high prices of salt in Bengal and other places?

(d) What steps have Government taken to ease the salt situation?

(e) Have they provided special facilities to salt producers in Western India? If so, what are they?

(f) Have they fixed rates for salt as supplied to Bengal? If so, what are they?

(g) Did Government make any attempt to supply salt from Sambhar, Khewra or Pachbhaddra by rail in increased quantities?

(h) If so, what were those quantities and for which districts were these taken?

(i) What is the price of salt in Calcutta today as compared with the price before the war?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) 312,232 tons.

(b) Salt is still being imported from abroad.

(c) Yes. There was temporary scarcity leading to high prices in Bengal and Assam.

(d) The Government of India have arranged for adequate and regular imports of salt into Calcutta from the Middle East and the West Coast ports. Steps have also been taken to improve despatches of salt to the districts from Calcutta. The Bengal Government are now exercising full control over all arrival of salt, their prices and distribution. Provincial Governments are also building up reserve stocks of three months.

(e) Yes. The Government of India have allowed the salt producers in Western India a quota for export to the Eastern provinces and have arranged necessary shipping.

(f) The Bengal Government have fixed the ex-ship price at Rs. 300 per 100 maunds of all imported salt.

(g) No, firstly because the rail haul to Bengal and Assam would be too long for present transport conditions, and secondly, because the finer salt imported from West Coast ports and Middle East countries is preferred in Bengal.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) The present retail price of salt in Calcutta is three annas per seer as against pre-war price of one anna per seer.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know if shipping is available for imports into India from the Middle East and why are the Western India producers starved for shipping space?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is putting more than one question in the supplementary.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I want to know why preference is given to Middle Eastern Countries in shipping as against the West Coast of India?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Bengal has been used to the Middle East salt.

Mr. Hooseinhoy A. Lalljee: May I take it that the Middle East includes Aden because out of the 5½ lakhs, Aden is importing 2½ lakhs.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: May be. I am unable to answer that off-hand.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member consider beginning charity at home by favouring salt in the West Coast of India and giving it shipping?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: My charity always begins at home.

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

(At this stage Mr. K. C. Neogy rose in his seat.)

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

POST-WAR PLANS FOR IMPROVING LABOUR

1043. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) whether Government have any post-war plans for improving labour in this country; and

(b) whether they will consider the advisability of setting apart a portion of the profits of all organised industries for improving the standard of life and giving education to the labourers employed in the respective industries?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Government's final plans in this respect have not been formulated.

(b) The suggestion will be considered along with others in implementing Government's plans.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: When are these plans likely to be formulated?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: As soon as the investigating committee has reported.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if there is a time limit for this committee to report?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, they have promised to give us their report sometime in August next.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of expediting their plans so that before the profits earned for this year are dissipated by the industries, they may be able to set apart a portion of the profits for improving labour conditions?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I shall bear the suggestion in mind.

WASTE OF FOODGRAINS IN GOVERNMENT STORAGES

1044. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) what has been the estimated waste of foodgrains in Government Storages in the years 1943-44 and 1944-45;

(b) in what Provinces this waste has been most marked and for what reasons; and

(c) what steps have been taken to prevent these wastes in future?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). An accurate estimate of the loss of foodgrains in storage is not possible. Deterioration or destruction is caused by insects, rodents, and moisture, most of which can be traced to defective storage or to exposure to weather before storage. Total loss is comparatively rare, since deteriorated foodgrains can be reconditioned, and if unfit for human consumption can still be used for fodder or starch. Serious losses were suffered during 1944 in Bombay, amounting to about 22,000 tons owing to the explosion in the Bombay docks; in Karachi, amounting to about 3,075 tons owing to exposure to unprecedented rainfall, and in Bengal, amounting to about 3,664 tons owing to unfavourable climatic conditions, and the lack of storage and transport sufficient to cope with the large quantities of grain despatched during and after the Bengal famine.

(c) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to part (d) of his question No. 152 on the 13th February 1945.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if one of the main reasons for this loss was the absence of proper receptacles for storing grains?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not know what the Honourable Member means by 'receptacles'.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I mean godowns or warehouses for storing foodgrains.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already stated.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: What steps have been taken by the Government of India since then to set up proper and adequate warehouses to avoid this wastage in future?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already answered a question on this subject.

POSITION OF INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

1045. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state if Mr. R. M. Deshmukh, the High Commissioner for South Africa, has made any contacts with the Union Government of South Africa? What is the present position of Indians there? What is the attitude of the Union Government towards Indians in South Africa?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Mr. Deshmukh has had introductory interviews with Field Marshal Smuts and Mr. Hofmeyr, the Deputy Prime Minister. Since the last debate in the House on the 9th February there has been no fresh development regarding the position of Indians. The Indian question is still under the consideration of the Union Government.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know if the Government is in a position to say what the result of those interviews was?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have no information yet.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the Honourable Member can tell us the present whereabouts of Mr. Deshmukh?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Certainly he is in South Africa.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: What part of South Africa?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: That I do not know.

GHEE PURCHASING AGENCY OF MESSRS. ALOPIPRASAD AND SONS

1046. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) what area including Indian States besides the whole of the Punjab, Gwalior and U. P. has been allotted to Messrs. Alopiprasad and Sons for the purchase of ghee as Government Agents; since what period they have been working as such in those areas;

(b) whether any advances were made to them for the purchase of ghee during the period they had been acting as Government Agents; if so, what amounts and for what period;

(c) whether empty tins are being supplied by Government to them; if so, what has been the largest number supplied, what the number of empty tins at present lying with them is and in what districts;

(d) whether any scrutiny of the stock of empty tins is made by any responsible officer; if so, how many times during the year this scrutiny of Government empty tins is made; and

(e) whether any auditing of this firm's accounts is made; if so, how many times during the year, and whether a statement of this auditing will be placed on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) In addition to the areas mentioned in the question, Rajputana (excluding Jaisalmer and Jodhpur States) and Central India Agency (excluding Bhopal and Rewa States) have since 1942 been allotted to Messrs. Alopiprasad as our Agents for the purchase of ghee.

(b) The reply is in the negative.

(c) Empty tins sufficient to cover a month's requirements at each market are supplied by Government to the Agents. Due to scarcity of tins and transport difficulties, the number of tins allotted to each market may be more or less than the requirements of one month. I cannot undertake to collect information of the number of tins held by the Agents at each of the 77 markets involved.

(d) An account of the stock of empty tins issued and filled tins returned is kept by the Officer-in-Charge.

(e) The Firm's accounts are audited twice a year. The answer to the latter part of the question is in the negative.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know whether, since the contract was given to Messrs. Alopiprasad for the period mentioned, any tenders were called for from other merchants or contractors? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am unable to answer the question without notice.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: The notice is there.

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

ADMISSIONS TO DHANBAD SCHOOL OF MINES

1047. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the number of last admissions in the Dhanbad School of Mines and the number of Muslims therein?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: 24, out of which one was a Muslim but he did not join.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know from the Honourable Member what are the rules for admission in the Dhanbad School of Mines?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is hardly a question that I can answer in reply to a supplementary question; but if my Honourable friend will lay down a question, I will give the information.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: May I know if the Honourable Member can explain the reason why this has been all along like this, why Muslims have not joined the Dhanbad School of Mines?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That is really a matter which surprises me. I have looked into the matter and I do not see any reason why that should be so. I have to inform the Honourable Member that Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad is a member of the Governing Body. He ought to be able to know why exactly this is happening?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: The Governing Body has nothing to do.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Oh, yes, it has every thing to do. The whole management is vested in the Governing Body.

HYDARI MISSION

1048. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state what instructions were given by the Central Government to Sir Akbar Hydari in connection with what is called "Hydari Mission" in relation to future commercial undertaking between India and the United Kingdom?

(b) Is it a fact that the Hydari Mission has been sent to arrange economic and industrial settlement after the war between the United Kingdom and India? If so, what are the basic principles of such settlements arrived at by the Central Government?

(c) Will this settlement between U. K. and India be given effect to during the war?

(d) What consumers' goods are being imported from U. K. and U. S. A. at present, and how will they affect the manufacturers of these goods in India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) None. As regards the objects of the Mission, I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to part (a) of Mr. Neogy's starred question No. 303 on the 16th February 1945.

(b) *First Part.*—No.

(b) *Second Part* and (c). Do not arise.

(d) *First Part.* A list of important items of consumer goods is placed on the table of the House.

Second Part.—Indian manufacturers are not likely to be affected adversely in view of Government's policy to import only such goods as are available and necessary to meet the requirements of the country with due regard to the position of indigenous industries and to their ability to meet that demand.

List of important items of consumers goods imports of which are being encouraged

Alarm Clocks.
Artificial Silk fabrics.
Artificial silk yarn thread.
Books.
Chemicals, household.
Cotton piecegoods others.
Cotton sewing thread.
Crockery.
Cutlery including razor-blades.
Cycle and parts.
Domestic sewing machines and parts.
Drugs, Medicines & Baby foods.
Electric Lamps, table fans and household appliances of all kinds.
Essential oils.
Glassware.
Handknitting wool.
Hardware.
Hosiery.
Hurricane lamps.

Kerosine oil.
Liquors.
Newsprint.
Non-ferrous metals such as aluminium, brass sheets, zinc, etc.
Oil cloth & Floor cloth.
Optical instruments, apparatus and equipment.
Paints.
Paper of all kinds.
Pipe tobacco.
Photographic negative printing paper.
Polish and composition.
Professional and scientific instruments.
Radios & Radio parts.
Second hand clothing.
Stationery.
Toilet requisites.
Torches and components.
Typewriters and parts.
Woolen yarn and Fabrics.

SCARCITY OF DHOTIS IN DELHI CLOTH MARKET.

1049. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies aware of the fact that not even a single pair of dhoti of 5 yds. x 48" was available in the Delhi cloth market on the 25th of February just on the eve of the Holi festival? How did such scarcity of cloth happen in spite of all sorts of textile control ordinances?

(b) Has the Honourable Member in contemplation any step to see that all cloth is standardised and sold as standard cloth through all normal trade channels?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to make co-operative consumers stores all over India as licensed stores for supply of textiles under Government control?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No. Our information is that this is not correct.

(b) No.

(c) Internal distribution within a Province or State is the responsibility of that Province or State and the question of licensing Co-operative Societies will doubtless be considered by them on all relevant occasions.

UNSATISFACTORY SANITARY SITUATION IN INDIA

1050. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Has the attention of the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands been drawn to the paragraph at page 3 of the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 26th January, under the caption "Nearly three lakhs die of Malaria in Bengal" and to another paragraph at page 4 of the same paper of the same date under the caption "Bombay Doctors congratulate the Red Army Military Corps"? If so, will he please state what steps Government propose to take to trace the causes of such contrasts between India and Soviet Government in respect of sanitary situation and to make a statement on the matter on the floor of the House? -

(b) Apart from the steps taken by the Central Government through the Survey of Health Department for postwar reconstruction, does he propose to requisition the Ayurvedic, Yunani and Homeopathic systems of treatment to help the allopathic system in coping with the situation?

(c) Has the Honourable Member taken any step to organise any medical service at the centre for helping the Provincial Governments for coping with the situation?

(d) Does he propose to set up a Health Committee to enquire into the causes of such mortality in Bengal?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) I have seen the articles referred to. Government have set up the Health Survey and Development Committee to make a comprehensive survey of health organisation in India and to make recommendations regarding the measures to be taken to raise the health standards of the country.

(b) The question of the employment of practitioners of the systems of medicine mentioned is a matter for Provincial Governments.

(c) No central medical service has been organised but the Government of India have arranged with the military authorities for the loan of military medical personnel to Provincial Governments in recent severe epidemics.

(d) No. The causes of unusual mortality in Bengal in 1943-44 are being investigated by the Famine Inquiry Commission.

MADRAS PROVINCE APPEALS TO INCOME-TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

1051. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Law Member please state:

(a) the number of appeals from Madras Province in January, 1944 and 1945 before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal;

(b) whether the large number of cases pending in Madras necessitates the two Benches in Bombay and Patna to move down to Madras and help the Madras Bench to clear the arrears;

(c) whether the number of cases pending are still many in spite of this; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to make the Madras Bench permanent and strengthen it?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) The number of pending appeals from Madras was 377 at the end of January, 1944, and 232 at the end of January, 1945.

(b) The Bombay and Patna Benches visited Madras to assist in the disposal of Madras arrears during the earlier months only of the period for which the Madras Bench was in existence.

(c) I have given the latest available figure in my reply to part (a).

(d) The Madras Bench ceased to exist at the end of February. Government will watch developments and will be prepared to consider the re-establishment of a Madras Bench should occasion arise.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what the duration of the delays on an average has been this year?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: That supplementary question does not arise on this question. I am not in a position to answer it.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is there any need for these two Benches to go to Madras again for the disposal of pending appeals?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: There was need when the Benches went to Madras.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On what basis was the period extended by one month, till March?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: The life of the Bench has not been extended to March. It ceased to exist at the end of February.

INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO LEAGUE OF NATIONS

1052. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: (a) Will the Honourable the Law Member please state what has been the contribution of India towards the League of Nations since the war?

(b) What is the work which the League of Nations is now doing to justify this contribution?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) I lay on the table a Statement containing the information required.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the latest available Report on the work of the League (for 1942-43) a copy of which is in the Library.

Statement Contributions to League of Nations since the outbreak of war			
1940	9,41,000	1942	7,54,649
1941	7,54,649	1943	4,73,101
		1944	8,88,000
TOTAL			43,11,399

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member give us the total expenditure incurred—just one figure?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: The total expenditure from 1940-44 is Rs. 43,11,399.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will Government tell us what work is being done when the League of Nations does not even exist? Do Government think it desirable to go on incurring this expenditure?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Yes, a lot of work is being done.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: What kind of work?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I have referred you to a book. If you will look at pages 27-48 you will find the work which is being done by the Economic, Financial and Transit Sections. On pages 49-58 you will find the work which is being done by the Health Section of the League. You will find that the Health Section of the League has been actively engaged on problems facing health administration and has concentrated its activities particularly on the present food scarcity, danger of epidemic outbreaks, etc. It has also been assisting the International Red Cross with information which is based on its experience, in order to determine what drugs are needed for epidemic relief. I may say in a word it has been carrying on health research generally. Then it is giving international assistance to refugees. Honourable Members know that the International Labour Office is pursuing its work actively. Only the other day there was a session of the International Labour Conference which was held

in Philadelphia, and which was attended by delegates from member countries. Further, you will see from pages 58—68 the work which is being done by the Supervisory Board of the Central Organisation. The Honourable Member will be satisfied if he reads or even glances through the book that the League is doing good work still.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: May I know where this beautiful work is being done?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I can tell you that good work is being done in various places, for instance, Washington, Princeton, London, and other places.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know if the San Francisco Conference is not expected to put an end to this white elephant?

(No answer.)

MANUFACTURE OF D. D. T.

1053. *Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether the Government of India are going to import D. D. T. which is an antidote to mosquitoes and pests?

(b) Is he aware that several laboratories in this country have successfully manufactured the said drug?

(c) If the answer be in the affirmative, why should not Government encourage the manufacture of the drug in the country by releasing the raw materials for the purpose namely, Chlorine and Benzene which are available here in sufficient quantity?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A small quantity is being imported in 1945 for experimental use.

(b) So far as Government are aware three or four firms in India have prepared D. D. T. but only on a laboratory scale.

(c) Benzene is not a controlled article and it can be obtained through normal trade channels. As regards chlorine, with the exception of one firm which applied for its release and got it, no other firm has applied for any assistance in procuring it.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know what this D. D. T. means?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I understand its full name is 'Dichloro-Diphenyl-Trichloro-Ethane'.

PROVISION OF QUARTERS FOR MINERS

1054. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if residential quarters are provided for miners in all mining areas; and, if not, why not;

(b) if no quarters are provided, what steps Government propose to take to ensure that miners have proper housing accommodation;

(c) if Government are aware that the sanitary conditions in mining areas are very unsatisfactory and that lack of good housing accommodation and proper sanitation is seriously affecting the health of the miners and their families and thereby production; and

(d) if Government propose to consult the Tripartite Conference about the matter referred to in (c); and, if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Residential quarters are provided for miners in the important mining areas.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Indian Mines Act lays down the primary requirements regarding sanitary and health provisions, and the Mines Inspectorate see that they are properly observed.

(d) I shall consider the suggestion.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Since the coal situation is very grave may I ask Government if they will appoint a Committee of Experts, Medical, Health and Engineering, to go into the questions mentioned in (c)?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: We have already appointed a Coal-Mines Welfare Committee by whom all these questions are considered.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask what proportion of miners are housed in the houses provided in the mining areas?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am afraid I must have notice of that question.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The Honourable Member has made a wrong statement.

RESTORATION OF BAN ON WOMEN WORKING UNDERGROUND IN MINES

1055. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if Government have seen the recent report of questions and answers in the House of Commons regarding women working underground in mines; and, if so, whether and when Government supplied Mr. Amery with the information that he stated he had called for, and what that information is;

(b) when Government will conclude the consideration of the question of restoring the ban on employment of women underground in mines;

(c) what steps Government have taken to prevent such hardships to women; "are low but compare favourably with the pay in other industries in India" is based on facts; and

(d) if the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, the rates of pay for women workers in other industries in India?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Government have seen the reports in question. They do not consider it in the public interest to disclose the nature and contents of their report to the India Office.

(b) The question of the restoration of the ban on the employment of women underground in mines is constantly under review.

(c) and (d). What the Secretary of State said was that the rates of pay "compare favourably with those of other industries in that part of India". The only comparable labour is that employed on the neighbouring construction works, and Government believe that the statement is not far from truth.

MATERNITY BENEFITS AND FACILITIES FOR WOMEN MINERS

1056. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the information received by Government regarding matters referred to in question No. 437 on the 21st February, 1945, and its supplementaries;

(b) whether and, if so, how many women miners were delivered of babies inside the mines, and if there were any casualties among women and their infants;

(c) what steps Government have taken to prevent such hardships to women;

(d) whether Government have called for a medical report on the consequences to the health of expectant mothers by underground work and the action taken by Government on it;

(e) what arrangements have been made in all mining areas for ante-natal and post-natal care; and

(f) whether women doctors with adequate staff are stationed in all mining areas; and, if not, whether Government propose to take immediate steps to do so and instruct the women doctors to maintain a separate health record of every one of the women working underground and their children?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). No report has been received of any child having been born underground. The second part of (b) does not arise.

(c) Under the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941, women workers in mines may obtain leave for a month before the expected date of delivery, and they are prohibited from being employed during the four weeks following delivery. A bill to prohibit the employment of women underground during the ten weeks prior to the expected date of delivery is now before the House.

(d) No; the second part of the question does not arise.

(e) Arrangements have been made for ante-natal and post-natal care by the Mines Board of Health in the Jharia and Ranigunj coalfields. Some of the larger mines provide independent arrangements.

(f) Women doctors and adequate staff are employed at some of the large mines. Many mines provide midwives and nurses at hospitals. The second part of the question does not arise.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask if Government will make uniform arrangements in all mines for the welfare of women?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: We have that matter under consideration.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that the House has declared itself against the employment of women below ground, will the Government of India now impose the ban in accordance with the wishes of this Legislature?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I thought that the decision of the House was more of a political *démarche* than a decision on merits.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: He has wilfully misunderstood the intention of the House.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: On a point of order, is the Honourable Member free to put such an interpretation as to impute motives in regard to a well-considered decision of the House? If so, it will be very difficult to carry on. We have an irresponsible Government, and if they are going to talk like this.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is a speech you are making. On a point of order you cannot make a speech.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Can he impute motives?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As I followed the Honourable Labour Member, I believe he wanted to convey to the House that the question was considered from more than one point of view including political. At any rate, I do not think he was imputing any wrong motive to the House by saying that the question has been dealt with on political grounds.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: On a point of explanation, the official report of what the Honourable Member said may be referred to. He said it was a political *démarche*.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know if the Government of India reconsidered the question after the vote given by this Legislature?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have nothing to add to what I said.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CARE OF MINERS' CHILDREN

1057. ***Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the information received by Government about arrangements for the care of children and infants of miners since the reply given to starred question No. 436 on the 21st February 1945;

(b) the information received by Government on the points raised in supplementaries to that question; and

(c) whether milk is supplied free to infants and children of the miners; and, if so, the quantity of milk given to each child according to age, and if no milk is given, the reason for not giving it?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). I have not yet received a report on all matters, but would first make clear that there is an absolute prohibition on women at any time taking babies underground, and themselves going underground for a period of 4 weeks after childbirth.

An enquiry made by the Lady Labour Welfare Officer a few months ago disclosed that women in an advanced state of pregnancy generally did not go underground and I have introduced a Bill which while giving longer benefit will prohibit them from going underground for 10 weeks before expected date of childbirth.

So far as I have ascertained no organised facilities exist for mothers to come to the surface to feed their babies at regular intervals, but the Lady Welfare Officer states that there is a tendency for women with children at home to leave the mines early to return to their homes.

(c) In a few mines only Government are examining further possibilities in regard to improvement of health of women and children in mining areas.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In regard to that tendency for mothers who have left their children at home to leave the mines a little early, are they made to suffer any loss of wages because they leave a little early, or are they encouraged to leave the mines early without loss of pay?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: They are paid by tubs: it is piece work.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: How many hours at a stretch do they work?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is piece work: they can go any time and come at any time.

PROPOSED VISIT OF INDIAN INDUSTRIALISTS TO BRITAIN

1058. ***Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) if Government have seen the report of recent questions and answers in the House of Commons regarding the group of Indian industrialists who will visit Britain early in April; and, if so, what is meant by Mr. Amery's statement that this group "had arranged their own composition";

(b) whether this group is going at the invitation and expense of the British Government or the Government of India;

(c) the object of their visit; and

(d) whether Government propose to ask a Labour Delegation including representatives of women workers to visit Great Britain and other foreign countries; and, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes, but I have not seen the full statement and in the absence of the copy of the full statement it is not possible for me to say as to what was actually intended by the Secretary of State. The industrialists have been invited by the Government of India to visit U. K., the visit is unofficial in character and the members are free to arrange their programme and discuss matters unfettered by any terms of reference or any form of special guidance. This was what was probably meant by the Secretary of State.

(b) On the invitation of the Government of India who are only providing the necessary facilities for the proposed visit. The industrialists will bear their own expenses.

(c) The object is to enable the industrialists of this country to study the developments and technical advances made by the industries in that country during the past few years in furtherance of their own post-war industrial plans and to have contacts with the industrialists of U. K. for this purpose.

(d) Government are not sure that a visit by a Labour Delegation would achieve the specific objects in view. But Government have already granted facilities to Labour Delegations to attend the World Trade Union Congress and have agreed to bear the journey expenses of two of the Delegates.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member tell us what are the decisions reached by the Hydari Mission as reported in the papers today?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I never understood the Hydari Mission had anything to do with this delegation and I am quite prepared to answer a question if it is put.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask if the Government propose to provide this delegation with a secretariat?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That depends entirely on the wishes and intentions of the delegates themselves.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Das: Will the Honourable Member give us the composition of the delegation?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am quite prepared to give it; it consists of nine or ten persons.

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

INDIAN REPRESENTATION AT SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE

†1059. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) whether India will be represented at the next peace conference to be held at San Francisco, U. S. A., on the 25th April, 1945; and

(b) who will nominate India's representatives, and who will prepare their brief for the conference?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The question will be answered by Foreign Secretary on the appropriate day.

MICA ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

†1060. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the stage the Mica Enquiry Committee has reached;

(b) the probable date by which the Committee is expected or has been asked to finish the enquiry;

(c) the probable date for the publication of the report of the Committee; and

(d) whether the report will be made available to the public and to the Members of the Legislative Assembly as soon as completed?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The Mica Enquiry Committee are still engaged in the examination of witnesses in the mica areas.

(b) The Committee hope to submit its report to Government by the end of August 1945.

(c) and (d). Government are unable to make a pronouncement at this stage.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: May I know why this committee was formed? What was the necessity for this committee?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I would refer my Honourable friend to the *communique* which was issued by the Government on this subject.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Honourable Member will read or give us a short summary—probably I would like to ask some question.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It has been published in the *Gazette*.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is it not a fact that the committee was formed at the instance of the manager of the Christian Company?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: No.

EXPENDITURE, ETC., ON DELHI POLYTECHNIC

†1061. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) the annual expenditure on the Delhi Polytechnic, the total number of students receiving training therein, the number of Muslims among them, the total number of the staff and the number of Muslims on the staff;

(b) the concessions, scholarships and free studentships granted in the institution, how many of them are given to Muslims and how many to non-Muslims;

(c) whether the Honourable Member proposes to consider the necessity for taking special steps to attract Muslim students in adequate numbers and to provide for adequate number of Muslims on the staff; and

(d) whether he proposes to reserve a sufficient number of seats at this institution for Muslims as is done at MacLagan Civil Engineering College, Mohalpur.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The annual expenditure on the Delhi Polytechnic which varies from year to year was about Rs. 3.36 lacs in 1943-44 excluding the cost of new buildings. The total number of students on the rolls on the 31st August, 1944, was 1,113 out of whom 280 (25.2 per cent.) were Muslims. On the 1st January, 1945, 25 out of 92 members of the staff (27.2 per cent.) were Muslims.

(b) During 1944-45, full fee and half-fee concessions were granted to 159 students in all out of whom 48 (30.2 per cent.) were Muslims. No scholarships are given by Government.

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

(c) and (d). No; Muslims seem to be availing themselves readily of the facilities available and there is no reason to believe that Muslim interests are being overlooked in the Delhi Polytechnic.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know what is the percentage of the Muslim population in Delhi where this Polytechnic is situated?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am afraid I cannot answer what the Muslim population of Delhi is, but in any case I regard this as an all-India institution.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: How many students are there from the Scheduled Classes in this institution and how many of them are getting full fee or half fee concessions?

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

FAILURE IN EMBARKATION OF CERTAIN HAJ PILGRIMS AT KARACHI

†1062. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please refer to his reply to parts (c) and (d) of my starred question No. 423 of the 15th November, 1944, regarding embarkation arrangement for Haj Pilgrims at Karachi and state:

(a) why the ten persons to whom tickets had been issued failed to embark; from which Province or Provinces these persons arrived in Karachi;

(b) whether the failure to embark on board the ship was on the part of the Government or the persons themselves;

(c) if the failure was on the part of Government, the reasons therefor;

(d) if the failure was on the part of the persons, whether it was due to the fact that they were not informed in time by the Pilgrim Officer; if so, why; what action is proposed to be taken against the Pilgrim Officer; if none, why;

(e) whether Government paid compensation to these persons for the loss thus sustained; and

(f) the number of deaths at the Haji's camp, Karachi, during October, 1944?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) and (b). They arrived at the wharf too late to embark on the ship. The failure to embark was thus on their own part. They came from the United Provinces and Delhi.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) It is not a fact that the failure on the part of these persons was due to Haj Officer's failure to furnish necessary information. The time by which pilgrims should be at the wharf was duly notified by the Haj staff as well as by the Shipping Company's staff. All pilgrims but these ten reached the wharf in time and embarked. This party of ten consisted of well educated persons some of whom had performed the pilgrimage in the past. The rest of this question does not arise.

(e) No.

(f) Four.

FAILURE IN EMBARKATION OF BENGAL HAJ PILGRIMS AT KARACHI

†1063. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please refer to his reply to my starred question No. 424 of the 15th November, 1944, regarding Haj Pilgrimage and supply the information now?

(b) Has his attention been drawn to the fact that 175 Haj pilgrims from Bengal had been compelled to return to Bengal from Karachi disappointed?

(c) Do Government propose to compensate these disappointed pilgrims? If not, why not?

(d) Is it a fact that certain intending Haj pilgrims who were definitely asked to go to pilgrimage in the second batch were compelled to go in the first batch failing which their steamer fares were liable to be forfeited?

(e) Is it a fact that in consequence of this act of the Haj Officer, some of them had to face difficulties and hardships? If so, what action do Government propose to take to compensate the loss and inconvenience caused to such pilgrims?

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

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) and (b). 70, and not 175, persons from Bengal and Assam, who had failed to comply with Government's instructions published in the press, came to Karachi in the hope of securing passages somehow and had to return home for lack of shipping accommodation.

(c) No; because according to the instructions published they were not entitled to passages and because Government do not, in any case, own any obligation to pay compensation in such cases.

(d) In view of the limited number of pilgrims for whom accommodation could be provided Government had no alternative to insisting on applicants embarking by the first ship available after the receipt of their applications. Otherwise the inevitable result would have been that ships of the first batch would have gone mostly empty while there would have been an excessive rush for those of the second batch and a large number of pilgrims would have been left behind. Pilgrims who had applied for passages in time to be sent by the first batch were, therefore, restricted as a rule to that particular batch because applicants generally showed a tendency to sail by the second batch, presumably after receiving the news of the safe arrival of the first batch at Jeddah. In spite of this precaution taken to ensure that the maximum number of pilgrims would sail the ships of the first batch had to sail with nearly 900 pilgrims less than they had accommodation for.

(e) Does not arise.

LIMITED NUMBER OF PURCHASE LICENCES FOR GROUNDNUTS, ETC., ISSUED IN MADRAS

1064. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that licences are given by the Civil Supplies Commissioner, Madras, only to one or two contractors or traders to purchase groundnuts, cake, oil, *gur* or other agricultural commodity from the whole or a specified part of a district and no one else is allowed to purchase such commodities;

(b) whether any minimum or any set scale of prices are fixed for such commodities; and, if so, on what basis and in consultation with whom—the local trade or peasants; and, if not, why not; and

(c) why Government have denied the benefit to peasants of either competition between traders or a fixed and enforceable price for such commodities?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: An enquiry has been made from the Provincial Government and the information will be laid on the table of the House when received.

EXPORT OF *GUR* TO MIDDLE EAST

1065. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that Government contemplate allowing exports of *gur* from India to the Middle East countries?

(b) If so, what are the total quantities involved, giving details, country and quantitywise?

(c) Was *gur* ever exported before? If so, what are the details of the quantities despatched to various countries?

(d) Do Government contemplate distribution of *gur* export quotas to different firms on certain basis? If so, what are they?

(e) Do Government contemplate following in case of *gur* exports the basic principle of granting export permits to firms which have previously exported the stuff, and which principle they generally follow in case of other commodities?

(f) If the above basic principle is not to be followed in the case of *gur* exports, what are the reasons for deviation in this particular matter?

(g) What are the quantities of *gur* export quotas contemplated to be distributed to the firms of different communities?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a), (b) and (d) to (g). A proposal to export *gur* is under the consideration of the Government of India.

(c) Yes, to a small extent. A statement showing the export of *gur* to certain countries in the Middle East is placed on the table of the House.

Statement showing exports of *gur* to certain countries in the Middle East

Name of country	Quantity of <i>gur</i> in tons exported during the year		
	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44
1. Iran		11.0	1,096.0
2. Iraq		211.0	269.0
3. Bahrain	0.3	0.2	
4. Trucial Coast	0.7	77.5	9.0
5. Saudi Arabia		1.0	
6. Hydrainout	241.0	4.0	
7. Aden	41.0	0.5	

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the *gur* is being exported through the instrumentality of the U. K. C. C.?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Then who are the parties who will be given a license to export?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already answered that question. The proposal is under consideration by the Government of India and I am not in a position to make a statement at this stage, but I wish to assure the Honourable Member that it will not be the U. K. C. C.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why export it at all when this country needs it?

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

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact

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

GHEE PURCHASING AGENCIES

1066. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member kindly state whether all the area comprising the Punjab, U. P. and the adjoining area of Indian States, like Gwalior and different States of Central India as well as different States of Rajputana, are assigned by Government to one agent for purchasing ghee since the last four years and before that for a number of years for the whole of India? If so, why have all other well-known firms throughout India been debarred so long from so acting?

(b) Is it a fact that the policy of Government is to invite, from time to time, well-known firms to offer their services as agents for purchase of ghee? If so, why has that policy not been given effect to in all cases, and in what cases have they deviated from this policy and for what reasons?

(c) Have Government been satisfied with the working results of all their agents who are and were acting as their ghee purchasing agents? If so, have they been able to gather the quantities required of them, and has this quantity been sufficient to meet the requirements of army, and further why is it that in recent years Indian army is supplied more and more vegetable product?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. Owing to satisfactory performance it has not been necessary to consider replacement of the firm in question in this area.

(b) Yes; an exception was made in the case of Messrs. Alopi Prashad and Sons Ltd., for the reason stated in my reply to part (a).

(c) Government have been satisfied with the performance of their agents, except those who have been replaced. Procurement has been up to the requirements of the Army.

Increase in supply of vegetable product is due to limited amount of good quality milk-ghee available, and the needs of the civilian population.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know the names of the agents who have been replaced?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There is one firm which I can name just now, and that is the Ghee Supply Company, Limited, of Calcutta; they were replaced for the reason given in answer to part (c).

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What were the reasons which made the Government cancel the agency? Is it anything particular or mere dissatisfaction?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already stated that we were not satisfied with their work.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Exactly. What was the fault of the agents?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am unable to go into the matter at this stage, as certain inquiries are in progress.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: May I know since when Messrs. Alopri Prasad and Sons are enjoying the monopoly of ghee supply?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The Alopri Prasad concern was appointed the sole ghee purchasing agent for the military in 1926.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Long live Alopri Prasad!

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Am I to understand that this particular company has been enjoying a monopoly from 1926 till now?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that this firm of Alopri Prasad is responsible for the adulteration of good ghee in the neighbourhood between Delhi and Agra and it is impossible on account of the influence of this firm to get good ghee in the neighbourhood?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not accept the suggestion contained in the question.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: If the Honourable Member is not aware of the fact that good ghee is not available within this area, then the Honourable Member is not familiar with the conditions of life of the Department over which he presides—if he does not know an elementary fact that anybody knows.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That is a matter of opinion. I feel that I know my business much more than the Honourable Member sitting there.

(Some Honourable Members rose to ask questions.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. It is 12 o'clock, and this interesting matter must be dropped.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

GHEE PURCHASING AGENCIES

1067. *Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member kindly state if it is a fact that, while one of the ghee supplying agents has been continually enjoying the purchase monopoly for Government in a very large area of India for several years, the other agents' area is being restricted and the quantities are also being reduced? If so, why is this discrimination both with regard to area and quantity?

(b) Is it a fact that very recently by public notice applications were invited from well-known firms to act as purchasing agents for ghee? If so, for what period were they appointed, and is it a fact that their activities are being suddenly curtailed?

(c) What was the number of the ghee purchasing agents, and why was a new agent appointed when the activities of those serving were to be curtailed?

(d) Will Government state the areas including States from which different agents are now required to purchase?

(e) Do Government propose to revise the allocation of areas between different agents so as to give equal opportunities to all the different agents to make purchases?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). Prior to 1942 one firm had the sole agency for the whole of India. When the Army demand increased other firms were introduced to make supplies. In consequence of a reduction in the Army demand recently some agents areas have been restricted and all agents quantities have been reduced. On the 21st February 1945 two firms were given three months notice of termination of their agreements. In July 1944 applications were invited by advertisement. The period of appointment is one year.

(c) Four agents were functioning when the new agent was appointed. His appointment on the 1st December 1944 was necessary in order to operate the Madras Area. The curtailment in the total demand was not known at that time.

(d) A statement is placed on the table.

(e) I am re-examining the matter.

Name of the Agent	Area of operation as on 1st March 1945
Alopri Prasad & Sons Ltd.	United Provinces, Punjab, Punjab State, Gwalior State, Central India States and certain Rajputana States.
Piloo D. Sidhva & Co.	Kathiawar, Baroda State, Palanpur State and Gujarat Agency.
Hooseinbhoys Sons & Co.	Central Provinces & Berar, Rewa State and Hyderabad State.
Sind Ghee Purchasing Agency	Sind, Las Bela State, Jaisalmer State, Kalat and Baluchistan.
British India Trading Co.	Madras Province.

CONTROVERSY BETWEEN MESSRS. S. A. DANGE AND A. K. MUKERJI

1068. *Lala Sham Lal: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to press reports of the skirmish between Messrs. S. A. Dange and A. K. Mukerji on the question of nomination of representative of All-India Trade Union Congress and Indian Federation of Labour on the Credentials Committee of the World Trade Unions Congress recently held in London; published in the *Daily Gazette* of Karachi, dated the 8th February, 1945, and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to discourage the recognition of labour organizations in India like the Indian Labour Federation; if none, why?

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

(b) None, as the Indian Federation of Labour has a substantial following among workers.

STUDY OF AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS IN RUSSIA

1069. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if the Government of India are either going to send their officers to study agricultural and industrial conditions in Russia or import any experts from Russia to give advice in matters relating to health, agriculture and geology? If not, why not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The question is under consideration by the Departments concerned.

The Honourable Member is no doubt aware that, on the invitation of the Government of India, a Russian Expert, Prof. Ognev, recently visited India to hold discussions with the Health Development Committee.

CERTAIN ORDER OF RATIONING CONTROLLER, DELHI

1070. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state whether, in pursuance of the reply given by him on the 28th February, 1945, to question No. 542, regarding a recent order of the Rationing Authorities, Delhi, he proposes to advise the Delhi Administration to suspend all the pending demands for security deposit made on the business establishments till such time as the matter is finally settled by him?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The answer is in the affirmative.

FIXING SUGAR QUOTAS IN DELHI

1071. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the principle, if any, guiding the Rationing Authorities in Delhi in deciding the amounts of sugar quota to be granted to various applicants?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I assume that the Honourable Member is referring to the allotment of quotas to restaurants and other establish-

ments by the Delhi Rationing authorities. For those establishments which were in existence before the introduction of rationing, quotas are based on the number of customers and the actual consumption of the establishment during the previous year. Establishments which were not in existence at the commencement of rationing, are not entitled to any quota but allotments to them are made only for exceptional reasons.

BULK PERMITS ISSUED TO DELHI HINDUSTANI MERCANTILE ASSOCIATION

1072. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) if it is not a fact that the Delhi Hindustani Mercantile Association was given two bulk permits for export by rail, 3,000 bales of cotton cloth to U. P. and 500 bales to Rajputana for the months of January and February, 1945?

(b) if it is a fact that, in pursuance of these bulk permits issued to the merchants of Delhi, the dealers from U. P. and Rajputana duly got their consignments ready to be booked, when all of a sudden the authorities asked the Mercantile Association not to issue permits to the merchants and simultaneously asked the Railway Authorities not to book the consignments unless permitted by the Assistant Director of Civil Supplies (Textiles), Delhi;

(c) if it is not a fact that since the promulgation of the Delhi Cotton Cloth (Export by Road) Control Order, 1944, on the 30th December, 1944, permits were granted only for one or two days to the cloth merchants of Delhi for exporting cloth to U. P. by road with the result that the movement of cloth to U. P. even by road was totally stopped; and

(d) if it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of cloth in U. P. and Rajputana and that the failure to despatch the cloth to those areas is causing great hardships to the consumers in those places?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes. The permits were received in Delhi on the 1st March 1945.

(b) Yes. The Assistant Director of Civil Supplies, Delhi, issued instructions on the 6th March 1945 to the Railway authorities not to book any consignment of cloth under these permits unless the forwarding note was signed by him. This was done in order to keep a record and to control the movement of cloth. Instructions have since been issued to permit the despatch of the bales in question and the entire quantity is expected to move out of Delhi by the end of this month.

(c) The Delhi Cotton Cloth (Export by Road) Control Order, 1944, was promulgated in order to prevent evasion of the prohibition on rail transport which was being practised following the inclusion of Delhi in the Punjab Deficit Zone. Permits for export by road were not issued at the time as it had not been decided then that Delhi should be a distributing centre for certain parts of the U. P. and Rajputana, and also the quota for U. P. had not been received.

(d) As cloth is being despatched from Delhi, the question does not arise.

BULK PERMITS ISSUED TO DELHI HINDUSTANI MERCANTILE ASSOCIATION

1073. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) if it is a fact that before the information about the promulgation of the Delhi Cotton Cloth (Export by Road) Order, 1944, could be known to the merchants of Delhi, the authorities seized the bales of cloth that were moving by road;

(b) if it is a fact that the seized bales of cloth remained lying in the custody of the authorities for about two months and that subsequently, the said seized cloth was allowed to be restored to the merchant-owners only after sealing them; and

(c) if it is a fact that since then the bales of cloth are lying sealed in the custody of the merchants and that they are neither allowed to be despatched nor is any step taken against the merchants?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No.

(b) The cloth seized for contravention of the said Order has in some cases been released to the owners at their request under the orders of the Court trying such cases on account of lack of safe custody arrangements. The bales have been sealed, as they have to be produced intact before the Court when required.

(c) Owing to the large number of persons involved, investigation has taken some time, but it is expected to take the case to court within a few days.

SEIZING OF ACCOUNT BOOKS OF MERCHANTS BY THE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, DELHI

1074. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) if it is not a fact that the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order, 1943, provides for inspection of any books or documents belonging to, or under the control of, any person and that there is no provision for seizure of any account books;

(b) if it is a fact that the Enforcement Officer, Delhi, has seized the account books of the merchants of Delhi who are supposed to have contravened the provision of the Cloth Control Order, and kept the said account books in his own custody for months together, causing inconvenience to the merchants; and

(c) in how many cases the account books of Delhi merchants have been seized and detained by the Enforcement Officer?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No specific provision for seizure of account books exists in the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order.

(b) Account books were taken possession of by the Enforcement Officer only for production in court as exhibits in cases in which offences were alleged to have been committed. As soon as the detention of the books was not considered necessary, they were returned under the orders of the court.

(c) 18 cases.

APPOINTMENT OF AGENT FOR PURCHASING COTTON CLOTH FROM BOMBAY AND AHMEDABAD, FOR DELHI

1075. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Director of Civil Supplies, Delhi, has appointed a purchasing agent for purchasing Cotton Cloth from the Bombay and Ahmedabad markets for Delhi;

(b) if it is a fact that the Delhi Hindustani Mercantile Association has made a representation to the Director of Civil Supplies, Delhi, that the practice of purchase through a purchasing agent should be discontinued, and that the permits should be granted to the dealers individually or to the groups of the dealers;

(c) if it is a fact that the Textile Commissioner is prepared to deliver cloth to the leaders of the various groups of dealers having permits from the Director of Civil Supplies, Delhi; and

(d) if the answer to (c) be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to accede to the proposal of the Delhi merchants; if not, why not?

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

(b) No special representation has been received.

(c) and (d). The Textile Commissioner is, of course, prepared to deliver cloth to more than one nominee of a Provincial Government or administration but to select such nominees is entirely a matter for the local administration whose action has the support of the local advisory Committee.

POSTPONED STARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

WRITTEN ANSWER

(Postponed from March 13, 1945)

COAL SUPPLIED TO CIVIL POPULATION IN BIHAR

956. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of coal supplied to the civil population in Bihar during 1943-44, and

(b) the conditions on which coal is supplied to the civil population?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). Figures for March, 1943, to January, 1944 are not available. 5,219 tons were supplied against the Bihar Provincial quota from 12th February, 1944 to 29th February, 1944 and 8,228 tons of coal and coke during March, 1944. This Provincial quota was for domestic consumption and the use of various small industries in that province not engaged on war supply. The detailed distribution of the supplies received against the Provincial quota among the different consumers is the responsibility of the Provincial Government, and the Government of India has no information about the actual quantities of coal or coke supplied for domestic consumption by the civil population of Bihar, or the conditions, if any, on which these supplies are made.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

LICENCES UNDER DELHI COTTON CLOTH DEALERS' LICENSING ORDER

90. Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state how many licences in classes A, B, C and E were issued under the Delhi Cotton Cloth Dealers' Licensing Order, 1944; to those dealers who started their business after December, 1942?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS AT TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of the Declaration* and Recommendations* adopted by the twenty-sixth Session of the International Labour Conference.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Supply Member): 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 Department of Supply is concerned, during the financial year 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, five non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Department of Supply is concerned, during the financial year 1945-46."

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That for the word 'five' the word 'seven' be substituted."

In anticipation that the Congress and the Muslim League would be taking part in this election, I thought it desirable to increase the number from 'five' to 'seven', so that the Committee may be truly representative.

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

"That for the word 'five' the word 'seven' be substituted."

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): I just want to say that my friend Mr. Deshmukh was wrong in his assumption that we are going to take part in this. The Muslim League is not going to take part in the election or the voting.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: In the circumstances, I withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

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

*Not printed in these Debates, but copy has been placed in the Library of the House.—
ed. of D.

"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 Department of Supply is concerned, during the financial year 1945-46."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR HOME DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): Sir, with your permission and on the assumption that the Muslim League and the Congress Parties intend to take part, I would like to substitute the word 'five' for the word 'three' in the motion I am about to move. 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 Home Department."

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 Home Department."

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I do not propose to move my amendment.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): I am told that the Honourable Member in charge of the Home Department has accepted a compromise and has agreed to raise the number of members on this committee from 3 to 5 and I am told that there is an understanding that each of the organised Parties in this House will select one member and the unattached Members will select one. Is that information correct? I have been given this information. If there is any such understanding, then it will not be necessary to move any amendment. Otherwise, Sir, I think it will be necessary to move an amendment to increase the number to 7 or 8, because if the Congress Party, which is the largest Party in this House and the Muslim League Party, which is the next largest, want to have a very large number of members on this committee, the other organised Parties and the unattached Members will go unrepresented. That would create a very unsatisfactory situation.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The position is this. I understood that three was too small. I told the Government Whip to talk to the whips of the other Parties and settle a reasonable number which would prove acceptable. I was told that the whips of parties had agreed to five. That is why I moved for five. The distribution is really for the Parties to settle among themselves. I was told that an agreement had been reached, on the basis of five.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: The Whip did not approach me.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): I am not going to question the agreement which is said to have been arrived at between the Whips but I do contend that the Government in fixing the number should take into consideration the fact that all the groups in this House should be adequately represented.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is exactly what I have done.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: There is the European Group. There is the Nationalist Party and there are the unattached Members. If you are going to fix the number at 5, there is every danger of these groups and parties being left out. It is for the Government to fix a reasonable number. We are not going to quarrel about it. There is no objection to 5 if an agreement has been arrived at, but personally I think 7 would be an appropriate number.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga cum Saran: Non-Muhammadan): I had a talk with Sir Francis Mudie and I said that if the number was 5 instead of 3, it would satisfy all Parties. After that I had a talk with Dr. Banerjee and he said that 5 will not satisfy them. He suggested 6.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: How will this number 5 be distributed among the Parties?

Mr. Hooseinbhooy A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): I submit we ought to have a statement from the Honourable the Home Member or the whips as to how this arrangement was arrived at. Under the present figure, the unattached Members may be left out and the transferable vote will be of no use.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The whips told the Home Member that an agreement had been reached?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: There is an amendment of Mr. Essak Sait for 'eight'. If the House is agreeable to 'eight', then it will be agreeable to me. The point is that I was told there was an agreement and my motion was according to that agreement.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Do I take it that the House then wants 'eight'?

Some Honourable Members: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Essak Sait will then move his amendment.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Sir, I find myself in this difficulty. I am a party to this agreement to fix the number at 'five'. The first proposal was for 'three', then we had a talk and fixed it at 'five'. If the Government is agreeable to have 'eight', I shall be very happy to move my amendment. Sir, I move:

"That for the word 'three' the word 'eight' be substituted."

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

"That for the word 'three' the word 'eight' 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, eight non-official Members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Home Department."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): 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 Labour Department is concerned."

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 Labour Department is concerned."

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surma Valley cum Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted."

Sir, in view of the growing importance of labour problems in the country, it is very necessary that the Committee should consist of ten members.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No long speech is necessary. Amendment moved:

"That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted."

There are other amendments in the names of Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh and Mr. Essak Sait.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): My amendment is for 'eight'. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam's amendment is for 'ten' and so mine is covered in that amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House may not accept that amendment.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: I am a party to the agreement that there should be 'five'. So, I am not moving my amendment.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: I have not finished my speech, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): My amendment is for 'six'. I move:

"That for the word 'five' the word 'six' be substituted."

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

"That for the word 'five' the word 'six' be substituted."

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): Sir, I rise to support the amendment moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam. It is very seldom that he and I are in agreement, but there is something wrong with the Labour Department of the Government of India. This is a Department which has created a very bad precedent of employing women in mines.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go into the merits of the administration of the Department.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I am making a very short speech.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I cannot allow even a short speech on a matter which does not arise. The motion is only for the election of a Committee.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Then, I simply sum up by saying that the affairs of this Department require very close scrutiny and so, ten Members should form the Committee.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am prepared to accept the amendment.

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

"That for the word 'five' 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, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Labour Department is concerned."

The motion was adopted.

(At this stage, it was noticed that there were loud conversations going on amongst Members and there was much noise.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. There is too much noise. The proceedings cannot be carried on if there is such noise. Sir Jeremy Raisman.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I am not moving this motion* today.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following committees, namely:

	Date for nomination	Date for election
(1) Standing Committee for the Department of Supply	19th March	22nd March
(2) Standing Committee for the Home Department	19th March	22nd March
(3) Standing Committee for the Labour Department	19th March	23rd March

The nominations for all the three 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 Regulations for the holding of

*That this Assembly do proceed to the election, for the financial year 1945-46, in such method as may be approved, by the Honourable the President, of a Standing Finance Committee of the Assembly not exceeding fourteen in number, to which shall be added a Member of the Assembly to be nominated by the Governor General. The Member so nominated shall be the Chairman of the Committee.

[Mr. President]

elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that the following Members have been elected to the Central Advisory Council for Railways during 1945-46: (1) Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal, (2) Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan, (3) Mr. H. M. Abdullah, (4) Mr. H. G. Stokes, (5) Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, and (6) Lala Sham Lal.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd.

Sir F. E. James (Madras: European): Sir, at the outset, I should like to pay a tribute, in which I am sure all sections of the House will join to the armed forces of India for their magnificent exploits in all theatres of war during the past year. I should like to remind the House of the contrast between the news from the Burma front this year, and the news from the same theatre of war last year. It would be appropriate and encouraging to those concerned if a message went from this House of special congratulations to the 14th Army which during the past twelve months, has completely revolutionised the scene on India's frontier, and has won what I believe will be classed as one of the most brilliant campaigns in history. I should also like to pay a specially warm tribute—and here I believe I am voicing the opinions of all, irrespective of their political views—to the work of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief during the past year—his untiring labours in fitting the forces under his command for their operational responsibilities, his ready access at all times to suggestions which may come from Members of this House or from the outside world and his very keen anxiety to bring to the notice of the Indian public the special problems of India's armed forces.

Sir, last year I made rather special reference to the Royal Indian Navy which at that time I felt was not getting sufficient attention, or indeed receiving justice at the hands of those concerned. I was very glad to hear the other day from the Flag Officer Commanding that the Royal Indian Navy is no longer the Cinderella of the Forces. But I should like to ask my Honourable friend the War Secretary what has in fact happened to certain points which I made last year and which I will now specify. On the last occasion on which I asked questions on these matters the reply was the phrase that "they were under consideration". I first referred to these questions last year I pursued them by means of questions in the last Session of the Legislature. I would now like my Honourable friend to give me, if he can, explicit replies to the following four points:

Firstly, what has happened to the question of the pensions of ratings, petty officers and chief petty officers of the Royal Indian Navy, which, as I pointed out last year, had not changed since the last war, were wholly inadequate and in some cases half or a quarter the rates of pensions received by the other ranks of the Indian Air Force?

Secondly, what has happened to the suggestion which I made that chief petty officers should be treated, for the purpose of journeying by train, with greater respect, and that they should not be required to travel with ratings in third class compartments?

Thirdly, what has happened to the proposal which I made that, as in the Royal Navy, extra pay should be given to junior ratings who are doing senior ratings' work—and there are many such cases.

And, finally, what has happened to that curious custom which persists in the Royal Indian Navy whereby

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Splicing the main brace?

Sir F. E. James: That is not peculiar to the Royal Indian Navy. The particular custom to which I refer is peculiar to the Royal Indian Navy, and it does not exist in the Royal Navy; hence my question.

What has happened to the curious custom which persists in the Royal Indian Navy whereby when officers go to sea in an executive capacity, they are charged by means of deductions from their pay, the rent of the cabins which they occupy? It has always seemed to me to be an extraordinarily curious custom, and I have ascertained that this custom persists in no other navy in the world. Why then in the Royal Indian Navy?

Now, Sir, I should like to say a word about certain matters connected with the Indian Air Force. And here may I—I hope on behalf of all of us in the House—convey to that small but gallant force our congratulations upon His Majesty's pleasure in conferring the title "Royal"? That is a recognition of magnificent work. When the time comes for the history of the Indian Air Force to be written, specially of its early days, it will be found that India owes a very great deal to a small band of gallant men who were the pioneers of that arm. It is perhaps well to remember that the Indian Air Force—or the Royal Indian Air Force as it now is called—is really one of the fruits of the work of the Skeen Committee, on which were two distinguished Members of this House, Mr. Jinnah and Pandit Motilal Nehru; and that the force came into being twelve years ago as a result of that Committee. I am reminded that my Honourable and gallant friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin was also a member of that Committee, and I am very glad that he can share in the warm congratulations which I should like to pass on to the members of that Committee. Adequate reserves of trained and experienced pilots are necessary and not easy to obtain. But I am glad to notice the fine work that is being done in five universities by the Indian Air Training Corps; and I know that in that enterprise our gallant and learned friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin played a conspicuous part.

Sir, I should like to refer to one grievance which has been represented to me, in so far as the pay of the other ranks of the Royal Indian Air Force is concerned. I may say that these grievances were not represented to me in that sense. I had a visit a short while ago from some young men from South India, some of whom were friends or sons of friends of mine, who came to say good-bye before they went off to an operational area. In the course of conversation which I had with these young men I elicited a number of facts to which I should like to draw my Honourable friend's attention. In some of the groups of the ordinary ranks of the Royal Indian Air Force young men who are recruited—recruited with fairly high educational qualifications—begin on a starting pay of Rs. 60 a month. After a proficiency test this is raised to Rs. 65 for aircraftmen of the first class. Later on they can get Rs. 70 a month if they become leading aircraftmen or Rs. 100 a month if they become Corporals. And I would remind my Honourable friend that before these young men can get into the Air Force, a knowledge of the English language and the Matriculation Examination are essential qualifications.

Now, Sir, they were going off to an operational area; they were worried about their families. They claim that on this pay, where they have no special family allowance, they are not able to give adequate assistance to their families. I compared their position with the position of the tradesmen in the army. In the army the basic pay of the sepoy is from Rs. 18 to Rs. 27 a month; but for tradesmen there is a special trade pay of Rs. 2 a day on the basis of a thirty-day month. Therefore whereas a proficient airman, who starts with higher educational qualifications, can only get Rs. 70 a month, a proficient army tradesman, who does not start with the same high qualifications, can get between Rs. 78 and Rs. 87 per month.

Let me remind my Honourable friend how the Royal Indian Air Force looks after their men in so far as family allowances are concerned. In the R. A. F. I understand, a Leading Aircraftman gets Rs. 125 per month; but if he is married and has two children he receives in addition to that pay Rs. 210 per month.

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for his family. The fundamental basis of any air force is an efficient, well-trained, and contented ground staff, and I do think that these Other Ranks in these particular groups of the R. I. A. F. have a grievance. I should be most grateful if my Honourable friend would look into it.

Now, Sir, I am going to leave the armed forces and deal with a number of matters which, in some cases concern my constituency and which in some cases, I have been specifically asked to raise.

I will first of all deal with one of the Centrally Administered Areas—sometimes they are called the Centrally distressed areas—namely Coorg. There is at present no representative from Coorg in this House and I have been asked to make certain representations on behalf of that province. Coorg has a population of approximately 160,000. Out of that population they have supplied a very high proportion of Coorgies for the armed services. They have provided no less than 150 Emergency Commissioned Officers in addition to a number of regular officers, among whom are Brigadier Kariappa, the senior Indian Officer of the Indian Army, and Brigadier Thimmayya, who is now serving with distinction on the Burma front. I therefore claim that Coorg is making a signal contribution to India's war effort.

Sir, Coorg and indeed other Centrally Administered Areas are suitable areas for experimental measures which, if successful, could be carried out elsewhere on a much larger scale: e.g., malaria control, town and country planning, medical relief, education and last but not least administration. Indeed as long as the Central Government has a more direct responsibility for them than it has for the other provinces in India, they should be models to the rest of India. I regret to say that is not the case today.

I would draw attention, for example, to the proposal for a hydro-electric scheme in Coorg on which last year a reconnaissance report was made. This Coorg water fall is probably the third largest on the West Coast, coming after the Periar and Jog falls. Power derived from these waters would be available for the use of the whole South Kanara and Malabar, thus relieving some of the strain on Pykara. The harnessing of this fall may also encourage the growth of certain industries in Coorg, and the diversion of the river would help to irrigate a fair area of land in Malabar. I should like to know what has happened to that report, and which department of Government is dealing with it?

My own experience of Coorg—and it now extends over nearly twenty years—has shown me that the Central Government has no machinery at headquarters for ensuring that the needs of Coorg, and indeed of the Centrally Administered Areas, have Government's constant attention. There is no one department here which seems to be responsible for these small areas. I have known of cases in which the Chief Commissioner of Coorg has addressed the Government of India on vitally important matters, such as the fixation of food prices, transport problems, and public health, but in spite of repeated reminders has not been able to obtain any reply or even acknowledgment. I suggest to Government that either now, or when the man power situation is less acute, that there should be some officer at the headquarters of the Central Government who is responsible for dealing with these Centrally Administered areas and who would be a channel of communication from the heads of those administrations to the various departments of the Central Government which may be concerned. As it is, when the Chief Commissioner writes to the Government of India, the letter is passed on to one or other of the departments concerned and there it gets lost in the maze of the Secretariat. As long as the Central Government holds a special responsibility for these areas, I suggest that they ought to ensure that they are efficiently administered and their needs constantly and carefully attended to.

Now, I turn to another matter on which some of my constituents feel very strongly indeed, and that is the question of the grocery shops for civil officers which the Government of India have opened not only at the Centre but in some of the provinces. I want to suggest to the Government of India that in view

of the increasing availability of consumer goods which we are told will come in the next few months the time has come for the closing down of these shops which cater to one section of the community. I know that the basis on which these shops were opened was that Government servants should be ensured of supplies of as many of the ordinary requirements as possible at minimum prices. But why single out Government-civil servants? I admit that these shops are not in any way a burden upon the tax-payer, but it is strongly held by members of our constituencies that the existence of these shops deepen and perpetuate a most unfortunate distinction between the official and the non-official. They unduly increase shortage of supplies for the general population and they tend to relieve Government of the urge to control prices and are a bad substitute for a dearness allowance. I fully understand the anxiety of Government to protect their own officers from the repaity of the retailer; but the proper way, to do that is, first of all, to institute a general control so that all of us may be so protected and, secondly, if necessary, give their Government employees an adequate dearness allowance.

We will be told that there is no discrimination in favour of Government servants by the opening of these shops, that direct imports are arranged by cutting out intermediaries, and that these requirements which are allocated to these Government shops are only the correct proportion of the total amount of goods which would be distributable to Government servants. That will not work, it cannot work and the department concerned, which I believe is the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, has before it a case of one article in which there was before the war a turnover of between £7,000 to £8,000. Government has now indented for between £5/6,000 worth of this article for 1945. Yet since 1941 the importing agents have only been permitted to import £1,000 worth over a period of 3½ years, and applications for import licenses are still pending. It is quite impossible, whatever their intention, to separate completely the requirements of the Government servant from the available imported supplies for the rest of the population. I do not want to continue in any form the rather foolish and unhappy controversy which has been going on in some sections of the press between what is called the sheep and the goats. But I do suggest that the provision of these special shops for civil Government servants has left a legacy of unfortunate misunderstanding between the official and the non-official. I am not aware that this measure has been taken in any other country in the Empire. I am very sorry it was ever taken here and I do hope that my Honourable friends in Government circles will realise the necessity of closing these shops down as soon as possible.

As this is the Honourable Member's last appearance in this House as Finance Member, I am tempted to raise two points and to draw, if I may, upon his unrivalled experience in these matters. He himself has in fact invited the House to do so not only in his budget speech but in subsequent speeches that he has made during this Session. I am not an economist and therefore I would not dream of entering those rather difficult realms in which he and my colleague Mr. Tyson find themselves so free and at home. But there are just two matters to which I should like to refer.

The first is my Honourable friend's references to post-war fiscal policy, and the second is the relation between finance and the great schemes for post-war development which are now under consideration.

With regard to my Honourable friend's remarks on post-war fiscal policy. On the whole India has relied upon its peace time structure of taxation, supplemented by emergency taxes like excess profits tax, and by increased rates and surcharges in existing taxes and by an extension of the central excises, which after all is not a new tax to India. But on the whole there has been no fundamental change in the tax structure during the war. But I notice towards the end of my Honourable friend's speech he seemed to consider that a fundamental change was due. There I am inclined to agree with him. He recognises that excess profits tax as an emergency tax must disappear with the end of the war. He talks of estate duty on property. He has not yet

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given us any details. Is this duty to be levied on the corpus of the estate or on the passing of the property on inheritance? Does he suggest that what after all is a form of levy on capital should be earmarked for capital expenditure, particularly on the development of the social services and security measures which are now being discussed and considered? Will he also tell the House if the rate of this tax is to be uniform throughout the whole of India?

My Honourable friend then turns to agricultural income-tax which he seems to feel is a logical and useful tax and would secure a contribution to the well being of the country from a section of the community which at present escapes taxation to a very large extent—I mean direct taxation. I do not think anyone can have any objection in principle to a tax on agricultural income. But I suggest to him that three conditions should be observed. First of all, that if a tax on agricultural income is to be levied, then there will be a need for adjustment in the incidence of ordinary land revenue in the provinces, the shifting of the basis of that incidence from one of tax to one of rent; secondly, that the exemption level should be so adjusted as to suit the particular economic conditions of the classes of the community who own and use agricultural land and derive income therefrom; thirdly, that the graded rate should be imposed upon the net income only after every due allowance has been made for agricultural necessities and for the development of the agricultural lands whose income is sought to be taxed.

I will not say anything about the extension of the central excises or the high customs duties which my Honourable friend expects after the war. But I would like to mention in passing his references to the sales tax. Perhaps he will recollect a conversation some years ago (in the early stages of the war) in which it was suggested to him that this tax which had been levied in Madras and had been such a success from the fiscal point of view, that it might, if provinces were consulted and agreeable, become for the purposes of the war an all-India tax on a uniform principle and at a uniform rate, whose proceeds during the war should be devoted to help the Government of India to meet its war expenditure, but after the war should go back to the provinces. If that had been done at that time, India now could have had most valuable resources which, after the war, the provinces would have used for their great post-war development schemes. In Madras, even at the modest rate of one per cent, the budget figure for the current year from the sales tax was Rs. 3½ crores. I suggest that it would be of the greatest possible convenience if the present anomalous position of differing rates in the various provinces were removed, and that the provinces should be asked to agree to a uniform rate and a uniform method of collecting this tax.

Perhaps the most interesting observation made by my Honourable friend was when he dealt with the question of state-ownership and operation of industry, not only public utilities but industries also. He seemed to think that India might in the future look to this as a method of obtaining revenue. But I should like him to lift the curtain a little more upon his mind on that matter. What industries, for example, would he suggest? How would he expect the State to operate them and is he really satisfied, from his experience of State control in this country, that control and operation by the State of individual industries would produce revenue? I am not in the least afraid of facing this issue. I am aware that this Legislature is one of the most properly-conscious legislatures which at present exist in the world; and if in the interests of national well-being it is necessary for the State to own and operate certain industries, well and good. But I suggest that a very careful enquiry is necessary into this and into all other matters relating to post-war taxation in this country. I wonder whether my Honourable friend has thought that the time has come for another Taxation Enquiry Committee which could review all these matters with the detailed and expert knowledge that they really deserve.

My last point deals with the question of the relation between finance and reconstruction and I am impelled to refer to this, partly because my Honourable

friend is shortly going and I would like, if possible, to draw upon his experience before he leaves our shores, and partly because of the experience I and others have gained as members of what is commonly known as the Bhoré Committee, the committee which is studying Post-war Development Schemes for public health and relief. It is quite clear that the cost of some of these schemes, capital and recurring, will be so great that they may well appal those who have to face the problem. I would like to ask my Honourable friend whether he does not consider that it will be necessary in the future to break up the budget estimates into their proper components, as between capital and recurring costs, before the bogey of India's inability to meet these great burdens can be finally exploded. It seems to me that Government expenditure can be divided into three main classes—capital goods, goods and services, and what has been called by one economist, transfer expenses, i.e., special allowances, pensions, etc., under which the State takes money out of the pockets of one group of people and puts into the pockets of another group of people. The Budget for the future should, I suggest, be divided into the Revenue Budget and the Capital Budget, expenditure on capital goods to be met by loans, expenditure on goods and expenditure to be met by revenue. The criterion of the Revenue Budget will presumably be its solvency. The criterion of the Capital Budget, I suggest, will be social profit. And in estimating Capital expenditure, as we have had to do in connection with the scheme for the development of India's public health and medical relief, what price levels are we to adopt? In view of the very large expenditure which Government itself will have to undertake under roads and buildings of all kinds and, drawing from my own experience as a member of this Committee, I believe that one of the most important things that Government should do today is to conduct an enquiry into the machinery which is responsible for carrying out those capital works, the Public Works Department—both Central and Provincial. I want to suggest an enquiry into the whole system of the P. W. D. organisation for capital works, with special reference to economy and standardisation in design, building procedure, including the preparation of contract documents, tenders and sub-contracts, and the relations between the architect and the engineer; and constructional costs under various heads, including labour, organisation and control. I can say this, that on the basis of the preliminary estimates given to the Bhoré Committee by the Central Public Works Department, if these estimates are a real indication of the cost of these capital works, then more than 50 per cent. of our proposals will never come to fruition. It will in fact, be possible for this organisation to block the progress of India's development in these and other matters, unless it is thoroughly and radically overhauled in the way I suggest. I may remind my Honourable friend that His Majesty's Government were faced with the same problem in the United Kingdom and they appointed a Commission to inquire into these very questions which I now have raised, because they realised that in the post-war period there would be great schemes for capital expenditure on roads and buildings of all kinds. They wanted therefore to be perfectly sure that in preparing for those capital works the organisation which would carry them out would be modernised and able to carry them out at the minimum cost to the community. Unless therefore this aspect of the matter is put on a satisfactory basis, I am certain that the success of some of the post-war schemes for social services will be jeopardised.

I have nothing further to say, except in closing to pay a tribute to my Honourable friend the Finance Member. The official tribute on behalf of my Party will be paid at the proper time by my Leader. I would like my Honourable friend to remember that there are men and women of goodwill everywhere in this country who consider that by his wise and careful guidance through the stormy period of the past six years, a period rendered all the more difficult by political complications, he has rendered India a very notable service. I have found that there is a very wide measure of goodwill towards him, and appreciation of his fair-minded and just attitude to all the conflicting claims which he has had to balance so delicately during his term of office. I can say from my personal experience of various matters which I have had to bring to

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his notice, that he has been helpful to a degree, and on the evidence of many of his political opponents, he has been a conscientious custodian of India's interests. I wish him Godspeed. When he leaves this country,

I P.M. and I hope in the years to come, when he will perhaps be pursuing a wholly different avocation, that he will not think too unkindly of the stormy, but I trust, not unhappy days he has spent in this Legislature.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly; Non-Muhammadian Rural): Mr. President, agreeable to convention I present a list of grievances to Government which I shall outline very briefly. I would in the first place ask Government as to what action they propose to take in regard to the future of delegated legislation and ordinances enacted during war time so far as they impinge on the permanent structure of law in this country. My second point will be in regard to international organisations in which this country is financially and otherwise interested. I think this will cover the activities of many Departments of Government. My third observation will be in regard to certain matters in the administration of the Supply Department. My fourth observation will relate to the Food Department in regard to a comparatively small matter of administrative control over the import or manufacture and sale of prepared foods. I would also like to refer while speaking on the Food Department to the subventions paid to provinces either in the matter of maintaining price control or in the matter of assisting provinces in regard to loss by way of deterioration of food grains in storage. My fifth point will be in regard to import control, especially, in the matter of the open general import license about which a gazette notification has been issued recently. I shall perhaps also refer incidentally to the Hydari Mission. My sixth point will be a brief reference to the Bombay Explosions especially in regard to the financial aspect of it. My seventh and last point will be the concern of the Finance Member. While dealing with him I shall not go back on the ground that we have trodden in the previous discussions in this Session, but I shall refer to one particular item, in regard to land-lease facilities from U. S. A., *viz.*, the import of silver on this basis and will refer generally to the policy of the Government in regard to gold and silver sales in this country. I shall make a reference to the dollar credit made available to us, the future of the sterling balances, and lastly to the interest charges on internal debt. I shall close, Sir, with a brief reference to post-war matters, in regard to matters that are of departmental concern. I would like to say that I have mentioned this brief outline and what I am going to say so that Government representatives here might inform Departmental representatives who, if they feel it necessary, may be present while remarks are offered in connection with the work of their Departments, and I hope I shall be free from any obligation to keep my mouth shut because a particular member handling the affairs of the particular Department is not in the House.

My first point deals with a very vital matter. I would refer the House to the question asked by my Honourable friend on my left on the 11th February 1943 in regard to the duration of the operation of the ordinances promulgated by His Excellency the Governor-General. I am mentioning this point advisedly, I am aware of the limitations under which we in this House have to refer to this subject, but as it is purely a matter in regard to the future, I think there will be no objection to my referring to ordinances as well as to the Defence of India Rules. In this connection I would like to say that Mr. Neogy asked the question in February 1943—Will the Honourable Law Member be pleased to explain with reference to the India and Burma Emergency Act what was the position in regard to the ordinances that have been passed? Sir, the position was then explained in order to clear a misconception arising out of a statement made by the Right Honourable Mr. Amery in the House of Commons that the India Burma Emergency Act 1940 related only to the duration of certain ordinances which were purely necessary for the purpose of war. The position was made clear that by reason of the India Burma Emergency Act, ordinances passed under the powers conferred by Section 72, Schedule 9, of the Government

of India Act, will remain part of the permanent structure of law of this country. Further, Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, asked a question on 13th November 1944 in regard to Ordinance No. 45 of 1944 which related to Income-tax administration. I am merely quoting this as an illustration that there have been ordinances—not that I am questioning their validity, or that I do not appreciate the intention behind these ordinances—which affect the permanent structure of law in this country. In reply to that question of Mr. Manu Subedar, it was made clear that the ordinance did affect the permanent structure of law in certain matters and would have the force of law for all time to come. I would like the House to bear with me for a minute and just to look at this file in my hand which indicates the numerous ordinances that have been passed and also at the equally large number of Defence of India Rules that have been promulgated. The need for continual watch in regard to the working of all these ordinances and Defence of India Rules to inquire whether they are still necessary or whether they can be repealed; and also to consider what portion of these ordinances and in what form will be required for the future administration of this country—is what I am going to press in my speech. I would like to illustrate my case by referring to one ordinance which will show how very necessary some kind of investigation is, in this matter. There is an ordinance which was passed on 15th August 1942, Ordinance 41 of 1942. I believe it has a history behind it. It merely seeks—as I understand at any rate from a letter received by my Honourable friend on my left from the Home Department—to make *de jure* a position which already existed in India at any rate at that time. The Ordinance says that it will be competent for any member of His Majesty's Forces, members of Forces of Indian States or of any Foreign Power present in this country, if it is necessary for the proper performance of his duty so to do, by a general or a special order in writing to require any person under him to use such force as may be necessary even to the causing of death if a person (a) fails to halt (b) does or attempts to do or appears to be about to do or attempt to do any such act, etc. I suppose it will be conceded generally that an extreme provision like this is no longer necessary. I am merely citing this as an instance to show why an investigation in regard to the need for specific ordinances and similar specific Defence of India Rules is called for. I will take my stand—though I believe that analogy is far from being perfect—on what is being done in the House of Commons in regard to similar matters. In the House of Commons during 1943/44 several questions were raised in regard to the operation of laws arising out of the powers delegated to the Executive. In Britain the Executive and the Legislature are not at variance like the position in India, and naturally the Legislature gives a lot of support to the Executive, but even so there is a considerable agitation in the minds of Members of the British Parliament, and questions have been raised off and on in regard to delegated legislation. I believe some time in May 1944 arising out of a motion brought up by a Mr. Molson a committee was appointed—it did not have judicial powers to summon witnesses—to watch not merely the working but also of the necessity for the continuance of the various pieces of delegated legislation in operation and that Committee was to report frequently to the House of Commons. I understand that a person of the eminence of Sir Cecil Carr, eminent in the field of delegated legislation was associated with the Committee. I am only seeking to employ the present opportunity for the purpose of suggesting to this Government that the time is now fit and proper for Government to appoint a Committee to advise them and His Excellency the Governor General as the Head of the Government, how these laws and ordinances should be amended, which of them had better go out of the statute book, which will be necessary in the post-war period and in relation to these in what form legislation will have to be brought before this House. It may be, Sir, that the Honourable Member concerned may for this purpose utilise the Standing Committee that is going to be constituted, or it may be of the nature of an expert body selected from among the members of this House, aided by such legal help as may be furnished by the Secretariat. I do think that this is the proper time for Government to consider this matter and take some action, and

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that they should not postpone it indefinitely till after the post-war period when the pre-occupations of the Government—whatever Government might be in power—will be so many, that a very necessary matter like this cannot be undertaken.

My second point is in regard to India's interest in international organisations. I would like to mention that India's interest from the financial point of view is very real. I was happy to see that a complaint which I was about to make in my speech today was rendered no longer necessary by reason of the fact that a question was tabled this morning and answered, which showed the interest that the House evinces in regard to our contributions to international organisations and how these contributions were being used, and whether those international organisations deserve the contributions or not. I would like to tell the Honourable Members of this House, who probably may not have the leisure and time that I possess, to go through the book of Demands; they will find a number of contributions made by this Government to several international bodies. We make a small contribution to the Empire Parliamentary Association of Rs. 2,700. Under Grant Miscellaneous, No. 70, a number of contributions are made which will repay the effort spent on its scrutiny. The Education, Health and Lands Department, as this House is well aware, is making a contribution towards the food and agricultural organisation of the United Nations—last year it stood in the region of Rs. 1,33,000; in the current year it is going to be Rs. 9,88,000. The House knows that we are making a contribution to the UNRRA both a non-recurring lump sum grant and also a recurring grant towards its administrative expenses. The House makes a contribution to the headquarters of the inter-governmental relief committee for refugees. We also make a contribution to the League of Nations secretariat, besides some contributions specifically to the International Labour Conference which last year was Rs. 26,000, this year will be Rs. 30,000. As the House knows, the Honourable Law Member gave the figures expended on the League of Nations during the years of the war; and for next year this Government will be giving Rs. 13,08,000 to the League of Nations. Last year it gave about Rs. 8,88,000. These large amounts are being paid and I think it is only right that if the House cannot keep itself interested in regard to what is happening about the funds and what is happening to India's position in the various international organisations, the Government should at any rate take upon itself the duty to make the House internationally minded enough to take some interest in this matter. I would suggest this tip to the Leader of the House, that instead of ploughing the sands as he does in trying to clear the cobwebs of misconception and misunderstanding in foreign countries in regard to the position in India of the present Government his Department might very well undertake this necessary task of making the people of this country internationally conscious, by telling them what we are spending on international organisations, how these organisations are constituted; and what we are getting in return, and what we will have to do in future. That will be a very useful line of action for his publicity department instead of trying to portray in foreign countries that all our national leaders as criminals and in trying to make out that anything that is said by our nationals abroad who are not members of his Government as being false. I would like to take this House into some detail in regard to this particular matter, because I think it is of great importance today; and it will be of greater importance in the immediate future. The House will remember that on the 10th February 1939 a resolution was passed by this House asking the Government to give notice to the League of Nations of the termination of its membership; and it was explained at considerable length at that time why this House did not feel inclined to allow India to be a member of the League of Nations; and the most important among those considerations that influenced that decision was the exceptionally high contribution which this country has been paying. It has been said that India occupies the fifth position, so far as the important countries in the world are concerned: at any rate that was the decision arrived at at the Bretton Woods Conference, notwithstanding the indefatigable fight that my Honourable friend the Finance Member

and his colleagues put up on behalf of India. But so far as the League of Nations is concerned, so far as our fiduciary interest in the League of Nations is concerned, India is contributing 48 units, as against a payment of 108 units by the United Kingdom. I am not quite sure what the total amount is—I am rather chary of committing myself to any figure—but after some research, I believe I can say it is in the region of 420 units.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): 421, I think.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am very grateful to the Honourable Law Member for his correction. Anyway the House will understand that India enjoys a high position, a position second only in importance to the United Kingdom: whereas even France, which takes precedence over India in the matter of the quota allotted to India in the Bretton Woods Conference, comes much lower. I would like to tell this House that not all that this League does, not all that is contained in that report to which the Honourable the Law Member referred the questioner this morning, is useless. There is one organisation in the international field which has been doing useful work; and that organisation is a part of the League of Nations; and the money that is paid by this country to the League of Nations is also expended on this organisation which is the International Labour Office. The International Labour Office has been doing very useful work in the cause of humanity and in the cause of labour, and nobody can say that what it is doing is wrong. But that is the crux of the situation; what I would like to mention is this: what is the position of the Indian in these organisations? It is not that we want representation according to our population-strength; it is not that we want representation according to the amount that we pay. In fact, in a recent publication of the Royal Institute on International Affairs, I find this particular problem referred to and dealt with at some length. It is true that if every country wants representation in the secretariat and organisations of these bodies, it would be very difficult to find every one of them a place; but then one cannot at the same time wipe out the sentiment, the prestige feeling, that people have in this matter. Naturally, if we are contributing an amount which is second only to the United Kingdom, which exercises and has exercised all along such a dominating influence over the League of Nations, one would like to know where we stand. I would like to tell the House that in regard to the labour organisation, I believe Japan some years back by agitating got an under-secretary general into the organisation and India which has a higher position has got nothing all along. I would like this Government, whether it be the Law Department which has taken the technical responsibility for the League of Nations, or the External Affairs Department which apparently takes the financial responsibility for anything spent on this particular body, to urge now that the position of India must be one that will command respect; not merely in the matter of its status, but also in the number of its people that are engaged in positions of importance in the secretariat and other bodies. It is not merely a matter of rupees, annas and pies. It is not merely a matter of having larger numbers employed in these organisations, in some capacity or other but it is really a matter of having some men, somebody in a position to exert some influence, somebody who will enhance the prestige of this country; and that is a point which I would like to make. I dare say the House will be with me in urging on the Government to safeguard India's position in this matter, which I think they have perhaps neglected all along owing to other preoccupations.

Sir, I would like to mention another point in this connection and it is this. I need not refer to the U. N. R. R. A. which is having at this moment a rather chequered progress, nor to the food organisation, because on the occasions these subjects were brought before the House, the Members of this House have urged the fact that we should get adequate and suitable representation in the secretariat of these bodies. I should like to mention that with regard to the international set up of the representation of India, there seems to be no cohesion and no policy. The development has been in a lopsided manner and there is

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really no cohesion there. What we really lack as against the bigger nations of the world is a service personnel which could be put into the various international organisations so that if we once provide that personnel, and if there is to be an Under Secretary of State General for a particular organisation, we can say: 'So and so is a fit person by reason of the fact that his knowledge of international law and international affairs is very extensive, and that he knows this country very well and he could represent this country's interest in the particular Secretariat extremely well'. We lack that facility and it is because of that fact that I would like to mention here that the Government had better evolve a policy in regard to India's representation in this field. It may be that the Member representing the Commonwealth Relations Department has got his own set of High Commissioners and the men needed for their staff, it may be that the Commerce Department has its own set of Trade Commissioners and again there are a few other such officers under the control of the External Affairs Department. There is no training, no diplomatic experience, no particular equipment for the people chosen for the various positions except that they happen to be members of the Civil Service or members of the Government of India Secretariat or that they have been chosen for other reasons totally unrelated to either their capacity or their own predilections. Now, there is perhaps a constitutional difficulty in the way. I agree that if this matter is going to be entrusted to the External Affairs Department, whose budget will be non-voted this House does not exercise any control over it, and that would not be satisfactory but at the same time there can be a co-ordinated agency here which will not merely have some say in the matter of selection of these officers who go abroad but will naturally have to keep in touch with the External Affairs Department and all other departments in so far as each department is affected. When officers are available who have been carefully chosen and trained properly and if it happens that these international organisations need men for their secretariat, we might say: 'We have plenty of people here of the requisite type, we insist on your taking some Indians in'. Then the excuse that India cannot furnish the proper personnel will no longer exist. I would now refer to the portents before us and whether we want them or not, unless we are going to say that we shall have nothing to do with what happens outside this country until we get our own Government. International Conferences there will be and International Organisations will be set up in the immediate future. For the time being this country will be represented in the various International Conferences and in the various International Organisations that come into being in such a manner as will primarily be decided by H. M. G. and if not by the present Government. I will refer primarily to that International Monetary Conference which met last year at Bretton Woods. We have had some questions asked here. We have made certain suggestions. But I would like to state here what I have heard elsewhere that India acquitted herself altogether very well, though the results may not show off equally well and I would like to repeat on the floor of the House what is being said by Indians that are in the know, who have been collaborators of the Honourable the Finance Member, when he replies to the debate, to tell us at what as the leader of the delegation, acquitted himself extremely well and it will be very difficult for anybody to feel that the cause of India has suffered because it was not represented by a national. But that is an accident. I would like the Honourable the Finance Member, when he replies to the debate, to tell us at what stage the whole matter now is. In fact, we did expect that considering that the House has evinced a lot of interest in this matter we should have a discussion on this subject. The question whether India is to be a member of the International Monetary Organisation and the International Bank, I think, has to be decided some time at the end of the year. Anyway, we expected that we would have a discussion, here during this Session, when the guidance of the Honourable the Finance Member, who was the leader of the delegation, was available to us but I am afraid we would probably not have that privilege but the fact nevertheless remains that barring what is revealed to us by the literature

that we have been supplied in regard to the Final Act of the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference we are not much wiser.

The next thing of great importance in the international field in which this country was not represented was the Dumbarton Oaks Conference and arising out of that conference and the meeting of the three great world leaders at Yalta, the House knows that the San Francisco Conference has been summoned. What the San Francisco Conference is going to do we do not know but I can guess from the literature supplied by the courtesy of the United States Office of War Information and what has appeared in the newspapers that this San Francisco Conference will probably be more or less laying the foundations for the bringing into being of another League of Nations. One very important function of this Conference ought to be very intriguing to the people of this country. It is that an economic and social council acting under the general authority of the Assembly suggested by the Dumbarton Oaks Conference, is to come into being and that is to be responsible for facilitating solutions of international, economic, social and other humanitarian problems regarding respect for human rights and the fundamental freedoms. Sir, this conference is going to decide on a matter which is of paramount interest to the people of this country who have been yearning for freedom for decades past. I am not going into the personnel that is going to represent this country but I do say that this is a matter in which we could have been told something more before the delegates go, so that they would know what the view of the country is. I would like to mention one particular matter relating to this issue to this House, though it might be known to many members. I would like to mention that the delegation chosen by the United States of America is intimately connected with the legislature of the country. It consists of two representatives from the Senate, two representatives from the Representative Assembly, one representing each party, one official, the Secretary of State, one former Secretary of State and Commander Stassen an ardent Republican and a lady. This represents more or less the whole set up of the political and economic structure of that country and the delegation consists of people who could speak on behalf of that country, who can go back to their legislature and say, 'we have done this and that on behalf of the United States of America'. There is no harm in anybody copying somebody else's example, where it is good even if it does not happen to be the example of Britain.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can 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, before the House adjourned for Lunch, I referred to the importance attached by U. S. A. to this San Francisco Conference. I would like to say, Sir, that much as we would, in this House, not feel perturbed by anything that this Government as it is at present constituted, does, we cannot escape from the logical effects of some actions of theirs, even though it should happen that there should be a government of the people of this country coming into being very shortly. Sir, the decisions of the Dumbarton Oaks Conference, and the decisions at the Yalta Conference seem to indicate that the future international organisation of the world, which will in due time supplant the League of Nations and take over perhaps all its beneficent activities, will be composed of a Committee of eleven in which the five great powers will be permanent Members and the rest will be elected by the Council. There is some basis for this, for the reason that it is identical with the procedure that was followed at Bretton Woods. There the five powers were named by the assignment of quotas to the exclusion of India

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which was relegated to the sixth position. The possibility is that the precedent that was established at Bretton Woods might again be invoked in the constitution of any world organisation and perhaps the San Francisco conference will take up the same view. It was stated that the reason that India lost its seat as a permanent Member of the proposed International Monetary Organisation at Bretton Woods was because of political influence, for the reason that India is a subordinate partner of the British Commonwealth of Nations but it was also said that that was not a very serious matter because India, by reason of the quota that it had been assigned can, without any difficulty, get elected to one of the remaining seats on the Executive. It is possible, Sir, that similar conditions may not exist in the matter of selection of the six representatives besides the five powers for a Council like the one contemplated at Yalta and at Dumbarton Oaks Conferences. Therefore, Sir, the San Francisco Conference has undoubtedly an important bearing so far as this country is concerned. The international status of this country has been more or less defined, the reason that she is entitled to a high place both because of her population, because of her natural resources, because of the predominant position that she occupies in Asia are all brushed aside because of the one and only reason that India is a subordinate partner of the British Commonwealth of Nations and hence cannot aspire to a position which will, so long as Britain controls India through the Secretary of State, be simply used as second vote to Britain. That is the most charitable construction that we can put on the reasons that have been adduced for relegating India to a subordinate place. It is in these circumstances, in view of the fact that this San Francisco Conference is just the precursor of several more conferences to come, in view of the fact that the decisions that will be taken in this conference might have a far reaching effect on the social, political and economic activities of this country that one tries, at any rate, to see that the Indian point of view is put forward there. Sir, I was not questioning the right of the Governor General in Council to select delegates; so long as the Government remains as it is, it is their undoubted right. As it was pointed out to me by a friend who has considerably more experience of public life and more knowledge of world affairs, "what is the use of you and I or somebody else in this House being linked as a sort of tail to this conference? What good we would do there except as providing a background for these official representatives". That is undoubtedly a point of view. But there is what is called an international convention, there is what is called an international law and arising out of these certain obligations are being foisted on certain countries, by reason of the fact that some Government which is in possession of that country decides for the country. The successor Government will have to go and prove before the bar of public opinion, before the bar of world opinion that the Government which preceded it was an illegitimate Government, that it had no reason to commit the country for any purpose and therefore that a popular Government would not be bound by commitments however sacred in the eyes of international law which have been entered into by a Government that was definitely illegitimate. That is our position today. It may be that the friends that go to this conference are well versed in the art of dealing with politicians and diplomats and statesmen on an international plane. They may be having considerable experience in this matter. But, Sir, the country cannot be convinced that they would represent the views of this country, that they would act in the best interests of the country. What is the position? The position, as I understand it, from what we heard from newspaper reports, since we have been denied the opportunity of hearing the Government side of this matter, is that these gentlemen will go to London and there will be a preliminary conference so as to ensure that there will be one view presented at San Francisco which will be the view of the United Kingdom Government. Can we blame the other powers in the world, if they turn round and say, so long as you are in this political position as a subordinate link attached to Britain, you cannot claim a permanent seat among world powers? Sir, logically by reason of the disappearance of Japan from the international field and ergo from its position of dominance which we all hope will ensue very soon, we are the natural successors of that leadership. It may

be that certain vested interests in the international field might boost China, but there is no denying that this country will ultimately take up natural leadership of Asia. But how this leadership is being represented at San Francisco conference, the House well knows. Sir, I have no intention of using harsh language, but Sir, those Indians who co-operate with the present Government, they might be called patriotic, they might be called eminent, they might be called wise, but so far as the people of this country are concerned, the people who co-operate with the Government particularly at a time when its beloved sons are behind prison bars are people who belong to the 'Sell India League'. These representatives are quite welcome to go to San Francisco, they are quite welcome to do what they like, they are quite welcome to sell the liberties of this country, but I think the majority of the Honourable Members in this House are behind me in voicing this opinion that India will not be committed by any decision that is arrived at at this San Francisco Conference. Sir, that is all that I have to say in regard to what I suggest are the positive measures which the Government might take in the international field so far as India is concerned.

Sir, I come next to a few matters relating to the Supply Department. I am sorry that the Honourable Member is not here, but I am afraid that that cannot preclude me from saying what I have to say, because I have a very serious charge to make. I have been very much exercised in my mind ever since I heard that this Department was going to undertake the erection and management of the Fertiliser plant at Sindri on the same basis as Ordnance factories. We have heard reports about the nature and the constitution of the Supply Department, a factor to which the present incumbent of the office of Supply Member may or may not be directly responsible. It might even be that he is not a party to a number of deeds of commission and omission on the part of his predecessors. But the fact remains that the position of this department as it is today merits investigation. One therefore would like to examine how far this Supply Department,—about which there are many whispers and many rumours, many facts which may be considered to be merely matters of hearsay because one cannot take action on them,—how far this Supply Department is a competent and proper department to undertake this big national task of providing fertilisers for this country in the shape of sulphate of ammonia. That is the genesis of my having to examine the organisation of the Supply Department. Sir, it has been said in this House on several previous occasions that the organisation of the Supply Department is one in which the country cannot have any confidence. It may be a just fear or it might be an unjust fear. But one has merely to glance through the telephone directory to find who are the Advisers and Directors and Controllers in this department. It happens that these worthy and estimable gentlemen, perhaps capable and perhaps also honest, have all been by and large recruited from business concerns in this country. And in order to be able to judge how the department which has been manned in this manner with a Civil Service Secretariat on the top could effectively run a factory I had to undertake some investigations. I must confess that to a very large extent I had to depend largely on hearsay and therefore I am unable to take the House into my confidence in regard to the result of those investigations. As a preliminary to what I wanted to do, I asked the Supply Member in an unstarred question to state:

"(a) the number of Directors, Controllers, Advisers and Honorary Advisers employed by the department who have been"—I will ask the House to note this particular phrase—"who have been or still continue to be associated with commercial and industrial undertakings in this country;

(b) if the Supply Member 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."

Sir, I have been furnished with an answer which says:

"There is one Director, two Controllers, one Adviser and eight Honorary Advisers who fall into this category."

And a statement has been given giving me twelve names of gentlemen who fall into this category. Sir, anybody who has any knowledge of the Supply Department, anybody who is conversant with the telephone directory will know

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that this is false. It is an utter falsehood. And who is responsible for trying to mislead a Member of this House I do not know. Whether the Honourable Member has himself sighted it or he has not—because it is an unstarred question—I do not know. But I ask this House to enter its emphatic protest here and now against this treatment of the House on every such occasion with the scantiest courtesy and which is compelled to hear what I should, in Johnsonian language term as the basest of terminological inexactitudes. I should like to tell the House, within the limited knowledge that I possess, who the other persons referred to in this answer are. I will read the names of these people:

Mr. Urquhart, Electrical Commissioner's organisation.

Mr. Spooner, Iron and Steel organisation.

These people belong to some firm or other.

Mr. Dobson, Coal Commissioner's organisation.

Mr. Gemmell, D. G. M. P. organisation.

Mr. Watt, Honorary Adviser on Woollen Industries.

Mr. Inskip (who happens to be a Member of this House), Honorary Adviser in Tanning.

Mr. Kennedy, Jute Adviser.

Mr. Quin, Honorary Adviser on Rope Supplies.

Mr. Brunt, Honorary Adviser on Petroleum Products.

Mr. Williamson, Honorary Adviser on Timber Supplies.

Mr. Thomas, Honorary Adviser on Webb equipment.

Sir, I have, with the telephone directory and the limited knowledge that I can conscript, got some more names here. I shall eliminate the Indian names because they are not material to the issue before us:

Mr. Ormerod is the Honorary Cement Adviser belonging to the A. C. C. whose name does not find a place here.

There is Mr. Pedderson who has some kind of association with a Cement Machinery Manufacturing Company.

There is a person called Mr. Coson—Ireland, who is Chief Progress Officer.

There is Brigadier Sassoon, belonging to Sassoon & Co., Calcutta.

Then W. J. Tallon, who belongs to the leather industry.

Then there is D. A. Randall, from Chrome Leather Company, Madras. He plays a very important part in keeping the price of leather in this country down.

Mr. A. J. Williams, who belongs to a very important concern, the Bombay-Burma Trading Corporation, Ltd., which now has its tentacles spread all over the country in the Timber Trade.

Mr. E. A. Oakley of General Motors, who is Director of Vehicles.

Mr. A. E. Hempson of Jenson and Nicholson, a big paint manufacturing firm of Bengal.

Mr. Crerar (I do not know where he comes from, but perhaps he has some association with some chemical firm) is the Chemical Controller.

Captain Murray is in the Petroleum Branch and belongs to Burma Shell Co.

J. P. Anderson of Dunlop Rubber Co. is Controller of Rubber.

P. Mitchell of Goodyear Co. is also in the Rubber Directorate.

Mr. Currie of a Bengal Paper Firm is Director of Paper.

And there is Sir Kenneth Nicholson in Calcutta, who is Chief Controller of Purchase, D. G. M. P. and all important members of the firm of Gladstone Wylic Ltd.

And I understand there are scores of names of persons similarly placed who are connected with this Department.

I cannot understand how any department of Government can have the cheek to furnish an Honourable Member of this House with a list like this, and since the Honourable Member is absent from the House we are unable to get any enlightenment on this. This proves the honesty of this Government and this proves the honesty of a department the head of which is going to represent this country at San Francisco. And, Sir, this is a department which obviously

in the very nature of its existence, is a self-liquidating department, which has no reason to exist after the end of the war, which is going to take the management of an important industry like artificial fertilisers.

Sir, the House will remember that some days back I asked the Honourable Member a question with regard to a factory that has been handed over to—I believe—the I. C. I. intended to manufacture stabilised bleaching powder. The factory does not work and the powder that was manufactured was, according to my information, of not much use. Whether it is of standard quality or not we have no need for it now. We do not know what amount was spent on it, and I do say here and now that there must be a number of factories which are also not working in which the money of the people of this country has been sunk; and God only knows what is going to happen to these factories at the end of the war. Probably they will go into the disposal organisation and will be sold as scrap to some vested interest or other. I want to protest here and now against this alliance of the Supply Department with the one big vested interest in this country. I have read these names not without a purpose. I do not want my Honourable friends of the British group to quarrel with me over this, since our interests do not tally; I have no hesitation in saying that this department is playing into the hands of British vested interests in this country. And what confidence can we have if that department is going to run an important factory at Sindri, an industry which has a great bearing on the future economic position of this country, with the officers and the equipment that they now possess. Sir, I think if an investigation is made into the affairs of the Supply Department, we will find that the department works only by reason of the enormous pressure exerted on it by the Ordnance services. The moment that pressure is relaxed the Supply Department will just stop still and will not work, though its personnel will continue to draw salaries. The Honourable Member for Supply will of course get up and say, if any Member of this House asks him, that it does good work. It works because of the overpowering pressure that the Ordnance services exert on it; and can the House say and can the Honourable Member say in all honesty that the same pressure will continue to be exerted in regard to the Sindri factory? The very idea that the Secretariat of this organisation lends itself to such a gross lie and the very idea that the whole of the operative side of the Department is being manned by people who have a large stake in big business and vested interests of this country, whose names will not be revealed, I think makes us demand that if Government are going to undertake the manufacture of artificial fertilisers—I certainly agree with them that they ought to do it—let them hand it over to some department where the direction will be honest, where it will be conscientious, and where it will be in the best interests of this country.

Sir, I have done with the Supply Department.

I now propose to deal with the Food Department. I would like to tell my Honourable friend the Food Member that he need not be perturbed. I am not going to ask him for details of what he has done with regard to price control here, there and everywhere. I am merely going to ask him some questions with regard to one phase of the activities of the Department about which he is I believe singularly ignorant. My Honourable friend has a number of Regional Food Commissioners. They are all Nawabs.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan (Central Provinces and Berar; Muhammadan): Not one of them.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am sure they are not Muslim Nawabs, but they are Hindu Nawabs, and the Hindu Nawab who imitates a Muslim Nawab is far worse than his Muslim prototype.

And these are all sort of autonomous sovereigns. The Central Government has no control over them at all. Has the Honourable Member ever called for the diary of any of these Regional Food Commissioners? Has he ever looked into what they are doing? It is no use shaking his head. Let the Honourable Member get up and say whether he has ever done that. I may tell the Honourable Members we have a Food Commissioner in my province of which perhaps he is unaware. He rarely is in Madras and when he is in Madras

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he does not attend office. The destinies of the people who import or manufacture or obtain protective foods are entirely in his hands. I was given the other day an instance where a permit was applied for the sale of one brand of protective food—I do not propose to go into details of this case because I do not wish to ventilate in the House grievances of individual character—for which the owners wanted a permit to sell. Naturally the Regional Food Commissioner has to give that permit. The application was sent to him and fifty days elapsed; no action was taken; the Regional Food Commissioner was not in Madras; nobody could get at him; letters and telegrams sent to him proved of no avail; and this is how the Food organisation is being run, the organisation of which my Honourable friend is the head.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): He was attending to his own food!

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I think it is a farce that is being enacted by these Regional Food Commissioners. Let this organisation be handed over to the Provincial Governments, and let these matters be managed by the Provincial Governments. It is not that I am not for Central control, during times like this, but this kind of control is no use. I will ask the Honourable Member not to have personal representatives in each region like either Roosevelt, or Stalin or even Mr. Churchill, who it appears is also personally represented in this country. Do away with this system of personal representation of the Food Member and hand over the work done by them to the provincial administration, we could then at least go and sit *Dharna* outside their doors and get what we want done.

The next point I want to refer to in the matter of Food is far more serious. Sir, the Honourable Members of this House are in possession of, I dare say, the report of the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee of the 31st July and 1st of August. I do not know whether they have perused it. Probably some of them won't have no inspiration to peruse it until the supplementary grants are brought before this House. On page 20 of the proceedings there is a proposal: "Memorandum regarding financial assistance to U. P. Government for subsidising sale of foodgrains at reduced prices." I will tell the House very briefly what it is. The price of wheat in the Punjab in September 1943 was Rs. 11-0-1 per maund at Lyallpur, and the price in the United Provinces was Rs. 13-12-0 per maund, and the Central Government wanted the price to be reduced. Why, they have not mentioned any reason, excepting that the Honourable Member wants a price uniformity. His statistics must reveal the reason of a price uniformity. The U. P. Provincial Government said, "Yes, we have got large stocks of wheat in our granaries, we will sustain heavy loss if we reduce the price of wheat, and so if the centre agrees we will levy a surcharge of Rs. 1-2-0 per maund on *gur* exported outside the province to make up the loss likely to be incurred". The Central Government said that it was contrary to the accepted policy that any Government should attempt to make a profit on exported foodgrains by imposing a surcharge on the actual cost of procurement. In order to get the United Provinces Government out of a very difficult position in which they will be placed by contravening an accepted policy of the Government of India, the Government of India were generous enough to offer them a subsidy on the basis of:

First Rs. 25 lakhs of loss—To be borne wholly by the Provincial Government.

Next Rs. 75 lakhs of loss—To be borne $\frac{2}{3}$ ths by the Provincial Government and $\frac{1}{3}$ th by the Central Government.

Beyond Rs. 1 crore of loss—To be borne half and half by the two Governments.

And the result of it is that 65 lakhs out of the Central Government's finances have been made over to the United Provinces, and the matter came before the Standing Finance Committee and the Committee by a majority approved the proposal.

If my Honourable friend wants to control prices all over the country, I agree with him. It is right that he ought to have Central control during war time particularly after the gruelling story that has been enacted in Bengal. Nothing is too much to surrender for that. But why does not he exercise that power? Is it because the Governor of the United Provinces is a person who will not heed to the advice of the Central Government that my Honourable friend came forward with this subsidy? I cannot really understand where the finance of this Government is going to end up.

Here I shall refer to another case relating to Bengal, but not to the matter of offering Bengal a cash subsidy. Bengal has been given a subsidy because it needed the assistance and Bengal was in a bad way. You give subsidy to a province which has a deficit economy and which is badly in need of it, but you do not give subsidy to a province which has a surplus Budget, which had four crores surplus last year. Where is the Central Government going to end up at this rate? Is this a financial transaction, or is it merely a matter of betting on a race course? I hold the Honourable Member in charge of the Food Department personally responsible for this transgression of all recognised financial canons, by paying blackmail in a matter in which he could have brought a refractory provincial administration to heel, otherwise under the powers conferred on the Governor General by section 126 A of the Government of India Act which could have been invoked to deal with the Provincial Government in this matter if such a step became necessary.

My second charge against the Honourable Member is in regard to a question relating to Bengal. On the 2nd of February 1945 at the Standing Finance Committee meeting, I observe that an arrangement, not similar but in a different way that has been agreed to by the Government of India with the Bengal Government, was placed before the Committee for its approval. The Department which appears to have sponsored this matter was the Finance Department, but it was really a matter concerning the Food Department and the proceedings of the Committee which begins with the words, "It is in pursuance of the policy of the Food Department of the Government of India"—the policy is dictated by the Food Department and the Finance Department have been merely a sort of post office in the matter. I would like to tell the House that what happens is that in Bengal they have a large carry over of the stock of grains purchased in 1944, the condition of which the Government are afraid will deteriorate if stored much longer. I will tell the House how the stocks of paddy and rice stood on the 9th December 1944:

	Paddy	Rice
(1) Stock in physical possession	202,379	362,450 tons.

The second item is even more intriguing:

(2) Undelivered stocks (covered by contracts of purchase).	68,689 tons.	131,985 tons.
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I can understand that if the Bengal Government had stocks in their possession and they felt that the stocks will deteriorate something must be done, but if contractors had stocks which they had not delivered, why should the Government be exercised by any fear that these stocks will deteriorate as well. In order that these stocks could be sold away at reduced prices the Central Government have come forward agreeing to adopt the same procedure followed in the case of the United Provinces, which is cited as a precedent in such matters. Something is done some time in August 1944 and that is approved by the Standing Finance Committee, and that is made a precedent to do something else in February 1945. Sir, I will ask the House to assess what is the total amount involved. If paddy is converted into rice at the rate of $\frac{3}{5}$ ths, the total amount involved is about 657,000 and odd tons of rice, which is equal to 1,77,41,000 maunds of rice. I understand that these stocks have been purchased at the rate of a little over Rs. 14 per maund and the present selling price is something in the neighbourhood of Rs. 10 per maund. So there will be a loss of about Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 per maund on 1,77,41,000 maunds, which the Government of India will share in the same proportion as they shared the

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loss in the case of the United Provinces Government. If Bengal wants straight-forward assistance, so far as I am concerned, I shall not vote against it. The House has done so before. But why this camouflage? Why should this Government's finances be spent on stocks which are still undelivered, which somebody opines are likely to deteriorate or have deteriorated? This is the administration of which my Honourable friend, the Food Member, is the head. Apart from the question of the individual complaints that we receive from various provinces that the provinces are not adequately dealt with in the matter of foodgrains, here is a matter in which he is personally responsible and he has induced that most difficult of his colleagues in his Cabinet the Finance Member to agree to pay Rs. 65 lakhs to the United Provinces and commit the Government of India to something like Rs. 4 to 5 crores in the case of Bengal in a matter in which on the alleged facts the Government of India commitments will for quite a long time remain in the region of conjecture.

There are two provisos in regard to this agreement with the Bengal Government. Firstly, the arrangement is subject to the condition that the apparent financial loss in selling existing stocks at reduced prices should not be computed on the basis of stocks actually sold but on the overall results of trading over a number of years. This implies that the Bengal Government must be trading for a number of years as otherwise the average mentioned here cannot be obtained. I can understand this particular type of condition in the matter of an agreement between the Government and a trading concern. If it is a matter of an agreement between the Food Department and one of its contractors, or if it is a matter of agreement in the Supply Department and one of its contractors, it is legitimate. But how does it happen in the matter of a Government which may not be trading tomorrow and how would this proviso come into operation if Bengal Government ceases trading in grain next year as perhaps they would.

The second proviso is that the Government of India's offer would apply only to losses in normal trading and not to losses which could be attributed to faulty purchasing and to the storing methods of the Provincial Government. Where is the machinery through which the Government of India will be in the position of verifying whether the loss is due to faulty purchase or bad storage. For the matter of that the Government of Bengal does not appear to be in a position to verify such facts. Even if the Government of India is in a position to verify whether the purchase has not been faulty and storage arrangements are satisfactory the agreement cannot be justified. But as things stand these two conditions are impossible of fulfilment. It is under such circumstances that this House is going to be asked to sanction amount which is unascertained and would remain unascertainable for quite some time and which might be anything between Rs. 4 and 5 crores. This is how the finances of this country are being dragooned into vice by the action of the Food Department and I do not know what my Honourable friend is going to say in explanation of this unsatisfactory position.

That next subject with which I shall deal cursorily happens to be import control. I have a lot to say in regard to manner in which import quotas are granted.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have now spoken for over an hour.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I beg of the House to show me some more indulgence in the matter. What I have to say refers particularly in regard to the dye imports in this country. I have here tables showing the import figures over a period which indicate that while the country has got out of the clutches of one octopus, like the Imperial Chemical Industries on the one hand, on the other hand imports are again being canalised through other foreign agencies. I see that Volkart's, the National Aniline Dyes Company and Cibra a Swiss firm are being assigned 30 per cent. of the imports as against 9 per cent. allowed to the Indian importers. I can understand the Department's

partiality to the Imperial Chemical Industries. But I cannot understand the Department's partiality to refugee companies that have settled down in this country to the detriment of its own nationals.

The next matter in regard to this Department is in regard to this gazette notification which I have in my hand relating to Import Trade Control dated 2nd March 1945. It gives a long list of articles that can be imported from U. K. under an open general licence. I have had the handicap of being a business man who has had some experience of the import trade. I scanned this list and I wanted to find out if there was something which would benefit the people of this country, which would attract the surplus money that is in their hands and which would solve or mitigate in a very small way, though it might be, the problem of inflation. But I find no real relief possible from this list. The list of goods mentioned here starts with flashlight cases. The next item is brandy, gin and whisky and I find a number of other items equally unnecessary for sustaining the economy of the country. One of the items happens to be alkaloids of opium and their derivatives. I have a quarrel with the Honourable the Finance Member in this regard over which I am not going to dilate here at present. It is a fact that the Government of India possesses a factory in which it can manufacture alkaloids of opium and their derivatives. So it can provide facilities for Indian Pharmaceutical concerns to manufacture them in this country. Applications have been made to Government in this regard in previous years but they have refused them perhaps for some very valid reasons. But anyway encouragement is now provided for these being imported.

Then there are items like toilet requisites not otherwise specified, ribbons, secondhand clothing (that is going to solve our cloth problem), secondhand boots and shoes other than those containing rubber, and this is in spite of our British friends employed in the Supply Department who are helping to keep the price of leather just above 10 per cent. above prewar level and enabling the industry to supply leather goods cheap to the army. Another intriguing item in this list is a stuff known as "New Gold". How important it is to the consumer the Honourable must let us know.

These are the sorts of things that are being imported without any control, and they will be available to the people of this country and help to ease the problem of inflation. This is the precursor to what is going to happen when the Hydari Mission returns and tells us the story of the agreement arrived at with the U. K. Government and U. K. business houses.

I understood that an important commercial organisation met the Commerce Department some time back and gave them a long list of their grievances in regard to manipulation of import control and some promise was made to the deputation that the matter would be considered having in view the best interests of this country and this new gazette notification referred by me appears to be in reply to the complaints and grievances presented to the Government by the industrialists.

Sir, I am reminded of a similar set of circumstances which would provide a parallel to this which happened in Europe some time back. A young friend of mine who is an economist had written a brochure on Exchange Control in Germany as a Trade Strategy which I have with me here. He related what Germany did with her blocked currency in the prewar days and in the early years of the war. Germany bought wholesale stocks of Rumanian and Hungarian wheat and Yugoslav and Rumanian timber, Greek, Turkish and Bulgarian Tobacco. In order to liquidate these blocked credits it became necessary for these countries to purchase German goods in spite of their high prices and low utilities. Yugoslavia was compelled to buy large quantities of aspirin; Rumania had to buy large quantities of typewriting machines; and Greece and Turkey were forced to buy mouth organs. The only parallel that could be furnished to what is being done by the Commerce Department in this country is what was done by Germany with her blocked balances.

That takes me on to a matter which I want to mention very briefly because, owing to a misdirected strategy on the part of a member of the House an

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adjournment motion tabled in this House on this matter in the last Session had to be withdrawn and the opportunity for the House to discuss this important matter, denied to it. That was in regard to the Bombay explosions. I have with me here the first report of the Commission of Enquiry about the Bombay explosions. I understand from the Honourable Member's speech that the Government are going to pay compensation to people who have suffered and the Honourable Member has also indicated in a very veiled manner that there might be a hope of some relief in regard to the payments undertaken by this exchequer by a contribution by the United Kingdom Government. In fact, if the Government of India's resolution on this first report is carefully read one would inevitably conclude that the United Kingdom Government will be very foolish to accept any responsibility for the Bombay explosion because the Government of India have generously whitewashed the responsibility of the representative of the United Kingdom War Transport Department at Karachi, who was mainly responsible for this disaster.

Sir, I think, in spite of the fact that I am occupying the time of the House unduly it would be worthwhile for the House to know some details regarding this matter. On the examination of this individual, viz. the representative of the U. K. War Transport Department in Karachi it was revealed that Mr. Knott, Deputy Representative of the Ministry of War Transport Department in the United Kingdom, working as a partner in Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie & Co. had a dual capacity placed on him and he says in answer to a question put to him by the Committee of Inquiry. "As the Ministry's representative I do not deal with the actual booking at all. That is left to the Agents, Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie". Somebody spoke about Jekyll and Hyde in a previous discussion in this House. Whether that was true or not, here was a case of Jekyll and Hyde working in actual practice. Mr. Knott is the representative of the Ministry of War Transport in the United Kingdom and the agent of Mackinnon Mackenzie, interested in booking freight by steamers for which his firm were agents. In fulfilling this dual function he has revealed that he did not even know or care to satisfy himself about the goods loaded in these steamers. As perhaps the House knows, this steamer "Fort Stikine" carried not merely T.N.T., but also cotton. It also carried timber, fish manure and a whole lot of other things and Mr. Knott has accepted responsibility for the loading of all these at Karachi for the reason that he did not know that these were all articles which will catch fire and could not be loaded with T.N.T. That isolated admission is enough to determine the responsibility in regard to the disaster at Bombay. Neither the War Transport Member nor the Honourable the Finance Member will take us into confidence and tell us what has been done in regard to this matter and here we have the Finance Member coolly stating that they were settling the matter in so far as the sufferers were concerned. And what does it matter if he takes money from one pocket and puts it into another, what does it matter—if he takes the money needed for this purpose from the War Risks Insurance Fund? We had better be content so long as the claims are paid. I do not think the country would be content.

I now come to my Honourable friend the Finance Member and his portfolio and in relation to this matter of the settlement of claims arising out of the Bombay explosion I have one point to urge. It is this. Granting that this matter of determining the responsibility and the question of what U. K. will have to pay if at all it has to pay are matters which have to be kept in suspense, why not have the amount paid out in settlement of claims be also kept in suspense and the matter left out until the United Kingdom accepts responsibility or denies it or pays some compensation or nothing at all?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Bad finance.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not quite sure. I will never say that my Honourable friend is capable of doing anything which would savour of bad finance unconsciously. He might do it deliberately. (Interruption.) That is the Honourable Member's business. I will tell him something more about this

payment on suspense account. The amount as he has told us has been paid out of the war risks insurance fund. I think after the deduction of the amounts paid out in 1944-45 there is a sum to the tune of 40 crores in the war risks insurance fund and in the Explanatory Memorandum, page 30 on the Debt position of the Government of India, my Honourable friend, (or whoever happens to be the draftsman of this memoranda, whether it is my Honourable friend in the House from the Finance Department or any one else), says very coolly, after explaining the whole gamut of the financial transactions of the Government of India, how much we have got by loans how much we have got by taxation, what we have had to spend during the period of the war and what is the gap that is left out to be bridged, that the balance of 407 crores will be covered by the net balances resulting from other debt head transactions, such as the repayment of loans by Provinces, issue of rupee coins to the Reserve Bank, small coin profits, and war risks insurance fund, etc. So the cat is out of the bag. War risk insurance is another method of taxation which is going into the general revenues. I do not suggest that it ought to be repaid to the people who paid it out. It might remain a fund that is earmarked for a specific purpose of social utility. Anyway this Government of India is actually going to utilise anything that is available, anything it can lay its hand on in order to fill up the gap of 407 crores that has resulted from out of the War demands. This is best that the House knows the real position that is why I gave this subject priority in dealing with the Finance Department.

I do not want to detain the House longer but I will refer before closing to two or three matters which in my opinion and I take it in the opinion of the House also are very important and on which I hope my Honourable friend will be able to throw some light. I have heard of importation of silver under lease lend. Newspaper reports tell us that a matter of one hundred million ounces came from the United States of America. I have also heard of some other transactions between the Government of India and the Middle East Governments, whereby some silver was purchased by the Government of India. It may be right or it may not be. It is a matter of hearsay: the Honourable Member will either confirm it or deny it. I would like to know where does the question of lend lease silver come in. What is the position under which lend lease silver is brought. Is it a matter in which we have to return to U.S.A. by way of an equivalent quantity of silver or by way of cost of silver ruling on a specified date? What is the price at which this is being sold to us? What is the cost at which we have brought it to this country and what is the price at which we are selling silver to the market? And where does the profit go to or is the whole amount covered by silver sales kept in suspense? So far as this Government is concerned, I felt, after going through these accounts, that one thing the Government was not afraid of is the keeping of suspense accounts. If they do not know where to put in a particular amount, they decide the issue simply by putting it in suspense account. I think it will be only right and proper if there is to be a committee of the House to examine the financial position, (other than that committee which takes up the *post-mortem* work, namely the Public Accounts Committee) and which would insist upon some kind of figures being furnished in regard to the amounts kept in suspense account by the Government of India. It would be interesting to know the aggregate total of the amounts kept in suspense, so that we will know where we stand. (Interruption.) My Honourable friend might say what does it matter when the fate of the country is kept in suspense but we have all been in suspense so long, we are still kept in suspense, God knows for how long, and if the Honourable the Supply Member's prophecy comes true, we might be kept in suspense for the next eighty years.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: You have quoted a perfect example of what should be a suspense account according to the strictest rules of accounting.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I have not the misfortune of succeeding my Honourable friend. I will remind my Honourable friend of a question that

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I asked of him the other day when he spoke at the close of the Budget discussion. I asked in regard to mutual aid rendered to America, which is debited to the Defence estimates, as to what happened to the credit that he has received by lease-lend and he indicated to me that I might look into the Defence credits. I have looked into these figures. I find that the credits are comparatively small as compared with the enormous amounts that are given by this country by way of mutual aid. Arising out of this I would like to know what is the position in regard to this silver. Where is the reference to it to be found and what is he going to do about this silver ultimately; how is he or his successor going to repay it or give credit for it? Is it also going to be an arrangement by which the U.S.A. Government is immediately credited with the sale proceeds effected by the Reserve Bank, so that their needs in this country can be financed. All these questions arise and have to be answered satisfactorily before we can rest content that these financial transactions covered by the Budget have in them any element of reality.

Further on I come to another allied question, the matter of gold and silver sales. I wonder whether my Honourable friend had the time, at any rate, during the months of November and December to read that magazine, to which he assuredly must attach a great deal of importance, the *Economist* of London. If he had read the issue of November 4th and December 30th, 1944, he would have found interesting remarks made by the *Economist* in regard to the sales of gold and silver in Bombay. In its issue of November 4th, the *Economist* says that the sale of gold daily in Bombay was 30,000 to 50,000 tolas and the sales of silver 100 to 200 bars. It gives the prices at which these were sold and then says:

"These sales have been canalised through the Reserve Bank of India and are made on British and American Government account. They serve the dual purpose of mopping up inflation of rupee notes and of providing the British and American Governments with the rupees they require for their large expenditure in India. It has been suggested that the large offerings by the Reserve Bank are intended to keep pace with the continued increase in that expenditure."

The second item which is in the issue of the *Economist* of December 30th, dealt with the soaring bullion prices. It refers to Runstedt's offensive and the rocketing of bullion prices. "Despite official sales of gold amounting to 75,000 tolas daily and the offer of silver increased from 300 bars previously to 1000 bars", "the prices have rocketed. Everybody else seems to know all that is happening in this country, excepting the people of this country, and specially excepting the Members of this House. Whatever might have been the reasons for keeping these gold and silver sales a secret hitherto, whatever security reasons existed to influence that decision I cannot, by any stretch of imagination, find any reasons to support a continuation of that attitude. Would my Honourable friend tell me exactly what are the specific reasons for keeping this a secret? The market has been going up and down, rocketing up and falling precipitously and nothing appears to have happened to the security of the country as a result and I do not think it is going to be affected if he now tells us clearly the position as regards gold and silver sales—how much of it has come from Britain, and how much of it from America, what profits these Governments have made out of it and what exactly this country has lost by way of national wealth by this profiteering in gold and silver which this Government has allowed Foreign Governments to indulge in.

Sir, one other matter, and I shall finish, and that is, dollar credit and the future of sterling balances. My Honourable friend took exception to my statement, and I do not dispute his claim that the analogy between India and Egypt was imperfect, though nevertheless it is there. Egypt, because of her comparatively independent position, has been able to bargain with Britain in regard to dollar facilities and in regard to facilities for the handling of hard currencies much better than India and the Indian Government could ever do.

I wonder if my Honourable friend has read all that is said about lease-lend exports to England in British and American magazines, and the present position of lend-lease arrangements under which England has agreed to obtain

during 1945 certain materials by lease-lend, though the total quantity is much less than what was supplied in 1944, but pay for certain other articles which she will be using for export purposes. Where does this payment come from? In fact, Mr. Shinwell, that very energetic member of the House of Commons, who is the self-appointed custodian of the Imperial interests, asked, I think, during a debate on this question: where is the cash going to come from and whether there is going to be a further depletion of Britain's low resources, or whether it will come from out of American purchase of goods? But wherever Britain may get this money from, it seems to be large enough for it to undertake an arrangement by which she will agree to pay cash for certain of her imports from U.S.A. which will be used for export purposes, and that being so, why should the Government of India be given this pittance of six crores of rupees every year for being hoarded up for the post-war needs of this country when legitimately she is entitled to much more. Will the Honourable Member give us a statement of the total amount of India's money which has gone into the dollar pool either from the dollar securities and dollar resources of this country which have been frozen or from the export surplus earned by India? It is said that it might be in region of 700 million dollars, we do not know what it is, why not tell us exactly what is the figure. Surely security reasons are not going to affect the giving of information on a matter like this.

My Honourable friend, speaking the other day on the motion of Mr. Tyson, said that civil expenditure has been inflated by reason of the heavy interest charges incurred on internal debt. I was very grateful to him for the information because he gave me an opportunity to bring an allied subject into this discussion. True, the interest charges are rising, and after allocating to the various commercial and semi-commercial departments it will be in the region of Rs. 30 or 31 crores next year. But what is my Honourable friend doing with the resources that he has in hand in order to make them earn and so off-set at any rate a portion of the interest paid by his Government in this country? Sir, we all know that the Reserve Bank holds large amounts of sterling securities, we all know that the Reserve Bank holds a large amount of foreign balances, but how are these held. We know that by law the sterling backing of our note issue has to be held in short-term loans and so they are held either as current deposits in the Bank of England or they are in the shape of Treasury Bills. My Honourable friend here said in his budget speech: notwithstanding the Governments' extremely good ways and means position, they still have to resort to marketing operations in order to keep the Treasury Bill market alive and to keep the money market in a stable condition. The fact remains that here is money available to Government on tap in the Treasury Bill market and why does he not take this estimated surplus of 286 crores according to the revised estimates for 1944-45 and ask the Reserve Bank to deface notes for a similar quantity and release in England in favour of the Indian Government this sum of Rs. 286 crores out of the sterling balances, and invest the sum in long term British securities which will yield an interest of at least 2 per cent. And why should not at the end of 1945-46 the estimated surplus of Rs. 5.21 crores be similarly used for this purpose. Action on these lines will be earning interest which will in some way go to diminish the Rs. 30 crores interest charges which this Government will be paying at the end this year. Will my Honourable friend answer why? I have a reason why he would not, that is a guess, but it is a good guess. It is but natural that my Honourable friend will not for the sake of earning a pittance of say ten crores on behalf of this country take this step, because the ways and means position of England will thereby be affected, the money market in England will be affected, the large amount which is kept on tap in the British Treasury Bill market will be withdrawn, and His Majesty's Government will not agree. That is my surmise. Otherwise I cannot understand how a shrewd financier like my Honourable friend will lose the chance of earning a few crores of rupees or say five or ten as the case may be for this country. The pressure comes from H.M.G. and the present position of sterling balances cannot be changed. I end up on the note that this budget—the whole economic policy of the Government of this

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country—is adjusted to suit the needs of His Majesty's Government. We may cry hoarse in this House, I may speak for another hour, but the position will be the same.

Before closing I would like to add my own words to the words of my friend the Honourable Sir Frederick James in regard to the Finance Member. This will be the last occasion we shall be referring to him when he is in this House, and speaking personally; during the short time I have been in this House, I have been able to see that the Finance Member merits every word which my Honourable friend Sir Frederick James has said about him. So far as I am concerned, if the present Government is to continue for another 80 years, as the Honourable Supply Member will have it, I will rather have Sir Jeremy Raisman as Finance Member than anybody else, and that is the highest tribute that an Indian could pay to a foreigner—I use the word 'foreigner' in its best sense—I hope he will benefit from the well-earned rest that he will get immediately, and that his future will be prosperous and that, when he is in that position, he will remember that notwithstanding the fact that this country might often times have occasion to remember the period during which he was the Finance Member, and all that have happened in this country, by reason of circumstances over which he had no control, there are many in this country who feel that he has done his duty by India well and conscientiously.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. Deputy President, although I am not quite uninterested in the high topics like international security and other questions in which the House is greatly interested, I shall restrict myself to the much neglected subject of the conditions under which the public servants belonging to the subordinate and inferior services have to work in this country under this Government. Although this subject is a much neglected one at the hands of Members of the Assembly, I feel if the Members will consider this subject from the point of view of those people who are rendering faithful and good service to this country as public servants, they will realise that they should devote a little more of their attention also to this subject.

When the conditions of employment of public servants in this country are considered, we find generally that those who are placed in high positions are given, as compared to the conditions under which the subordinate and inferior classes of Government employees have to work, very generous terms as regards the scales of salary, as regards the conditions under which they get leave, as regards the conditions under which pensions are given. I shall not go into the past history, because there is not much time for me; but you know that from the beginning the scales of salaries paid to the subordinate public servants and the inferior public servants were very meagre. But subordinate services and the inferior services began to feel the inadequacy to a much greater extent since the year 1930-31, when on account of the depression the Government of India reduced the scales of pay which were paid to the subordinate and inferior services on account of the fact that there was depression in those days. Now, this depression lasted for some time and again the prices began to rise and the cost of living began to go up. Still the Government of India did not take any steps to improve the conditions under which the public servants of the subordinate and inferior services were working. You know the cost of living in this country immediately after the war went up tremendously; and that high cost of living has continued for more than five years. When the depression started and the prices were lowered, say for two or three years, the Government of India immediately took steps to reduce the scales of salary; but when the prices have kept on rising and have risen for five years, the Government of India has not moved and is not moving now to raise the salaries of those people whose salaries should have been raised much earlier. These members belonging to the subordinate services have suffered a great deal. A large number of them are getting what I may call sub-standard living; they do not get sufficient to maintain themselves and their families. Some of them may be just above the ordinary minimum scale of life. But still the Government of India is not paying attention to the conditions under which these people are working under the present circumstances.

The result is that there is discontent in the subordinate ranks of the public servants, as well as in the personnel of the inferior services. Not only there is discontent in the minds of those people, but I have no doubt that the Members of this Assembly and even the Members on the Government benches will admit that the efficiency of service has suffered on account of the fact that those who are to do the work of our various departments are not only not contented but do not get enough for meeting the needs of their ordinary life. The Government of India, if they know how the work of their various departments is going on, will not deny the fact that there is inefficiency in their departments. I know by my own experience that when I receive letters from the departments with which I am connected, even the addresses are not now properly written, because the salaries which the Government of India is paying at present to new entrants who generally write these addresses are not such as to attract ordinarily efficient clerks. When Government found that they could not get people on the low salaries which they were paying they raised the initial salary of the clerks; but this very raising the salaries of a few people in some departments has created greater discontent in the general ranks of these subordinate services. Not only that: at present the Government of India keeps a large number of the new entrants on a temporary basis: some have been working as temporary employees of the Government of India for five years, some are working for four years, some for three years, and they do not enjoy the same leave rules which they would have enjoyed if they had been made permanent. We are told that these new entrants could not be made permanent because some of these jobs are reserved for those people who are rendering war service. I have no objection to some posts being reserved for those who have gone on war service; but at the same time it is our business to see that those people who are doing the work of the various departments have certain rights and their interests must be considered by those who employ them. I therefore feel that in the matter of leave rules and such other matters, even these temporary people deserve better attention at the hands of the Government of India.

Then, we are employing a large number of people on a temporary basis. Their number can be counted by thousands: one of my colleagues the other day said that he found 15,000 people on a temporary basis in the book of Demands which is supplied to us. The number may be much larger; and to my regret I found that the Honourable Home Member replied that the Government of India have no plan as to the future of these people who are working on a temporary basis. That is the reply which he gave at that time. It is possible that since that time he has been thinking that he was not quite right in saying that it is not his duty to think of the future of those people who are rendering service to the Government of India and to the public in India on a temporary basis. I suggest to the Government of India now that as the cost of living has remained high for more than five years, it is time for them to restore at least the old scales of pay; there is a great deal of discontent and if you want your public work to be done honestly and well, the sooner you either restore the old scales of pay or, if you are generous enough, revise the scales of pay for all ranks of people, the better. I may inform the Government of India, if they do not know it, that some of the Provincial Governments, such as the Madras Government, have begun to take steps in this direction. The Provincial Governments have begun to feel that they cannot get proper men to do their work unless the scales of pay are revised and I suggest to the Government of India to take immediate steps for revising the scales of pay of the persons who are working for us in our subordinate and inferior services.

Then, the Government of India, it is true, began to pay some kind of dearness allowance since 1942, if I remember aright, but the cost of living had begun to rise from the beginning of the war and the Government of India took, I think, 18 months before they paid any kind of dearness allowance and when they began to pay dearness allowance they paid it in a very niggardly manner. In 1941, I think the Government of India appointed a committee called the Rau Committee to consider the question of the dearness allowance to be paid to the railway

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employees. The Rau Committee laid down certain scales of dearness allowance which should be paid to Government employees. It is true that that committee considered the question of only the Railway employees but certainly what was needed for the railway employees was also needed for the employees of the other departments. Unfortunately, Sir, the policy of the Government of India as regards the payment of the dearness allowance is niggardly and I would therefore suggest to them to change that policy and adopt a policy which, if not generous, will be a fair one. After the Rau Committee, the Government of India in the Labour Department appointed a committee to consider the question of the dearness allowance, over which the Economic Adviser to the Government of India presided. The Committee's report is not yet published, although it was made I think about a year ago. I do not know why the report is not published. But I have a shrewd suspicion that that report which was made by an economist who is not on the Government front Benches must have recommended at least to do some justice to the employees of the Government of India, at least the people who are paid the lowest wages and lowest salaries. It is admitted that people who are not given enough to eat and clothe themselves should not be asked to make sacrifices even for this war. My suspicion is that the Gregory Committee Report may have recommended that people who get the smallest wages like those people who are getting Rs. 30 a month should not be asked to make any sacrifices on account of the rise in the cost of living. They may have recommended that they should be compensated for the rise in the cost of living. The Honourable the Finance Member and also his other colleagues in the other departments perhaps found that that recommendation was inconvenient and therefore that report was not published. I would suggest to the Government of India that whatever they may do with their public servants, let them at least publish that report so that the world will know what an economist like Sir Theodore Gregory thought about the dearness allowance which the Government of India was paying. Sir, the dearness allowance paid by the Government of India is very meagre. They generally pay, say, Rs. 8 or 9 to Rs. 18 except to those people who may be getting more salary, in whose case it is 10 per cent of the salary. The rise in the cost of living is not met adequately. People who are interested have made some calculations and the postmen in Bombay have prepared a table showing how much of the cost of living has been compensated for and they calculate at the present rate of dearness allowance paid in the case of people who get upto Rs. 30, 36 per cent of the rise in the cost of living has been compensated. In the case of people who get between 30 and 39, 27 per cent of the rise in the cost of living is compensated and curiously enough in the case of people who get more than Rs. 39, upto 50, 34 per cent of the rise in the cost of living is compensated. People who are getting less, say, between 30 and 39, get only 27 per cent of the rise in the cost of living compensated. I suggest to the Government of India to give up this policy and adopt a more generous and fairer policy. Let them decide which class of people should not be asked to make any sacrifices on account of the rise in the cost of living. I suggest to them let them choose a figure, Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 and see that people getting at least below that sum should get full compensation for the rise in the cost of living. It is difficult to say what is exactly a fair standard of living wage. In Bombay, a committee was appointed called the Divatia Committee and that Committee came to the conclusion that for the city of Bombay before the war, Rs. 50 or Rs. 55 were necessary for a sort of minimum living wage. Now, of course, Rs. 50 or 55 will not be enough because the cost of living has gone up. The cost of living index is at present 240. Let the Government of India take that standard in Bombay before the war when at least Rs. 50 or 55 were required for a minimum living standard and let the Government of India add what is necessary on account of the rise in the cost of living and give an allowance based on that standard.

Sir, I shall not speak about the dearness allowance any more. It was mentioned the other day that the Government of India, unfortunately treats their employees in different departments differently on account of the fact that people in some departments are strong enough to agitate and therefore Government is

compelled to give them more. Sir, I would suggest to the Government of India that in the case of some people who are not strong enough, who are not well organised to agitate and to compel them to give them what is due to them, they should voluntarily offer to them what they were compelled to offer to others. Sir, it is true that although the railwaymen, and to some extent the postmen get a little more than the people in other Departments by way of various allowances, it is not because the Government of India was weak enough, but because in the case of railwaymen a Committee was appointed and the Government was ashamed to pay much lower than they agreed at that time to pay. That is the real reason. I would suggest to the Government of India to do justice to all their employees.

I would like to say one word about the men in the Posts and Telegraphs Department. These people are also very much discontented and they are asking for revision of salaries and better dearness allowance. Sir, in this connection, I would like to draw attention to the somewhat contradictory attitude of the Government of India. There was a time when the Government of India was reducing the scales of pay and the argument used for paying the postal employees less than other departments was that the Postal Department was a commercial Department, that the Postal Department can only pay and spend monies for salaries according to their income. That was the argument used at that time for paying the clerks in the Postal Department much less than the clerks in the other Departments. Now, Sir, circumstances have changed. The Postal Department is making a profit of ten crores a year. I would suggest to the Government of India to remember the slogan which they used in paying the postal employees less than the employees in other departments and do justice to the employees of the Postal Department. If there is discontent in other departments, perhaps the public may not feel that discontent. But if the postal service is discontented, it is not only your Departments will feel, but the ordinary public will feel it. If any differentiation is to be made between the clerks working in the Postal Department and those working in other Departments, I would certainly make a discrimination in favour of employees of the post office because they come in contact with the public and for that very reason they require greater ability than the clerks in other departments. Then, Sir, in the post office, the work has increased on account of war, but still the Government of India have not increased the staff to that extent. I would suggest to the Government of India to do justice to their employees in these departments.

Then, Sir, there is a small point which I should like to make regarding the rules of pension for inferior servants. On the whole the rules of pension given by the Government of India to their employees are not bad. I would say they are even generous, but the inferior class of Government employees are still denied the full enjoyment of the rules which are applied to the subordinate and also higher services. The inferior servants are not allowed the pension under the same rules under which the subordinate employees are paid.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Sir, these pension rules were revised some years ago by the predecessor of the Honourable the Finance Member and to a very slight extent by the present Finance Member also. But still there is discrimination made between inferior servants and servants belonging to the subordinate and higher services. I should like the Honourable the Finance Member and the Government of India to revise these pension rules and give to the servants of the inferior services half the salary as pension as is given to other services.

Sir, I have spoken about the employees of the various Departments. But the Government of India is not only an employer of these subordinate and inferior services in their Departments, but the Government of India maintain some factories also. I would also like the Government of India to enquire into the conditions under which the employees who are working in Government factories have to work. Sir, the Government of India has a duty to be a sort of example, a model for the employers in this country to follow. The Government of India

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cannot give to their employees in these factories conditions which are not even as good as conditions given to any private factories. Sir, the Government of India maintains a large number of Ordnance factories. The employees who are working in these ordnance factories are certainly doing a very important work, but unfortunately the grievances of the employees of the ordnance factories are not properly looked into. I received a few days ago a memorandum from the employees of an ordnance factory, the Cordite factory in Aravankattu. The wages paid in that factory are extremely low if we consider the general level of wages in other parts of the country. Men and women are paid six annas a day; in the case of men, after some service, they are paid a little more, but women have to work on six annas a day for years together. I would like the Government of India to consider whether it is a proper wage to be paid to their employees. The other conditions given to the employees of these ordnance factories are not satisfactory and I would very much like the Government of India to enquire into this question.

I have also received complaints from the employees of the Government of India presses, both in Delhi as well as in Calcutta. These people have got a large number of grievances including grievances as regards scales of salaries and scales of dearness allowance. It is not right for the Government of India to treat their employees unfairly. I would like the Government of India to give their employees a treatment much better than that given by ordinary employers.

Sir, I shall not speak any longer about the employees of the Government of India. But I shall only make a few remarks regarding labour in general. Sir, I have spoken on this subject on my cut motion and I had suggested to the Honourable Labour Member that he should take early steps to give compensation to those workers who suffer from unemployment due to shortage of coal and other materials. I would like the Government of India to take immediate steps to see that compensation will be paid. I mentioned in my previous speech that the Government of India have issued rules regarding compensation to be paid. But they have not taken steps to see that the rules will be enforced. I therefore suggest to the Government of India to pass an ordinance applying these rules to all factories and other industrial undertakings and see that the rules are enforced. Then, Sir, the House has very recently given a mandate to the Government of India that employment of women underground should be stopped. Sir, the Honourable the Labour Member this morning stated that the vote of the House was due to political motives. I do not understand, Sir, what he meant. If by politics we mean that the House wanted good conditions of work and save these women from dangerous work in mines, then certainly our object was political. If by political, we mean looking after the welfare of the common people in this country then certainly the object was political and there is no shame in that. I do not know what according to the Government of India is politics. Do they not include welfare of the poorest class of workers in this country in their politics? If the Government of India tell me that in their politics the common people of the country are not included but that their politics is intended for only those classes of people from whom the Members of the Government of India are drawn, then let me tell them that their interpretation of the word "politics" and my interpretation are different. My politics is that politics which concerns the life of the poorest people in this country; and therefore when this House gave a mandate to the Government of India to stop the employment of women underground, I think this House was following the right kind of politics and the House set an example of what good politics is, to the Government of India.

Then, Sir, I had suggested to the Government of India that they should have a separate Labour Ministry. The question of social security is becoming very important and very urgent too; and if that problem is to be properly solved there must be a separate Labour Ministry with a properly equipped staff. I would therefore suggest that the Labour Member should be divested of his duties

of managing other departments and he should be free to give his whole attention to the questions of labour in which, I have no doubt, he is very much interested. Let him also be given sufficient staff. I have already said that I am not a believer in retrenchment in proper expenditure. Let the Labour Member be given full staff to make a plan for establishing social security for the progress of this country.

Lastly, Sir, I shall refer to this question of the mining industry. Coal mining is a key industry. If we do not produce sufficient coal our industries will suffer and our workers will suffer. And therefore I have been suggesting, in the remarks which I made on different subjects, that coal mining is one industry which the Government of India should take in its own hands. They cannot afford to leave this key industry into the hands of private capitalists who are not interested in the production but are only interested in making money.

I would also suggest to the Government of India that they should not only take the coal industry in their hands for management, but in order to be able to do it well there should be an independent Member of the Executive Council to manage coal mining. In England mining and production of coal is considered so important that there is an independent Minister for mining. Similarly the Government of India should have an independent Minister for coal mining. The present arrangement of the Supply Member—who is already overworked—being also the Member for coal mining is wrong. And the sooner the Government of India change it the better for the interests of this country.

Sir, I have no desire to detain the House any longer. I thank you and the Deputy President for giving me this early opportunity of stating my views on these subjects.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, it seems to have become a social convention on the part of some Members to congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member and also to console him because he is obliged to lay down the charge of his department and go to England. I for one cannot think of congratulating him or expressing my gratitude. It is true that I am quite prepared to wish him *bon voyage*. I am also quite prepared to wish him a very happy time in his own country. I am also, if I can venture to say something on behalf of England and the English people, quite prepared to permit myself to an expression of satisfaction that he has served the British people and Great Britain quite ably and successfully. It is quite possible that the Honourable Member has been trying to do his work in a conscientious manner. But I am afraid that all his conscientious work has only benefited the British people and those who are behind them and has not benefited the people of this country.

Sir, I am perfectly satisfied that I do not detract from the essential merits of the gentleman opposite when I say that this country has absolutely no reason whatsoever to feel grateful for his stewardship of the finances of this country. On the other hand it is but right, and it is not as a matter of mere parliamentary convention that I say so, that during his six years of stewardship of the finances of this country the country has grown much poorer and much more unhappy than she had ever been before. That does not mean that the Honourable Member has consciously tried to make India what she is today,—poor, starved, half-naked, unhappy, burdened in every possible manner and feeling thoroughly miserable and dissatisfied. I only mean that he is a sort of cog in the wheel of British imperialism; he is only an implement in this great imperialist machine which has been functioning in this country, in order to benefit the British people.

Sir, I wish to refer to the miseries of this country caused by inflation which my Honourable friend has been obliged to inflict on this country, not because he was vicious but because he had no other go, being as he was an agent of British imperialism. I wish to challenge any financier in the world to prove how inflation can be avoided in a colonial country during war time. You can finance war either by taxes, or by raising loans or by inflation. My Honourable friend has tried both loans and taxes, and in both these directions he has inflicted great damage upon the economy of our country.

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

When I take up the question of taxes I find that the Honourable Member has departed from the precedents of his own predecessors by becoming suddenly enthusiastic about what he is pleased to call commodity taxes. This is a very strange thing indeed. There was an Honourable Member of this House who was suggesting that there should be another Taxation Inquiry Committee. There had been a Taxation Inquiry Committee in this country and it deplored the regressive character of our taxation system and recommended that the earliest and earnest steps should be taken by the Government, Central as well as provincial, to change this regressive character of our own taxation system and to increase the income that the State should get from direct taxes. On the other hand the Honourable Member here comes forward and says that future India will come to depend more and more on commodity taxes. And may I ask, why? He has no other justification except that future India will be in need of more tax revenue. And if more tax revenues are needed, I wish to suggest that the proper thing for any popular and people's Finance Member to do is to make the rich people pay and not to make the poor people pay. But on the other hand my Honourable friend has made our poor people pay, bleeding almost to their uttermost. Sir, the revenue that the Finance Member has drawn from these commodity taxes has grown enormously. At one time customs and excise revenues both together accounted for only 46 crores, in 1930-31. Now it is 55 crores and 25 lakhs so far as customs goes, and 48 crores and 59 lakhs as per this year's budget.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: And how much has direct taxation grown at the same time?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am coming to that also.

They were getting from both these sources 46 crores in 1930-31, and in this budget he wants to get more than that from commodity taxes alone, and that is 48 crores and 59 lakhs. My Honourable friend puts a question, and a very interesting question it is, that the rich people are paying from their excess profits. How much they are paying? He wants me to refer to that item. If we go into it in greater detail we find that the corporation tax has given 77 crores of excess profit tax and to the so-called income-tax 20 crores, i.e. about 100 crores of rupees. Who pays this 100 crores of rupees, I want to know? How does he make his estimate when he tries to collect this excess profit tax? He makes provision for normal profits for the industry for a particular period of years. Then he makes provision also for scientific research, he gives exemption for their wear and tear, for a sinking fund, and so on. He also tries to make various concessions—quite rightly, I dare say—to the industry, so that it will be able to rehabilitate itself and find itself at least in no worse condition after the war than it was before the war. All these concessions he makes, then he introduces excess profits tax. I can only say that this can only come not from any cost of production or anything, or even from ordinary wages of capital, but it can only come from the consumers, and that means again a kind of commodity tax. My Honourable friend, his colleague, the Member for Industries and Civil Supplies, was claiming credit for the fact that he has brought down the prices of cotton goods from the peak figure in 1943 by 75 per cent. What is the secret of it? You allow these prices to go up and make the consumers pay. When they pay, the money goes to the manufacturers, and then you collect it from them and you call it excess profits tax, and you want this House to be deceived into feeling that all this money is being paid by the rich people. Certainly not. It is being paid by the consumers of cloth and other manufactured commodities.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: What other sources?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My Honourable friend can very well go to the economists of London and there express his views,—“What can I do? Do not believe what the people on the opposite side have been saying. My trouble is the Bombay merchants, Ahmedabad merchants, Sholapur merchants—capitalists”.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: And with Professor Ranga.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I know.

Therefore I have done what I possibly could under the emergent circumstance.

If my Honourable friend will give me permission to accompany him to England on my own and to express my views, I will not be surprised if that would be his apology that he would be offering to his own colleagues on the other side.

Therefore, Sir, nearly 188 crores of rupees are being contributed to the Central Funds by the masses themselves and a little less than Rs. 110 crores are being contributed by the rich. Thus the Honourable Member has allowed the rich people to bear much less of the share than the poor people.

Coming to the question of loans, what has he done? He says, “I have congratulated the Governors for this drive.” The House has already had a full dress debate on that question, so I will not dilate on this point for very long. But from whom has this money been drawn? From some of the poor people, from poor peasants. Any amount of evidence was given on the floor of the House to prove this. I need not go into details, but the fact remains that these were forced loans, large portions of these loans have been forced loans and they have been drained away from the masses, ordinary people who really cannot afford to contribute any money towards these loans but who required that money very badly for domestic purposes in order to pull through these hard times.

Then, there is inflation. He could not but resort to it. He had no other way open to him because he had to purchase so many things in this country on the account of England, on the account of America, and on the account of so many other increasing number of their Allies. Whether we needed those goods or not, he had to purchase them on the account of these people. Did this Government have any sort of freedom about it, whether they could or could not purchase these things? No, they were to purchase. And with what they were to pay? Rupees. And in return did we get gold, silver or machine goods, or did we get even these consumer goods? No, we were given sterling securities. And what are these sterling securities? Dues which could not be paid, and they have accumulated those. It comes to more than two-thousand crores of rupees. My Honourable friend comes to this House and wants this country and the House to be grateful to him that he has come to some sort of wonderful financial agreement with the British Government. What else could he have done? My Honourable friend is an honest man and he went to England like a British babe going to his own mother. He must have told his people there, “you want me to buy this and to buy that but you don't pay for it; my dear fellows, unless you pay those people at least in paper currency you cannot expect me to purchase for this country and place it at your disposal, therefore it is the best agreement for you; this is beautiful; all that we have got to do is to give an I. O. U.” So that I. O. U. they have given us and they have drained away our resources; they have drained away our life-blood to the tune of nearly two-thousand crores of rupees, if not more. What else could they do except to flood this country with paper currency? Old one rupee coins were withdrawn because there was more silver content in it; people had to part with those coins and accept paper currency. If people did not accept them, they were liable to go to jail. And my Honourable friend wants this country to congratulate him. He says, “True, there is inflation. I am as sorry as yourself. Therefore co-operate with me in countering inflation. Your pocket is bulging, give those rupees to me, I shall make use of them—very good use of them; and at the end of the war when your own Government comes—whatever its name may be—it will pay you, it has got to render accounts to you, it is not my funeral, it will be their funeral.” And then the Honourable Member wants us to congratulate him. Even these notes he wants to withdraw. When we refuse to allow ourselves to be robbed in this manner, he asks his friend the Honourable the Home Member to let loose his dreadful dogs to create trouble, to put our people into jails, to give them warning and put them in as detenus;

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and all the rest of it. This is the sort of financial jugglery that this gentleman has carried on in this country.

Then I come to the other thing. Could he have avoided this inflation? He said I am going to. At question time we were asking the Honourable Member whether it is not true that our commodities are being sold at too cheap a price abroad. The Supply Member answered: Oh, we are supplying raw materials at too cheap a price but we are giving them so many facilities. Therefore we have a right to ask them to sell their commodities at concessional rates. But we cannot make a differentiation between what we want and what we have to give to our Allied Governments. Is this price priority? Not so. Here is a sort of cooked evidence all their own. I rather underestimate it. Here is the information by Sir Theodore Gregory, brought by the other "Grigg".

Our food prices are kept at 277.6 per cent. That is the index figure. Primary commodities are at 259 and manufactured goods at 256.4. My Honourable friend sells all our goods at 250. What does that mean? Our business must live. Our manufacturers have to manufacture goods and give them to the wholesalers at 256 per cent. But my Honourable friend captures our raw materials and the manufactured goods and sells them to the Allied Governments at 250 per cent. Is not this loot? He has been selling our goods too cheaply. For whose benefit? If it was for the benefit of the English I could understand. But it is for the benefit of the Americans. At the cost of whom? At the expense of the poor, and people ask me to be grateful to this gentleman. I cannot be grateful to him.

Then I come to the stabilisation of prices. He is keeping down our prices. Whose? Not the price of manufactured goods but the price of the primary commodities being produced by millions and millions of people in this country. There was my friend, Mr. Joshi. He was pleading for the masses of this country. I agree with him. But for how many do they count? Not more than five millions. For the sake of those five millions you have a Labour Minister and he says that the Labour Minister ought not to be burdened with other responsibilities. But for the sake of our three hundred millions what Minister have you? You have a Secretary standing up for three departments and not able to do anything for those people. What do I mean by stabilisation of prices? Do I mean to keep them down to uneconomical levels. No. But do what you have done in regard to the millowners and their people. Treat these poor peasants in the same way. These millowners have money, the press, and also many of you in their pockets by friendship and relationship. You do justice to them. You are not prepared to do justice to my people. My Honourable friend, the Food Member, wants more and more power to be given to him. For what purpose? So that he could go and sit on the top of the Punjab Ministry and push down their prices. But you are not satisfied. Wherever I go your officers say that the Punjab Government is greedy. Is that so? A friend told me that there was a peasant who was shedding tears at his harvest field after he had sold away his grain. Throughout the year he laboured hard with the help of his wife and children and his starving cattle. Then he sold his harvest. But there was the money-lender. There was the jagirdar and there was the tax collector. After these were paid there was your unofficial agent with his saving certificate. And what was left? Eleven annas. And his sons were grumbling. Those were the conditions now. My Honourable friend said we sent one honourable Butler. It seems to me that you Government officers seem to have a genius to study everything upside down.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Perfect description of yourself!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I say everything upside down because you see everything upside down. You see England and I see India. We are poles apart, my friend Sir Jeremy Raisman.

Is it true that our peasants are becoming more prosperous? They have a few rupees now to pay taxes. Why? Not because of our surplus profits and

income but because we have now at least become commonsense-wallahs and we are selling portions of our land at a higher price to get rid of these money-lenders for ever. That is how these land mortgage banks monies are being returned. You want to be jealous of our people because they have a few useless paper notes in their pockets. But look at all these things in a relative manner. So far as these notes are concerned, your town people, your merchants, your traders, your wholesalers, your Supply Department agents are in a better position. And what is the worth of your notes? If to a townsman each rupee is worth three annas, to a villager it is worth only two annas. You may say the villager need not have to go and purchase grain and therefore his position is better. Not so. He wants these commodities. You have destroyed his earlier self-sufficiency economy. You have made him a victim to various things that can be satisfied only by your towns. Now he finds himself helpless. There was a time when a peasant did not know kerosene because he depended upon castor oil. But today he does not even know how to grow castor seed and manufacture castor oil. Therefore he depends on kerosene. But now we cannot get that kerosene and our peasants are suffering. You also destroyed our handicrafts by your mills. But these mills are unable to supply cloth and our people die in nakedness and shame. In towns you have shops and rationing. But in the villages, have you done anything at all? My Honourable friend says I am not responsible. If this Honourable Member, who is responsible for all these departments together, because he holds the purse strings, is not responsible then who is?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is now five o'clock. The Honourable Member can continue his speech the next day.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 19th March, 1945.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 19th 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:

Sir Gurunath Venkatesh Bewoor, C.I.E., I.C.S., M.L.A. (Secretary, Posts and Air Department); and
Mr. Ram Chandra, I.C.S. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE RE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

1076. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) the attitude of the Government of India over the Independence Day celebrated in various parts of the country on the 26th January, and

(b) whether any of the Provincial Governments have consulted the Government of India over the attitude to be adopted by them in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). There has from time to time been correspondence between the Government of India and Provincial Governments on the question of the attitude that they should adopt towards the celebration of "Independence" day. The present position is that Provincial Governments are free to decide on their own line of action in this matter. The early attainment of independence for India is the declared policy of His Majesty's Government and no inference to the contrary can be drawn from any action that any Provincial Government considered it necessary to take in any particular case in discharge of their responsibility for the maintenance of law and order.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the answer to part (a) of the question? What is the attitude of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: They have left the matter entirely to the Provinces.

Sardar Mangal Singh: What about the Centrally Administered Areas?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The matter is left to the Chief Commissioners.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is the Honourable Member aware that in many of the Provinces, the Provincial Governments have taken action against celebration of Independence Day?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: They have presumably taken action, as I have said in my reply, in the discharge of their responsibility for the maintenance of law and order: no political inference can be drawn from any action which they take.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Government consider the advisability of circularising all Provincial Governments that in view of the fact that the only object of that day's celebration is the attainment of independence for India, that no action should be taken by the Provincial Governments against such celebration?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No, Sir.

HOISTING OF NATIONAL FLAGS

1077. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether there is any ban on the national flag being put up in homes, on motor-cars or otherwise;

(b) whether he is aware that in many places in the country those flags, hoisted even in private houses or shops were asked to be removed by the police; and

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

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (c). As far as I am aware, there is no ban in the country on the flying of any particular flag. I have no knowledge of any action that may have been taken on particular occasions or in particular places by Provincial police.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: How many arrests were made in Delhi on that day for hoisting the national flag, I mean the Independence Day?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I think there is a further question on the subject later on.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Government are aware that even in Delhi, the hoisting of the National Flag was banned?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: There is a further question on that subject, as far as I know.

EXCISE DUTY ON SUGAR

1078. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the rate of excise duty on sugar in 1938-39, and how much it yielded?

(b) What is the rate of excise duty on sugar now and how much did it yield in 1943-44 and in 1944-45 (up to the 31st December, 1944)?

(c) What is the total number of assessees in respect of central excises for sugar?

(d) What is the cost of collection?

(e) Do Government use the Provincial Government's good offices or services for collecting sugar excise in any Province?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The rates of excise duty on sugar in 1938-39 were as follows:

(i) one rupee per cwt. on *Khandsari* sugar; and

(ii) two rupees per cwt. on all other sugar except palmyra.

This excise yielded about Rs. 423 lakhs during that year.

(b) The existing rates of excise duty on sugar are as follows:

(i) eight annas per cwt. on *Khandsari* sugar; and

(ii) three rupees per cwt. on sugar other than *Khandsari* or palmyra.

The yield during 1943-44 and during the period 1st April 1944 to 31st December 1944 was about Rs. 668 lakhs and Rs. 370 lakhs respectively.

(c) An excise duty on sugar is levied from the manufacturer when the sugar is delivered from the factory. I taken it that by 'number of assessees' is meant 'number of factories'. There are about 694 factories producing dutiable sugar.

(d) The cost of collection during 1944-45 is estimated at about Rs. 8½ lakhs.

(e) Not ordinarily.

WOMEN IN CENSOR OFFICES

1079. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the statement by a correspondent "X" in the Blitz newspaper of Bombay, dated the 10th February, 1945, which is as follows:

"The Censors' Offices are filled with European and Anglo-Indian women, drawing fat salaries?"

(b) What is the total number of women in the Censors' Offices all over the country?

(c) How many of them are Europeans, how many Anglo-Indians and how many Indians?

(d) Is the scale of salary for Europeans and Indians the same? If not, what are the varying scales?

(e) What is the total outlay on this subject?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1,090.

(c) Europeans, 613; Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians 278; Indians 199.

(d) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. The second part does not arise.

(e) Rs. 36,22,800 per annum.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that these women censors read personal letters passing between husbands and wives in this country and between this country and U. K., and that they spread scandals and social histories and family histories among themselves?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: It is their function to censor all correspondence going out of and coming into India, but I am not aware that they spread the knowledge of what they read.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the amount of delay caused in the despatch of letters owing to this censorship?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The minimum delay.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The Honourable Member said that the scale of salary for European and Indian censor women are the same? What is the pay?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have not got the particular statement about pay with me. I shall be glad to show it to the Honourable Member, if he so desires.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Are these women censors told that they must keep these things confidential?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Most certainly, Sir.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Do they take a vow of secrecy?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I think they do, and it is certainly impressed upon them that what they read is to be kept absolutely confidential and that nothing should go out.

AUGMENTATION OF STERLING BALANCES DUE TO INDIAN EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA, ETC.

1080. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member been drawn to the address of Rai Bahadur Syamnandan-Sahya, C.I.E., President of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce, where he says as follows on the 25th January, 1945:

"Exports from India to middle-eastern countries and Australia have also been responsible for the augmentation of the sterling balances?"

(b) Is it a fact that payment for goods sent to Australia and the Eastern Group countries was not made direct to India, but was settled through London and where the balance was in favour of India, it has gone to swell the sterling balances?

(c) Is it a fact that Australia and the Eastern Group countries send goods to England against goods received by them from India, leaving England to pay India for these goods, and that these payments not having been made, the sterling accumulations are showing themselves?

(d) Have Government considered that for this part of the sterling balances, payment could be secured from Australia and the Eastern Group countries in such goods as India needs, or in gold, or in any other assets that these countries may be in a position to give?

(e) Why have the Government of India not settled these matters directly with these countries, but settled them through London, leading to the accumulation of sterling?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I have seen a newspaper report of the speech to which the Honourable Member refers but it does not contain the actual passage mentioned.

(b) to (e): The Honourable Member's question appears to be based on a misunderstanding. The position is that so far as the Eastern Group countries are concerned, imports into India are not restricted by considerations of exchange for they are all in the sterling area and there is no hinderance on financial or exchange grounds to the needs of India being met by such exports as these countries are in a position to offer. Owing, however, to the pattern which the

necessities of war have imposed on trade and such causes as shortages of supply, and of shipping space, India has had a favourable balance of trade with these countries which they have not been able to meet by exports to India whether directly or indirectly. It is quite incorrect to suggest that Indian exports to these countries have helped the United Kingdom financially to increase its imports from them.

The credits resulting from India's favourable balance of trade are held in the form of sterling balances in London and not separately in each country from the export surplus to which they arise. There would be no advantage in following the latter course as the transmission of funds from one sterling area country to another is freely possible and the sterling in London can be transferred for payment to any other part of the sterling area as and when it is required.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that the favourable balance, in favour of India from these countries, is relatively small, much smaller than that of U. K., have Government any greater guarantee or assurance of the early return of such favourable balance, directly from these countries to India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As I have explained it is perfectly open to India to obtain imports when available from these other countries to cover that favourable balance and so no further guarantee seems to be necessary.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will such exports from these countries to India be paid by U. K. promptly without question from the sterling balances which have been accumulated?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is not a question of payment by U. K. These sterling balances are available for India to make payment within the sterling area.

TECHNICAL INDUSTRIES TRAINING TO INDIAN STUDENTS

1081. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) apart from the training given in universities to students, as mentioned in the press communique of the Education, Health and Lands Department, whether the Government have any scheme to depute and train men in technical industries; so that they can be used in the starting of industries in the post-war period;

(b) whether they have negotiated with the Government or industrialists of the U. K. or the U. S. A. to get such men trained; and

(c) if so, in what industries?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The reply will be given by the Honourable Member for Labour on the appropriate date.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Shall I have to give fresh notice?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The reply will be given by the Labour Member without fresh notice.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, I may have more than five questions on that day; will it therefore be shut out?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can withdraw one of the questions.

POSTS TO WHICH INDIANS ARE NOT PERMANENTLY APPOINTED

1082. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) what the posts in the Government of India are to which no Indian has been permanently employed till now;

(b) the reasons for such non-appointment of Indians; and

(c) whether there is any statutory reservation of any of these posts for Europeans; if so, what those posts are which are so reserved?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (c). There is no statutory provision reserving any post under the Government of India for Europeans. Such being so, the labour required to make a list of the posts which have not yet in fact been held by Indians would not be justified.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I have a list with regard to the higher posts in the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: If the Honourable Member specifies what he means by "higher posts" and puts down a question, I will look into it.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I know that in the lower posts like those of *chaprassies* and so on, they are all Indians. So there is no need for a specific question. It is of course open to the Honourable Member not to answer the question in the public interests, but when the question has been allowed by the Honourable President and asked, they should give an answer.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: We will have to go into the records of these posts for about 20 years, and if the question is not specific there can be no reply given.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if the Home Member has ever been an Indian?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I believe not.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Are Indians eligible to posts in the Cypher Department?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Yes, Sir.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is there any legal bar to the appointment of Indians as Home Member or Finance Member of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I believe not.

BAN ON CHARKHA SPINNING DEMONSTRATION IN CONNAUGHT PLACE

1083. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) Whether the park in Connaught Place has been used since 1941 by the National War Front for public demonstration;

(b) whether on the 11th February 1945 the police and the municipal authorities stopped by force a silent spinning open air *Charkha* demonstration; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is it a fact that a report appeared in the press that these people were dispersed by force? May I know if that is true?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The answer is, No.

ARRESTS FOR HOISTING NATIONAL FLAG IN CONNAUGHT PLACE

1084. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether two Congressmen were arrested in December last for hoisting National Flag in Connaught Place;

(b) whether they were prosecuted, and with what result; and

(c) if acquitted, what action was taken against the policemen who arrested them?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a). The Honourable Member presumably refers to an incident on the 26th November, 1944 when two persons were arrested who appeared to be attempting to organise a public meeting in Connaught Place; and had caused a crowd to gather.

(b) The persons in question were prosecuted under section 34 of the Police Act 1861, but were acquitted for want of evidence.

(c) The action taken by the Police was perfectly legal and no question of disciplinary action arises.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Was their arrest due to the fact that they had the Congress National Flag with them?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No, Sir.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Was any meeting held there at all?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: They attempted to organise a public meeting and caused a crowd to gather. So presumably the crowd was gathering

to form a public meeting, but whether it had actually begun to be a public meeting and ceased to be a crowd I cannot say.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the National War Front is allowed to hold meetings undisturbed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are Government aware that National Flags hoisted in private houses have been removed forcibly by the police?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Not as far as I am aware.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member take action if cases are brought to his notice?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I will take action if any illegality is brought to my notice; not on vague generalisations.

HEALTH OF DR. YUDHBIR SINGH

1085. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) the latest report about the health of Dr. Yudhbir Singh; a Delhi detainee; and

(b) in view of the state of his health, whether Government has considered the question of his release?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Chief Commissioner Delhi informed me that he has no reason to believe that Dr. Yudhbir Singh is ill. He has received no report to that effect. Further enquiries are however being made, and the information received will be supplied to the House in due course.

WARRANT FOR ARREST OF MRS. ASAF ALI

1086. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) when a warrant was issued for the arrest of Mrs. Asaf Ali;

(b) the grounds on which it was issued;

(c) whether Mrs. Asaf Ali's mother died recently and she could not attend the funeral; and

(d) whether Government contemplate cancelling the warrant of her arrest?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). A warrant for the arrest of Mrs. Asaf Ali was issued under sub-rule 5B of Defence of India Rule 26 on 13th March, 1943 and another under Defence of India Rules 38/39 was issued on the 18th February, 1944.

(c) The Government of India have no information, but I am told that she died about a year ago.

(d) No.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is the warrant still pending?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Yes, I think so.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Has any property been attached?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I shall require notice of that question.

NON-GRANT OF COMPENSATORY HOUSE-RENT ALLOWANCE TO EXECUTIVE STAFF OF CUSTOMS HOUSES

1087. ***Mr. Frank R. Anthony:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether the Government of India have granted a compensatory house-rent allowance to non-gazetted ministerial servants of the Central Government in Calcutta and Bombay including those employed in the Custom House?

(b) Is it a fact that such a compensatory house-rent allowance is not granted to employees in the executive cadres in the Custom House?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have rejected the request of these executive officers for a compensatory allowance on the terms granted to ministerial servants?

(d) What is the reason for this discrimination between the Executive and Ministerial staff in the Custom House?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (b) and (c). Yes.

(d) The concession of a house-rent allowance to the non-gazetted ministerial staff of the Central Government in Bombay and Calcutta was introduced at the same time as the unified scale of pay for ministerial staff as part of the scheme of revision of the emoluments for such staff so as to secure and retain the requisite number of qualified persons and to prevent drift between offices. The fact that Government considered that such an allowance could suitably form an element in the emoluments of one class of Government employees does not imply the need for, or suitability of, such an allowance entering into the emoluments of other Government servants such as the executive staff in the Customs Houses whose total emoluments are framed on a different basis.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Is the Honourable Member aware that the introduction of these different scales of emoluments for persons in the same Department is causing a good deal of resentment?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am aware of the fact that when any adjustments are made in pay or conditions in any one class of service other Government servants, whether justified or not, expect it to be extended to them. That is one of the difficulties of administration.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Will Government look into this question?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I believe the matter has already been looked into, but as my Honourable friend has drawn attention to it I have no doubt it will be looked into again.

COERCION USED IN VILLAGE BARARA (AGRA TEHSIL) FOR COLLECTING WAR LOANS

1088. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if it is not a fact that on the morning of January 30th, 1945, the Tehsildar of Agra, Mr. N. N. Kulshrestha, went to village Barara in the Agra Tehsil and temporarily took into custody Mr. Krishan Chand Nagar and Mr. Thakur Nathoo Singh, abused them and threatened them with worse treatment because they refused to allow him to terrorise the local Kisans and thus collect subscriptions for war loans?

(b) Is it a fact that they entered the houses without any regard to the women inmates, abused the people, broke open locks of the houses of the two absentees, seized three tins of *meetha tel* of one Kanaihya Tailer, impounded the cattle of some Kisans and some people were beaten?

(c) Is it a fact that so far the complaints made to the District Magistrate about these coercive measures have only brought further threats upon the complainants?

(d) Will Government be pleased to assure the local public, through an open declaration from the District Magistrate that it is not the intention of Government to collect war loans by using any such coercive and inhuman methods?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) to (d). Enquiries have been made, and it has been ascertained that there is no foundation for the allegations made. Government therefore do not propose to take any action in the matter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that similar allegations are being made widely in various parts of the country, will Government consider the advisability of making a categorical statement giving an assurance to the people that they will not be harassed if they do not contribute to these funds and that the subscriptions should be real ones and not compulsory collections?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I made it quite clear in my speech in the House the other day that the Government of India have no desire and are not disposed to encourage—and on the contrary they are entirely opposed to all forms of illegality or extortion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps do Government propose to take in order to bring that assurance to the notice of the public?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: They have their ways of doing so, and I think it is generally realised that that is our attitude.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly inform the Provincial Governments also—and specially the U. P. Government—about his intentions

in the matter, so that all the illegalities that have been committed may be avoided in future?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have no reason to think that the U. P. Government are unaware of the views of the Government of India in this matter.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member opposite is also not unaware that the U. P. officials have been misbehaving, will the Honourable Member kindly draw their attention to his real intentions in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I regret I cannot accept sweeping statements such as that made by the Honourable Member. At the most I am prepared to admit that there may have been individual instances where zealous officials have overstepped the mark; but in regard to these we are already in correspondence with the Provincial Governments.

INSTRUCTIONS RE PRIOR SANCTION FOR PROSECUTION OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

†1089. ***Lala Sham Lal:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether any further instructions have been issued by his Department in amplification, revision or amendment of the Government of India, Home Department Memorandum No. 62/41-Judicial, dated the 7th July, 1941, on the procedure of obtaining Governor General's prior sanction for prosecution of Government servants; and

(b) whether the Honourable Member's attention has been drawn to the Railway Board's orders published in the North Western Railway Gazette, dated the 8th December, 1944, to the effect that prior sanction of the Governor General is necessary under section 270 of the Government of India Act, 1935, in prosecuting an employee for acceptance of illegal gratification, criminally misappropriating property in his possession or committing theft of Railway material; whether these orders are covered by any further memorandum of the Home Department; if so, whether the Honourable Member proposes to lay a copy thereof on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) No.

(b) I have seen the *Gazette* notice. The Hon'ble Member has not quoted its contents correctly. It only repeats the instructions issued in the Home Department memorandum quoted by him.

TRIALS BY SPECIAL TRIBUNALS OF OFFENCES COMMITTED BY RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

†1090. ***Lala Sham Lal:** Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) what fundamentals are taken into consideration by Government in notifying that certain offences committed by Railway employees be tried by Special Tribunals;

(b) whether it is a fact that Railway employees charged with having accepted a few rupees illegal gratification, are challaned before Special Tribunals; if it is also a fact that some such cases are challaned by the Special Police, War Establishment, before the ordinary Magistrates, if so, the basis for distinction; and

(c) whether Government propose to issue instructions that the basis for distinction shall be that offences involving large sums of money and conspiracies be referred to Special Tribunals and the rest to ordinary courts; if not, what other basis Government propose to lay down for trial of such cases before Tribunals or courts?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) The criteria followed by Government in recommending cases to His Excellency the Governor General for inclusion in the First Schedule to the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, for trial by Special Tribunals are;

First. That the cases fall within the jurisdiction of Special Tribunals in that they involve offences triable by Special Tribunals as specified in the

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

Second Schedule to the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1943; and

Second. That the cases are of sufficient importance. A case may be considered important for one or more of the following reasons:

- (i) The accused are men of influence.
- (ii) The offence involved is likely to impede the war effort.
- (iii) The case involves large sums of money on account of bribery, cheating, etc.

(iv) Cases where effective punishment is desirable. Thus, for instance, the amount of a bribe in a particular case may be small, but when there is reason to suppose that the particular offence is prevalent it is desirable that a deterrent sentence should be imposed.

(b) The answer to the first two parts is in the affirmative. As regards the third part, the basis for distinction is partly explained in my answer to part (a) of the question. A further consideration is that when the list of cases for trial before the Tribunal concerned is so full of pending cases that a fresh case cannot be taken up for several months, cases which would normally be placed before a Tribunal are placed before the ordinary courts.

(c) No, Sir. The criteria enumerated above will continue to be followed.

INSTALLATION OF BROADCASTING STATION AT BEZWADA OR RAJAHMUNDRY

1091. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether Government are considering any proposal for establishing a Broadcasting Station at Bezwada or Rajahmundry (Madras Presidency); if so, at what stage the proposal is?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Plans for the Post War development of All India Radio are under preparation. It is not yet possible to indicate where the new broadcasting stations will be located, but the needs of the area referred to by the Honourable Member will be given due consideration.

TRANSMITTING CENTRES FOR RURAL PROPAGANDA

1092. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Has the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting evolved any scheme for establishing a large number of transmitting centres for rural propaganda?

(b) If so, what is the probable cost of the scheme, and how many centres are under contemplation?

(c) Have any orders been placed by Government for the purchase of transmitters and receiving sets from the United Kingdom or the U. S. A.? If so, when are they expected to arrive?

(d) Have Government taken any steps to manufacture by themselves or to encourage the manufacture of wireless receiving sets in India?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) No. The Government has not so far approved any scheme for establishing a large number of transmitting centres for rural propaganda.

(b) Does not arise.

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

(d) Radio sets and accessories are at present not manufactured in India. All possible assistance is, however, given to firms' representatives who approach Government, to proceed overseas in order to explore the possibilities of starting the industry in India;—provided, of course, the Government are satisfied with the *bona fides* of the firms.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Isn't it a fact that the Government five or six years ago prepared a model set which would cost Rs. 30—40?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am not aware.

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

LUNCH TIME ENGLISH RECORDED MUSIC FROM DELHI RADIO STATION

1093. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state why it is that only English recorded music is played from the Delhi Station of the All-India Radio at lunch time daily? What objection is there to playing Indian recorded music during

that interval as a large number of Indian staff and others retire for lunch at that time?

(b) Why is English recorded-music introduced even in Additional South Indian Service programmes?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The Delhi Station broadcasts Indian recorded music from 12-00 Noon to 1-00 p.m. daily and European recorded music from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. daily. It has been found by experience that the earlier time suits the majority of Indian listeners, just as the latter time suits the majority of European listeners for what has been described as "lunch hour music".

(b) The Additional South Indian Service shares with the Madras Station, the responsibility of catering to the needs and tastes of listeners in South India. European music programmes are included in the broadcasts from the Additional South Indian Service because there is a wide circle of listeners in the South, both European and Indian, who are interested in European music.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is Government aware that so far as Government servants are concerned, the lunch hour for Indians is the same as the lunch hour for Europeans?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: We have looked into the matter and we are prepared to re-examine this question.

RATES OF ROYALTY FOR INDIAN AND EUROPEAN MUSIC RECORDS BROADCASTS

1094. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state the rates of royalty paid for the Indian music-records and European music-records, separately, per broadcast? And if there is any difference, the reasons therefor?

(b) Out of 1,93,506 receiver licences, how many are taken by Indians and how many by non-Indians?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) All India Radio obtain gramophone records from various gramophone companies. Their agreements with these companies do not provide for any discrimination in the payment per record for European music records as against Indian music records. It is regretted that further information with regard to rates of payment in respect of gramophone records and other copyright material is confidential and cannot be disclosed without prejudice to the interests of All India Radio.

(b) Figures of Indian and non-Indian licence holders are not maintained separately and the collection of this information would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justifiable in war time.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if there was a single case where the payment for royalty for Indian records was equal to the highest payment of royalty for English records?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am sorry I cannot answer that question.

LANGUAGE SECTIONS IN PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

1095. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state how many language sections there are in the Publicity and Information Department? Is there any section for Telugu? If not, why not?

(b) Is the Honourable Member not aware that there is a large number of weeklies, dailies and periodicals in circulation among three crores of Andhras? If so, does he propose to introduce a Telugu Section also if there is none already?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The Bureau of Public Information handles publicity in five Indian languages, viz., Urdu, Hindi, Bengali, Gujarati and Tamil. Publicity in Telugu has not been undertaken and is not proposed as the number of newspapers published daily, bi-weekly or weekly in that language is small and the cost involved in running a section would not be commensurate with the advantages expected.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is publicity not undertaken in Pushtoo-language?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: That does not arise out of the question.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is Pushtoo considered a non-Indian language?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I think we are talking of civilized languages!

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is not the number of people who speak a particular language taken into consideration in establishing centres for propaganda in that language?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No, Sir. We take into consideration the number of Dailies that are published in those areas.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know how the number of Dailies or Weeklies affect this question?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: It is a question of a language.

CIVILIAN GAZETTED OFFICERS

1096. *Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of the Civilian Gazetted Officers so far recruited as supplementary to military personnel holding charge of stores;

(b) how many of them are Hindus, Muslims, Scheduled Castes, Sikhs, Christians, Anglo-Indians, etc.;

(c) how many applications were actually received from the Scheduled Caste persons, and how many of them were rejected; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the applications of Scheduled Caste persons employed in Government Offices are not being recommended and forwarded by their immediate superior officers?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: (a) 694.

(b) Hindus 472; Muslims 128; Scheduled castes nil; Sikhs 54; Christians 18; Anglo-Indians 6; Parsis and Jews 6.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(d) I have no information, but there are no reasons to believe that persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes are treated differently from others in this respect.

EXCISE DUTY ON BETEL NUTS IN CERTAIN MADRAS DISTRICTS

1097. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether betel-nuts harvested before the 1st March, 1944, were treated as pre-excite goods in the Provinces of Bengal and Bombay and that no duty was collected in respect of stocks of 1943-44 crop in those Provinces even though sold in April and May of 1944;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the districts of South Kanara, Malabar and Nilgiris stocks of betel-nuts that came to the market after the 3rd April, 1944, but harvested before the 1st March, 1944, were treated as excisable goods and that excise duty was levied;

(c) the total amount collected in respect of excise duty on betel-nuts in the following districts on crops harvested before the 1st March, 1944:

(i) South Kanara, (ii) Malabar, (iii) Nilgiris (iv) Coorg, and (v) Coimbatore;

(d) what evidence was insisted upon for treating betel-nuts as pre-excite goods in the district of South Kanara;

(e) whether it was ascertained what percentage of betel-nuts was harvested and cured in South Kanara, Malabar, Nilgiris and Coorg before the 1st April, 1944, out of the 1943-44 crop; and whether any survey report was called for; if so, the finding in respect of each of the above areas; and

(f) whether it is a fact that representations received from traders and growers to refund the duty collected on betel-nuts harvested before the 1st March, 1944, are not attended to by the Department; if so, why?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: With your permission, Sir, I will answer questions Nos. 1097, 1098 and 1099 together.

I have called for reports and replies will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

PRE-EXCISE CERTIFICATES FOR BETEL NUT GROWERS AND TRADERS IN SOUTH KANARA DISTRICT

†1098. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Excise Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors were authorized to issue certificates (pre-excise certificates) to growers and traders of betelnuts in the South Kanara District; and

(b) whether such powers have been exercised by them, and whether there was any supervision on behalf of the Department to see that those powers were not mis-used?

EXCISE DUTY ON BETEL NUTS IN SOUTH KANARA DISTRICTS

†1099. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that long after the sale of betel-nuts as non-dutiable goods, the Central Excise Department demanded a payment of excise duty to the extent of nearly Rs. 70,000 on those goods from the traders and growers in the district of South Kanara;

(b) whether it is a fact that coercive methods were used by the Central Excise Officers to realize the said demand;

(c) how much of the said demand has been collected; and

(d) whether any representations were received to refund the duty thus collected, and whether they are attended to by the Department?

EXCISE DUTY ON BETEL NUTS IN CERTAIN MADRAS DISTRICTS

1100. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether uncured betel-nuts (betel-nut with husk) sold as such to consumers in the market are liable to excise duty;

(b) whether he is aware that excise duty was collected on uncured betel-nuts taking the weight of the husk also into calculation in the following districts:

(i) South Kanara, (ii) Malabar, (iii) Nilgiris, and (iv) North Kanara; and

(c) the total amount collected in those respective districts, and whether Government propose to refund the same; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Duty is not levied on fresh betelnuts in the husk, which are sold by the grower direct to the individual consumer and which have not undergone any process of drying or of preservation in water.

(b) I understand that certain quantities of betelnuts from which the husk had not been removed have, in the districts named in the question, been assessed to duty on their gross weight including the husk.

(c) The total amount of duty levied on such betelnuts is not immediately ascertainable. As a general rule, goods assessable by weight must, for obvious reasons, be assessed on their weight in the form in which they are presented for assessment. If the owner removes the husks or similar waste matter before assessment the goods can be assessed on their net weight. If he does not wish to do this but desires nevertheless to obtain remission of duty in respect of the waste matter, he can store his goods in a bonded warehouse and can apply for reassessment after the waste matter has been separated from the goods. For the convenience of small-scale producers of betelnuts, however, Collectors of Central Excise have been instructed that if betelnuts are presented for assessment while still in the husk they may be assessed on the net weight of the kernel as ascertained by actual weighing of representative samples and that applications for refund of duty in respect of nuts previously assessed on their gross weight should be admitted to consideration if made within three months from the date of payment of duty.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the answer to part (c) of the question? May I know whether money will be refunded because they have been charged more?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1097

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have just said that instructions have been issued to Collectors of Central Excise that they should entertain applications for refund of duty in respect of nuts previously assessed on gross weight.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know whether enough time is given for the submission of applications for refund?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Three months seems to me quite a considerable time.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that these people are uneducated and do not know the law and may not come to know about it, will the Honourable Member issue instructions that refunds may be made by the action of the Department itself?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I will bring that suggestion to the notice of the Department.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Does the Honourable Member consider that betelnuts with husk are chargeable to excise duty under the rules?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Not fresh betelnuts in husk, but betelnuts that have been cured are liable to duty whether they have got the husk or not.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Can betelnuts with husk be considered as cured?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I understand that curing involves either the process of drying or preservation in water.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the majority of these are small holders owning not more than one acre of land?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid my knowledge on that matter is not sufficiently precise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the total number of these assesseees?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I shall require notice of that question.

RESTRICTIONS ON BETEL NUT CULTIVATION AND CURING IN CERTAIN MADRAS DISTRICTS

1101. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether he is aware that Central Excise Officers in the districts of South Kanara, Malabar, Nilgiris and Coorg insist upon betel-nut growers cultivating less than ten acres and curing less than 100 standard maunds to maintain accounts of betel-nuts harvested from time to time and cured in violation of the Central Excise Rule 21? If so, does the Honourable Member propose to issue instructions to the contrary? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The matter is being investigated and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

TOBACCO EXCISE DUTY FROM THE PUNJAB

†1102. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the total amount of revenue received from the tobacco excise duty from the Punjab in the years 1943-44, 1944-45 and what is the estimated income for the year 1945-46, together with the figures for the District of Shahpur in the Punjab?

(b) Into how many administrative circles has the Province been divided, and how many officers, including the inspectors and the supervisors are employed in each of the circles, for purposes of assessment? How many villages are under assessment in each of the circles?

(c) What is the method of assessment? In what percentage of cases does the assessing officer make the assessment at the spot? Is it possible for the assessing officers to visit all villages and make assessment in all cases at the spot? If not, on what basis is the assessment made?

(d) Is it a fact that the assessment is mainly based on the entries made in the Girdawari records of the Patwari and calculated on a uniform rate of yield per acre of the locality, fixed by the department? If so what remedy is there for a zamindar, whose tobacco cultivation area has been entered more,

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

by the Patwari, or whose yield of the crop is much less than the fixed rate or whose crop has been spoiled?

(e) Do Government propose to increase the survey and the assessing staff in order that over assessment is not made? If so, when and by how much in the Province of the Punjab?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The total amount of tobacco excise revenue realised in the Punjab in 1943-44 was Rs. 24 lakhs and the revised estimate for 1944-45 is Rs. 51 lakhs. The estimated revenue for 1945-46 is Rs. 59 lakhs. The corresponding figures for the district of Shahpur are Rs. 49,000, Rs. 97,000 and Rs. 1,40,000.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

(c) Tobacco is assessable to duty on its weight after curing. All assessments of tobacco in the Punjab are made at the spot. Where the curer retains his tobacco until the Central Excise Officer visits his village, the assessment is based on the actual weight of the tobacco; where the curer disposes of his product before it can be weighed, the officer serves on him a demand for duty based on the ascertained area of the land on which the tobacco was grown, multiplied by the average yield of tobacco land in the neighbourhood less a reasonable quantity for the personal consumption of the grower and his household. If the tobacco is sold to a licensed dealer possessing a bonded warehouse, the duty is realised, not from the curer, but from the dealer, and not until the tobacco is cleared from the warehouse. As the cultivation of tobacco in this province is in some areas extremely scattered, it is not possible for the officers to visit every curer after his tobacco has been cured and before it is made ready for market. To compel the curer to retain his tobacco until the arrival of the officer might unduly hamper his disposal of his products. No objection has, therefore, so far been taken to the sale of such tobacco before assessment and the liability of the curer under Rule 29 of the Central Excise Rules is calculated in the manner I have just described.

(d) No. The Central Excise Officer first records the area planted with tobacco, as declared by each grower, and then checks these declarations with the entries in the revenue records. If these figures are discrepant or there is any dispute as to the area actually cultivated by a particular grower, the matter is decided after inspection. If the yield of a particular field is less than average, the officer will, on application by the grower, determine the actual yield after local enquiry.

(e) The question of reinforcing the Central Excise staff in this province is under examination.

Statement showing administrative circles, the number of officers employed in each circle, and the number of villages under assessment in the Province of Punjab

The Punjab forms part of 4 Central Excise Divisions under Assistant Collectors and is divided among nine Circles in charge of Superintendents of Central Excise. The number of officers and staff employed in each of the Circles and the number of villages under assessment in the Punjab Portion of each Circle is as follows:—

Name of Circle	Superintendent	Deputy Superintendents	Inspectors	Supervisors	Number of villages under assessment
(1) Gujranwala	1	3	28	45	3198
(2) Lahore	1	3	27	29	1629
(3) Multan	1	3	37	50	3673
(4) Lyallpur	1	3	31	40	2726
(5) Jullundur	1	3	31	41	1987
(6) Ambala	1	3	22	26	1789
(7) Rohtak	1	2	11	16	1036
(8) Kangra	1	2	11	15	581
(9) Rawalpindi	1	2	11	12	355

N.B.—Rohak and Rawalpindi Circles also include parts of North West Frontier Province and Delhi Province which are not included in the above statement. Figures of villages under assessment represent number of tobacco growing villages.

ASSESSMENT OF EXCISE DUTY ON HUKKA TOBACCO LEAF

†1103. ***Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** (a) Is the Honourable the Finance Member aware that the market value of the hukka tobacco-leaf depends on its quality?

(b) Are Government aware that the quality of the hukka tobacco very often gets deteriorated by sudden changes in the season, such as rain, etc., and inefficient handling of the leaf during the process of curing? If so, do Government give any consideration to this unavoidable deterioration in quality, while assessing the excise duty on the crop?

(c) In view of the heavy percentage of deterioration to which the crop is susceptible, do Government propose to make enquiries into the matter with a view to grade the tobacco-leaf for assessment purposes and to decrease or exempt the excise duty for inferior qualities of tobacco, which do not fetch any price in the market?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The duties of excise on tobacco are leviable on the basis of weight. Alterations in the value of a particular consignment due to deterioration or other causes cannot therefore, affect the amount of duty assessable on it. If any tobacco should deteriorate to such an extent as to be unable to command a sale it can be destroyed in the presence of a Central Excise Officer and the duty chargeable on it will then be remitted. If tobacco is used for agricultural purposes it is exempt from duty.

SYSTEM OF RECOVERY OF TOBACCO EXCISE DUTY

†1104. ***Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the system of recovery of the tobacco excise duty? Is it recovered from the assessee through some official agency or have the assessee to make payments at the District or the Tehsil treasury themselves?

(b) Are Government aware that people are put to great trouble and expenses in going to the Government treasury to make payment? Do Government propose to consider the advisability of collection of the tobacco excise duty through the village *lambardars*, just as the land revenue is collected?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) When tobacco is to be cleared on payment of duty a demand note is delivered to the owner who may then pay the money into the treasury or, if the treasury is situated at a distance, may send it to the treasury officer by money order. Where a licensee has frequent payments to make, he may if he wishes, instead of paying duty separately on each consignment, maintain with the Collector an account-current of the duties payable on his tobacco. Such accounts must be settled at intervals not exceeding one month and the account-holder must periodically deposit sufficient money to cover the duty due on the tobacco which he intends to clear from his premises.

(b) Government are alive to the difficulty of making such payments in places which are distant from treasuries and, as instanced by the provision for the making of such payments by money order, are prepared to consider any practicable means of overcoming these difficulties. The payment of excise duty through the medium of village *lambardars* has not so far been found practicable.

FALL IN TOBACCO EXCISE REVENUE

†1105. ***Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that there has been a fall in the estimated tobacco excise revenue in the year 1944-45 and that one of the main reasons of the fall in income is the decrease in tobacco cultivation?

(b) Are Government aware that non-cultivation tendency is increasing in Provinces? If so, what action do Government propose to take?

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

(c) How much amount is spent in the Punjab for promoting tobacco cultivation and what are its results?

(d) Do Government propose to give a wide publicity of rules and regulations for the assessment of the tobacco excise duty in villages and educate the public not to abandon the tobacco cultivation?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) It is true that there was a substantial reduction in the cultivation of tobacco last year, which has resulted in a shortfall in tobacco excise revenue in 1944-45 but, as explained in my Budget speech, this reduction was mainly attributable to transport difficulties and to the drive in favour of food crops.

(b) No. The present crop is expected to be unusually large.

(c) A grant of Rs. 10 lakhs per annum has been placed at the disposal of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for improvement of tobacco cultivation and marketing in India as a whole. It is not intended to make individual allotments to Provinces.

(d) This is being done continuously.

EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO WOMEN IN POST-WAR SCHEMES

1106. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) if the Government of India recognise the principle of equal rights and opportunities as citizens for men and women, in all schemes for Post-war Reconstruction; and, if so, whether Government have given clear instructions to all Post-war Reconstruction Committees to bear this principle in mind during their deliberations; and, if not, why not;

(b) whether Government are giving their due attention to the interests of women and children in Post-war Planning, particularly with regard to problems of education, health and employment;

(c) whether Government propose to include in industrial planning a scheme for compelling employers to make specific arrangements for maternity and child welfare of the families of their employees; and

(d) if Government propose to examine the question of compelling employers to include the expenditure on medical, social and educational amenities for their employees in their budget estimates before permission is granted for starting new industrial or commercial concerns?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). These suggestions will be taken into consideration when preparing the Government's plans for labour conditions.

COST-ACCOUNTANCY TRAINING TO INDIAN STUDENTS

†1107. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: With reference to the scheme for sending 500 students abroad for courses in technical subjects will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) whether Government intend considering the desirability of sending some students abroad for training in Cost Accountancy;

(b) whether Government are aware of the importance the U. K. and other countries are attaching to the Cost Accountant who has come to be recognised as an indispensable factor in scientific management of every branch of industry and commerce;

(c) what steps Government are taking for having a sufficient number of Cost Accountants in the Country; whether Government contemplate providing facilities in India for training in Cost Accountancy; and

(d) if training facilities in India are likely to take long to mature, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of having some students trained abroad in good time to be of help in the post-war industrial reconstruction?

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

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Government are aware of the importance of Cost Accountancy as a factor in business management. The desirability of sending students abroad for higher training in Cost Accountancy will be considered.

DUTIES OF W. A. C. (I.) AND W. R. I. N. S.

†1108. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hedge: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) what are the duties of the officers and other ranks of the W. A. C. (I) and the W. R. I. N. S.;

(b) where and how far they undergo training and whether they receive training in warfare;

(c) whether they receive training for social duties of entertaining military officers in India; if so, what are those duties;

(d) whether any of them are sent to Burma front or to serve on the high seas;

(e) whether those duties assigned to them cannot be performed by men; and

(f) if the answer to (e) is in the negative, the reasons therefor, and if it is in the affirmative, the reasons for maintaining and continuing recruitment to these forces?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the table.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Members of the W. A. C. (I) and W. R. I. N. S. are not detailed for service outside India unless they volunteer to do so in writing. None of them is serving at sea.

(e) and (f). Their duties can be performed by men; they are recruited to make up the shortage of suitably qualified men.

Statement

(a) The duties of W. A. C. (I) including the W.R.I.N.S. are detailed below:

(i) W.A.C.(I) officers serving in the Army and Air Force are employed mainly in administrative, secretarial, catering, ciphering, signals and staff duties.

(ii) Other ranks (Auxiliaries) are employed mainly as clerks, stenographers, storewomen, cipher operators, key-board and switch-board operators, plotters and tellers, operators W/T, dispensers, laboratory assistants, mess caterers, parachute packers, tele-printer operators, telephonists, etc.

(iii) W.R.I.N.S. officers are employed on the following duties:

Administrative, communications, secretarial and staff appointments, special appointments—A/S movers, intelligence officers, publicity and propaganda officers, mess caterers, censor officers, dieticians and photographic officers.

W.R.I.N.S. auxiliaries are employed as communication watch-keepers, teleprinter operators, confidential book correctors, telephone switch operators, dome teacher operators, writer G. D., close range recorder analyser operators, mess petty officers.

(b) (i) *W.A.C.(I)*.—Basic and clerical training is given in specially established centres at Calcutta, Rawalpindi, Ahmednagar and Patna. Officer Cadets training is carried out at Dagshai, whilst courses for officers, are held in Delhi and Quetta. All other training is given in units and establishments employing W.A.C.(I) personnel. No training is given in warfare.

(ii) *W.R.I.N.S. Officers*.—They are trained at H.M.I.S. "FEROZE" and H.M.I.S. "TALWAR", shore training establishment at Bombay.

W.R.I.N.S. Auxiliaries.—W.R.I.N.S. receive their preliminary training at the Inter-Services Basic Training centres at Calcutta and Ahmednagar. They then go to the R.I.N. Shore Training Establishments for further instruction. W.R.I.N.S. personnel are not given training in warfare.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF W. A. C. (I.) AND W. R. I. N. S.

†1109. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hedge: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the present strength of the (i) W. A. C. (I) and (ii) W. R. I. N. S. officers and other ranks; and how many of them are foreigners, Anglo-Indians, Christians, Muslims and Hindus;

(b) whether recruitment to these forces is being vigorously stimulated; and, if so, the reasons for it and the methods by which it is done;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that high pay, light work and job after the war are emphasised;

(d) whether it is not a fact that this recruitment has drawn women and girls from professions of nursing and teaching and these activities are suffering for want of hands; and

(e) if the answer to (d) is in the negative, whether Government propose to appoint a committee of responsible women to report on the subject referred to herein; if not, why not?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) I lay a statement on the table.

(b) Yes, Sir. There is still a large number of vacancies in the Corps. A direct appeal is being made to the public in order to stimulate interest and members of the Corps are encouraged to bring their friends.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Women with nursing experience are not eligible for enrolment into the Corps. Some members of the teaching profession have, however, joined the Corps. I have no information whether the profession has suffered thereby.

(e) No, Sir. Government do not consider that a committee is necessary.

Statement showing strength of (i) W. A. C. (I) and (ii) W. R. I. N. S. Officers and Auxiliaries

(i) The strength of the W. A. C. (I) (excluding unemployed) on 1st February, 1945, was:

(a) Officers	1,040
Auxiliaries	9,256
W. A. C. (I) W. R. I. N. S.	

Included in above are:

(a) Officers	144
(b) Other ranks	663

(ii) Nationalities are as follows:

	Officers	Auxiliaries
European British	767	1,405
Anglo-Indians	147	3,918
Indians—		
Hindus	16	585
Muslims	5	92
Sikhs	1	78
Parsees	27	295
Christians	39	2,182
Jews	1	102
Others	8	160
Total Indians	97	3,495
Others (Anglo-Burmans, etc.)	29	438
Grand Total	1,040	9,256

SALARIES, ETC., OF W. A. C. (I.) AND W. R. I. N. S.

†1110. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the present salaries and allowances paid to the officers and other ranks of W. R. I. N. S. and the W. A. C. (I);

(b) their minimum age and educational qualifications;

(c) the measures taken by Government for their physical and moral welfare;

(d) whether the written consent of parents or guardians is required before they are recruited or before they are kept away from their home town; and

(e) whether they are likely to be sent abroad; and, if so, whether consent of their parents or guardians is obtained?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) I lay a statement on the table.

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

(b) The reply to the first part is 17 years. As regards the second part, no definite educational qualifications are laid down. A knowledge of English and medium standard of intelligence are all that is required.

(c) Facilities for medical treatment and physical exercise are provided for all W. A. C. (I) and W. R. I. N. S. personnel. They are accommodated in W. A. C. (I) hostels under the supervision of trained W. A. C. (I) officers.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No member of the Corps is detailed for service *ex-India* unless she volunteers to do so in writing.

Statement showing salaries and allowances of Officers and Auxiliaries of the W. A. C. (I) and W. R. I. N. S.

The existing rates of pay of W. A. C. (I) including W. R. I. N. S. are given below:—

Rank	Rate of pay
Officers W.A.C.(I)	W. R. I. N. S.
Chief Commander	600
Dy. Chief Commander	550
Regional Commander	Chief Officer
Senior Commander	1st Officer
Junior Commander	2nd Officer
Subaltern	3rd Officer
2nd Subaltern	4th Officer
	175
	150

In addition staff corps and additional pay is admissible at 2/3rd of the rates admissible to male officers if such appointments were held by them.

Auxiliaries.	
W. A. C. (I)	W. R. I. N. S.
W. O. Class I	185
W. O. Class II	145
S/Sergeant	Chief Petty Officer
Sergeant	Petty Officer
L/Sergeant	Leading Auxiliary
Corporal	Do.
L/Corporal	Auxiliary (Specialised)
Private	Auxiliary (non-specialised)
	80
	65

Trade pay for specialist qualifications required for each type of job is admissible in addition. It varies with different trades.

*LANDS REQUISITIONED FROM RYOTS AT KUMBLA, SOUTH KANARA DISTRICT **

†1111. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the total area of lands under the following heads which were requisitioned from the ryots at Kumbla, South Kanara District: (i) rice-field, and (ii) betel-nut gardens;

(b) how many (i) houses, (ii) Hindu temples and (iii) mosques in this area are involved and what is the arrangement for regular worship and prayer in these religious institutions and whether votaries are permitted to attend these religious places;

(c) the number of people affected and rendered homeless by this requisition;

(d) whether the lands are going to be permanently acquired; if not, for what period they are requisitioned;

(e) the annual loss of rice, betel-nut, coconut and pepper brought about by these acquisition or requisition proceedings; and

(f) for what purposes these extensive areas are being requisitioned and whether any aerodrome that may be constructed is going to be a permanent one available for civil aviation?

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

Mr. Ram Chandra: (a) (i) 595 acres, (ii) 180 acres.

(b) (i) 731, (ii) nine, (iii) one.

Access is allowed to worshippers on permits.

(c) So far as Government are aware, none have been rendered homeless. People have accommodated themselves mostly in the neighbouring villages.

(d) The lands have only been requisitioned. It is not possible yet to say for how long they will be required.

(e) The required information is being collected and will be furnished in due course.

(f) The lands have been requisitioned for urgent military needs.

APPOINTING SCHEDULED CASTE MEMBER ON FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

1112. *Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheduled caste person has ever been appointed on the Federal Public Service Commission; if not, why not; and

(b) whether Government propose to appoint a scheduled caste person on the Federal Public Service Commission if and when a vacancy occurs in future?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Leader of the House.

REQUISITIONING OF BUILDINGS FOR MILITARY PURPOSES IN BOMBAY

1113. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the editorial of the *Bombay Chronicle* (up-country edition), dated the 3rd March, 1945, headed "Abuse of power"?

(b) Have Government made any enquiry whether the scandals referred to therein are within the powers laid down in the Act, viz., that the authorities "shall interfere with the ordinary avocations of life and enjoyment of property as little as may be, consonant with the purpose of assuring the public safety and interest and the defence of British India"?

(c) Is it a fact that five thousand members of the civil population have been suddenly thrown out of their residences in Bombay during the last four weeks, including women, children, old and bedridden individuals and men directly or indirectly helping war effort?

(d) Is it a fact that Parsee, Hindu and Muslim Gymkhanas in Bombay have been requisitioned and acquired for military purposes, whereas the European Gymkhana, the Yacht Club and the Byculla Club have not been so requisitioned, and what are the reasons for this discrimination?

(e) Have Government received a representation requesting for the appointment of a committee to consider the question of improving accommodation or improvising houses in Bombay to meet with the continued and acute shortage caused by requisitions for Government of India generally and more particularly for the Defence Department?

Mr. Ram Chandra: (a) Yes.

(b) Government are satisfied that the action taken has been within the powers conferred by the Act. Unfortunately it is not always possible to avoid a certain measure of inconvenience. I place on the table a copy of the *Communique* which was issued a few days ago by the Government of Bombay in this connection.

(c) So far as I am aware no one has been suddenly thrown out of his residence. Whenever possible, only such accommodation is requisitioned as is vacant or used only partially or occasionally. In all cases sufficient time is given to the parties concerned to remove their personal effects.

(d) The Parsee, Hindu and Muslim Gymkhanas have been requisitioned because they comprised a large compact area on the Reclamation facing the sea which was required for military needs. The other buildings referred to by the Honourable Member were not suitable for the purpose.

(e) None has come to my notice. But a Standing Quartering Board which will consist of civil and military representatives and also include non-officials is being set up in Bombay to consider questions of policy and screen all demands for accommodation.

Press Communique

The attention of the Government of Bombay has been drawn to recent criticisms of its requisitioning policy, many of which are believed to be based on insufficient understanding of the present war situation.

2. The success of the war effort in the West has made and will make possible a more vigorous prosecution of the war in the East to bring about a decisive victory, as quickly as possible, bringing with it the necessity for further accommodation to meet urgent Military requirements. The Commander-in-Chief has recently pointed out that Bombay will be the most important port in India for this purpose.

3. It should therefore be clear that increased inconvenience may be unavoidable in Bombay where the problem of accommodation has already become acute and the Government is confident that a common desire for a decisive and early termination of the war in the East will provide the fullest co-operation in shouldering this increased burden.

4. The Government, in consultation with the Area Commander, is fully alive to the necessity of evolving a policy which will be productive of the minimum hardship. While it will not be possible in the same manner as before to assist those who have to vacate their residences to obtain alternative accommodation, every effort will be made to avoid inconvenience and to give assistance to regular residents of the city as compared with its floating population and to those whose presence is essential to the war effort and to ensure that the burden falls on those most able to bear it. In the meantime each department of the Forces is reviewing the accommodation at its disposal to ensure its most economical use.

5. It has been urged that temporary residential accommodation should be constructed and the possibility of doing this to a limited degree is under consideration. It is, however, necessary to emphasize the acute shortage of building materials and the transport difficulties in bringing these to Bombay in large quantities. Such materials as are available are in fact fully earmarked for other more important operational requirements in Bombay and elsewhere.

6. In particular the Government of Bombay and the Military authorities appeal to those citizens who are able to provide substantial accommodation in their houses, or who own more than one residence in Bombay or elsewhere, or office and storage accommodation which can be spared, or who can move to smaller residences, to place such accommodation at its disposal in order to lessen the disturbance of the normal life of the city.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May we know whether Government will take into consideration the great hardships on the citizens of Bombay acknowledged now by the Governor of Bombay himself, and whether, in view of this, Government will undertake more buildings for the requirements of the military outside the urban area so as to avoid such inconvenience?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I cannot do better than quote from the *press communique* a copy of which I am laying on the table:

"The Government (of Bombay), in consultation with the Area Commander, is fully alive to the necessity of evolving a policy which will be productive of the minimum hardship."

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will further buildings be undertaken in order to avoid these hardships, especially in view of the fact that Bombay is now declared to be the most important port in the base for the war?

Mr. Ram Chandra: This will be considered.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know what exactly is meant by the words 'sufficient time'? How many days or weeks notice is given?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I do not know exactly. But so far as I am aware there is no definite time limit fixed. I know in one case where a notice of requisitioning was given, the people who were to be evicted were told that they could stay on until the middle of June, if they so wished.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: How many days notice is given in actual practice?

Mr. Ram Chandra: It varies.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: The European Gymkhana and one or two other buildings have not been requisitioned and a large number of Indians have been thrown out of their houses. May I know if Government will consider the question of accommodating these people in these European buildings which have not been requisitioned?

Mr. Ram Chandra: The question of providing alternative accommodation for the people who may be evicted is already receiving consideration.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Why not accommodate these people in the buildings which you have not yet requisitioned?

Mr. Ram Chandra: These are required for other purposes.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I ask the Honourable Member whether Government's attention has been drawn to the debate that took place in the Bombay Municipal Corporation at a special meeting called for this purpose?

Mr. Ram Chandra: No, Sir. I have not seen the proceedings of this debate.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will the Honourable Member look into it?

Mr. Ram Chandra: Yes, Sir.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will the Honourable Member try to benefit by that debate?

(No reply was given.)

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

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: This is a very important question, Sir. I do not think the Government realize the gravity of the situation. . . .

Mr. Manu Subedar: I crave your indulgence, Sir. This is a very important matter. People are being thrown out on the pavement in Bombay.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Sir Cowasjee Jehangir.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Is it a fact that a large number of refugees, some of whom have no work in Bombay, are just now occupying flats which have not been requisitioned?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I am afraid I cannot answer this without notice.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will the Honourable Member take note of it and draw the Bombay Government's attention to it and recommend that every refugee should be asked to leave Bombay?

Mr. Ram Chandra: Government will consider this.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Is it a fact that there is a large number of refugees practising in Bombay with very little work to do and are occupying whole buildings?

(No answer.)

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

TRANSFER OF CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO THEIR PROVINCES

1114. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the members of the Congress Working Committee have been transferred to their respective provinces;

(b) whether they asked for such transfer and whether it is done under the initiative of the Government of India;

(c) if they have been transferred, which persons have been transferred to which jails; and

(d) whether the proposed operation of Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant has been performed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (c). The Members of the Congress Working Committee did not ask to be transferred, and the decision to transfer them was entirely that of the Government of India. I have so far received no information that any of the transfers has taken place.

(d) No.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it that the Government of India is not releasing them?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I think that does not arise.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to his answer, have they expressed a wish not to be transferred?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Not as far as I am aware.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Government transfer them to the N.W.F. Province?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: If they so desire!

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Was the question of transfer put to them and were they consulted in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have already stated that they did not ask to be transferred and the decision was entirely that of the Government of India.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Were they consulted in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Why is this operation of Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant being delayed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: As soon as he arrives in the United Provinces he will be operated on.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: When will he arrive?

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

FACILITIES TO MR. JAI PRAKASH NARAIN

91. **Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) who the present companions of Mr. Jai Prakash Narain are;

(b) whether he is allowed to get all periodicals, books and newspapers; and

(c) whether the matter of putting up a case against him has been finally decided?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Mr. Jai Prakash Narain's companions are Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and one or two others.

(b) Yes, as allowed under the United Provinces Security Prisoner's Rules.

(c) No.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

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

Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, eight non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee for the Department of Planning and Development for the year commencing 1st April, 1945."

Sir, I promise the fullest co-operation to this Committee and I am sure that I and my Department will profit by the help it may receive from it.

Sir, I move:

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, eight non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee for the Department of Planning and Development for the year commencing 1st April, 1945."

I find that there are some amendments to this motion. The first one wants the word "eight" to be substituted by the word "ten".

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): I move:

"That for the word 'eight' the word 'ten' be substituted."

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

"That for the word 'eight' the word 'ten' be substituted."

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I accept it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is another in the name of Mr. Essak Sait. But this is contrary to the notification of the Government by which these Standing Committees are established.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Surely we in this House should have the right to decide what powers these Committees should have?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is not in order. It has been agreed to by the Select Committee that it must be left to the Executive Government by proper notification to form the Committee and define its scope. That has been done in pursuance of the deliberations and the conclusions arrived at by the Committee on the amendment moved by Mr. Essak Sait to Standing Order.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Have you ruled it out, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I hold the motion out of order.

The next one is also regarding the Planning and Development Department. That also goes out.

The question is:

"That for the word 'eight' the word 'ten' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Some Members want to speak on the motion, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): All right.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: As the House must realise and the Honourable Member himself must realise that this is a very important Department and there has been so much discussion in the House and certain demands were made last Session and also this Session and my Honourable friend has never committed the Government to anything as to what they are going to do in regard to consulting this House on the plans that are being submitted to them. I hope my Honourable friend will make a statement accepting in spirit and in meaning the demand contained in the amendments which I was not allowed to move. My vote for this Committee will depend upon the assurance which my Honourable friend will give. If he is able to satisfy the House, then I shall also be satisfied.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): I want to know as a matter of information what the relation of this Committee will be with the Policy Committee. So far all planning work has been conducted in the Policy Committee which has a personnel largely official and it would be derogatory to the position and dignity of this House if this Advisory Committee or Standing Committee which is being instituted will be a sort of appendage or will hold a position inferior to that of the Policy Committee, which is already in existence. I would like, for myself, that the Policy Committee should go as soon as this Committee is appointed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not arise out of this motion.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I want the Honourable Member to make it clear, as our vote will necessarily depend on what sort of assurance he is able to convey and whether the Standing Committee of the House . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Assurance on what?

Mr. Manu Subedar: As to the relative position of the two committees. There are two committees working, one to be appointed by this House and the other one, the Policy Committee, which is already working. I do not know whether the Committee of this House is to hold an inferior position, whether it is to be in a subordinate position to the Policy Committee, which is already functioning. In fact I would suggest an amalgamation of the two Committees in some manner.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Honourable Member seen the notification in the Gazette?

Mr. Manu Subedar: Yes, Sir. I maintain that it is not a satisfactory position, that the Committee appointed by this House will be in an inferior position and will be purely advisory in capacity and will not be framing from time to time the policy of the Government in the same sense in which the Policy Committee is doing at present. I want the Committee of this House . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can vote against the motion. This is not in order.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am only asking as to the position of this Committee appointed by this House in relation to the Policy Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It does not arise out of this motion.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): I would like to ask the Honourable Member one important question, so that he may give me a reply. I want to know whether it is within the purview of his Department to plan out the question of re-employment of the large number of demobilised soldiers and retrenched personnel who are now employed in the various offices.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not arise out of this.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshtir Dalal: As I have already stated in moving the motion, the Committee can rest assured that it will have my fullest co-operation and within the lines laid down by the report of the Standing Committee

which has just been issued, I shall co-operate with them to the utmost extent.

As regards my friend, Mr. Essak Sait's amendment which has been ruled out of order, amendment No. 2 raises the whole issue which has already been discussed and it is no use going into it again. As for the third amendment which says that "for the purpose of examining all schemes of planning and development prepared by various Departments of the Government of India and suggesting therein such modifications as may be necessary", that seems to me to be somewhat superfluous, because if this Committee is going to advise my Department, then naturally it is open to it to suggest modifications which will of course be taken into account. It is on those lines that I propose to work with the Committee.

Regarding my friend Mr. Manu Subedar and his difficulty with regard to the Policy Committees, the justification for the Policy Committees is this: that there are issues involved which not only concern this Legislature but also some interests beyond the purview of this Legislature; for instance, there are representatives of Indian States on the Policy Committees and there are representatives of the Provincial Governments on the Policy Committees. But I can assure my friend Mr. Manu Subedar that even the recommendations of the Policy Committees will be put before this Committee, so that this Committee will not be in any position of inferiority to the Policy Committees. On the contrary, they will have within their purview the recommendations of the Policy Committees also.

As for my friend, Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad's question on the re-employment of the demobilised soldiers, this also will come within the purview of this Committee like any other question. I hope that these assurances are satisfactory to the House and that the motion will be adopted without a division.

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, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee for the Department of Planning and Development for the year commencing 1st April, 1945."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

Sir Olaf Caroe (Secretary, External Affairs Department): With your permission, Sir, as it has been the general trend to raise the number in these committees I have now provided 'five' for 'three' in my motion. 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 the External Affairs Department on subjects pertaining to British Baluchistan and the tribal areas for the financial year 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, five non-official Members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise the External Affairs Department on subjects pertaining to British Baluchistan and the tribal areas for the financial year 1945-46."

Do you want to move your amendment to substitute 'ten' for 'five'?

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Yes, Sir.

I move:

"That for the word 'five' in the motion the word 'ten' be substituted."

Last time when these motions were before the House, the House indicated that it was not satisfied with the small representation provided. Every part of the House, every Party, every interest has to be represented, and we whips find it difficult to accommodate everybody. That is why, Sir, I move for 'ten'.

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

"That for the word 'five' in the motion the word 'ten' be substituted."

Sir Olaf Caroe: Sir, I would like to meet the House in a spirit of reasonable compromise. This is a new Committee, Sir, and I think, in spite of what has fallen before in the course of the debate, there is a certain amount

[Sir Olaf Caroe.]

to be said for keeping this Committee within reasonable limits. As men of affairs I think Members of this House will agree that there is a certain need for keeping the number within certain limits, if real, useful business has to be done by this body, and as we are starting the Committee might perhaps be a little one, that is, within manageable proportions. I think it is a little going too far to have as many as ten, if I may say so: perhaps the Honourable Member will be prepared to compromise on eight.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: I accept it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That for the word 'five' in the motion the word 'eight' 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, eight non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise the External Affairs Department on subjects pertaining to British Baluchistan and the tribal areas for the financial year 1945-46."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election for the financial year 1945-46, in such method as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of a Standing Finance Committee of the Assembly not exceeding fourteen in number, to which shall be added a member of the Assembly to be nominated by the Governor General. The member so nominated shall be the Chairman of the Committee."

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election for the financial year 1945-46, in such method as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of a Standing Finance Committee of the Assembly not exceeding fourteen in number, to which shall be added a member of the Assembly to be nominated by the Governor General. The member so nominated shall be the Chairman of the Committee."

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): I do not want to move my amendment.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I do not want to move my amendment.

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election for the . . ."

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I want to speak.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I did not know Honourable Member wanted to speak.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What I wanted to say was this. When Sir James Grigg was the Finance Member he circulated a memorandum to the Leaders of the Parties regarding the reconstitution of the Finance Committee; he also spoke on the subject during the budget discussion in 1938. He suggested that an Estimates Committee should be formed with 15 Members of this House, all of whom would be elected by this House from the non-official Members of the House. He also suggested that a non-official Chairman might be elected by the members of that Committee. He further suggested that this Committee might suggest economies in the various Departments of the Government of India: each year certain Departments would be placed before this Committee for examination as regards retrenchment and economy that could be effected, and in a period of three or four years the entire budget of the Departments of the Government of India would have come under the scrutiny of this particular Committee. These were the terms he circulated in a memorandum to the Leaders of the Parties. The Leaders were in favour of a non-official Chairman, but they did not agree to the substitution of the Standing Finance Committee by this Committee for Estimates, so far as the Standing Finance Committee's functions and powers as at present constituted, are concerned. The Standing Finance Committee can scrutinise all new proposals for expenditure: it can scrutinise supplementary estimates, but the Standing Finance Committee does not enter into the activities of the Department, it cannot suggest

retrenchment or economy with respect to any item. That function also was sought to be added to the Committee for Estimates. I would like the Honourable Finance Member to give the assurance that he will enlarge the functions of the Standing Finance Committee so as to include the functions of the Committee for Estimates which was suggested by his predecessor. I find that this subject came up for consideration before the Select Committee on Amendment to Standing Orders—you were one of the members, my Leader was a member; and in para. (3) of its report it is stated:

"In the case of the Finance Department we have taken note of the fact that the Standing Finance Committee is now holding special informal meetings to consider how its functions can be more effective, and how it can be more closely connected with the Department, and we agree that in these circumstances it would be pre-mature to consider the setting up of an additional Committee."

I would like to know from the Honourable Finance Member whether he has come to any conclusion regarding the enlargement of the scope of the Standing Finance Committee. Later, on page 4, it is said that any Department named in rule 2 may at its option move for the election of members to two or more Committees to advise on different categories of subjects handled in the Department, provided that where two or more Committees are constituted for a Department the subject matters assigned to the Committee shall substantially embrace in the aggregate all the subjects handled in the Department. The present Standing Finance Committee as constituted, and for which my Honourable friend has made a motion, does not cover all the subjects of his Department. Therefore, there is a lacuna, and to fill it up a Committee for Estimates is necessary. I would like to know therefore at what stage that proposal is.

I do not propose to press for the appointment of a non-official Chairman because it is only an advisory body, and the advice has to be given to the Finance Member. Without his presence any advice that may be tendered will have to be given through a different channel, and he may or may not agree. Therefore I do not press for a non-official Chairman, but I do want an assurance from the Honourable Finance Member that he will enlarge the scope of the Standing Finance Committee.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): The proceedings of this committee are published and circulated to Members; but I find that just before or at the time of the introduction of the general

budget, all the proceedings, even of meetings held several months before, are supplied to Members. I hope that in future the Honourable Finance Member will see that the proceedings, when they are published, should be supplied to the members of this House.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Sir, I want to raise only one point for the information of this House as well as for eliciting some information from the Honourable Finance Member. In the last six years, the proportion of voted to non-voted expenditure has gone down from 47 to 30 per cent. in other words, by causes which are well known to the Finance Member as well as to Members of this House. What has happened is that the amount of control of this House which was intended and which was in operation for a long time before has automatically come down from 47 per cent. to 30 per cent. Now, what I want to know is this: that if the other expenditure is not voted, is it still the kind of expenditure falling on this country about which no information of any kind should be vouchsafed, not even in this House whenever it is asked? I want to know whether full particulars of the total expenditure will be put before the Standing Finance Committee and their advice sought thereon. This is a matter of privilege of this House; I know that there are attempts outside to ridicule this House; I know that there are many attempts on the part of the Treasury Benches to put down, to stifle inquiry, to refer us, when we ask for information, either to the last budget or to the next budget speech in which we do not find the information so promised. I know that we are called upon to vote large items about which the House knows nothing, about the propriety of the expenditure, about the wastefulness or economy or the suitability of expenditure we have no information . . .

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[19TH MAR. 1945]

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is really dealing with a very wide and general question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: All right, I will confine myself to the point. If a Standing Finance Committee is being instituted, I urge that it is absolutely essential that the whole range of expenditure should be placed before it and that the distinction of non-voted and voted, whatever its meaning may be so far as the voting of this House may be, the distinction does not apply, I maintain, to the giving of such information to the members of the Standing Finance Committee and to this Assembly. I hope the Honourable Finance Member will give some assurance to this House.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, as I made clear in my reply the other day to the debate on the cut motion of the European Group in regard to economy, the scope of the functions of the Standing Finance Committee has been enlarged during the last year and it has taken a somewhat flexible form. There are now, besides the ordinary meetings of the Standing Finance Committee to consider proposals put before it by the departments, special informal meetings of that committee. Now, in those meetings discussion is of a very free character; and in particular, I personally have taken the opportunity of those special meetings to invite the committee itself to make suggestions about the manner in which they feel they could most usefully proceed. Now, we have not yet completed that inquiry; we took up certain specific matters. The position still remains that as far as I am personally concerned the Standing Finance Committee in its informal session is at liberty to make proposals to the Finance Member for regulating its own procedure and the subjects which it will tackle. Now, I am in the difficult position that I will not henceforth be in charge of, or be present at, the deliberations of the committee; and it is quite clear that in a situation like that and with the somewhat fluid position in regard to the functions of the committee, I cannot give categorical replies to the questions asked by Members of this House. It must be for the Finance Member of the day to participate in the discussion as to what should be the new functions of the Standing Finance Committee. I have no reason to think that my successor who, as I mentioned the other day, is a man of very great experience and broad outlook in these matters, would take any different view from what I have taken myself. At the same time it must be clear that there are certain limitations imposed, I will not say by the constitution, but by the realities of the matter. The last speaker referred to the decline in the percentage of voted expenditure in the total expenditure. Is that saying any thing more than that defence expenditure has very greatly increased and become a much larger proportion of the total budget? In relation to defence expenditure, it is quite clear—whether in this country or in any other country—that the functions of a parliamentary committee must be very limited. A very large part of that expenditure is closely bound up with operational activities, and I could not undertake to produce before the committee high military officers in charge of operational activities who could give them a satisfactory explanation of how expenditure had been incurred or was being incurred, in certain military activities. What I have said to the Standing Finance Committee is that as far as possible and as far as security and similar considerations permitted, I personally was prepared not to emphasise or almost to ignore the difference between voted and non-voted expenditure: that is to say, take for instance, certain supply activities or even certain activities in regard to the construction of military works—I was quite prepared so far as this could be done without impinging on security matters, to endeavour to produce before the committee witnesses whether of the Finance Department or of any other department, who could assist the committee to understand the way in which expenditure was proceeding or had grown under these heads which ordinarily are not subject at any rate to the vote of this Legislature. I do not say that anything more than that could be attained. The procedure, as I say, is highly flexible but it must be for the Finance Member of the time in consultation with the military authorities and with his own department to say how far he could properly and usefully allow the committee or assist the committee to investigate these matters which fall outside its

ordinary scope. I hope that what I have said will reassure Members who have raised doubts about the functions of the Committee.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): On a point of information, may I ask whether the Honourable Finance Member expects that the scope and functions of the Standing Finance Committee will be the same as laid down by Sir Malcolm Hailey in 1921?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I would advise the Honourable Member to think rather in terms of adjusting ourselves to the needs of today, and not to those of 1921. I have previously gone over the points in regard to the suggestions made by Sir Malcolm Hailey at a time when he had had no experience of how such a committee might work. I think that what we are doing now is much more likely to result in some useful outcome and also in my opinion it is much more likely to meet the real desire of this House than what was provisionally forecast by Sir Malcolm Hailey and what in effect he found it impossible to carry out.

Mr. Sami Vancatachelam Chetty: May I know what the position of the Honourable the Finance Member is on this committee? I don't think he is going to stand for election as a member.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My successor will I presume, be nominated a Member of the Assembly and he will be nominated to this committee. He will be the Chairman of the committee.

Mr. Sami Vancatachelam Chetty: Is he that member who will be nominated by the Governor General?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That this Assembly do proceed to the election for the financial year 1945-46, in such method as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of a Standing Finance Committee of the Assembly not exceeding fourteen in number, to which shall be added a Member of the Assembly to be nominated by the Governor General. The member so nominated shall be the Chairman of the Committee."

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 holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following committees, namely:

	Date for Nomination. 20th March	Date for Election. 23rd March.
(1) Standing Committee for the Department of Planning and Development.		
(2) Standing Committee for the External Affairs Department.	21st March	27th March.
(3) Standing Finance Committee	21st March	27th March.

The nominations for all the three 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 Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10.30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume discussion of the Finance Bill.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, the other day I was dealing with the Finance Member and his management or mismanagement of our finances. I wish to say that there is one great difference between him and his predecessor, Sir James Grigg. With all his faults, Sir James Grigg seems to have had a soft corner for our agriculturists and peasants. Therefore it was during his time that one crore grant came for rural development but on the other hand this Honourable Member has been trying to neglect our peasants. He is shifting the burdens of even agricultural research on to the shoulders of our peasants. He has shifted the cost of maintaining the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research on to the

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shoulders of the peasants by levying a cess on their exports and other goods. Then, Sir, he proposes to establish a number of funds and cess committees for various commodities to be maintained also not at the cost of the Government of India but at the cost of the peasants themselves. In this way he has been trying his best to disavow all responsibility for improving the status of our peasants and increasing their economic status. Then, Sir, I come to the commodity taxes. I do not propose to go into the details. My Honourable friend Mr. Hegde will later on deal with the difficulties experienced by our betel nut growers and also by our tobacco growers. I only wish to say this much. Those millions of peasants are today being harassed in a cruel manner. Into their homes the officers of the Central Board of Revenue are entering with impunity and they are subjecting them to all kinds of indignities and they are asking our illiterate and unorganised peasants to obtain any number of licences, to give satisfaction to any number of dictates of the Central Board of Revenue and their agents and in addition to that, although they do not have sufficient credit at their own disposal, they are asked to give security for the quantities of betel nut and tobacco by their pledging to keep it in their own homes and storing them there. The Honourable Member may say 'Very well, while I was mismanaging your finances, you did not happen to be in this House. You were in jails. Therefore you have no right to criticise us'. But there was a Member on that bench sitting by the side of my Honourable friend, Sir Jeremy Raisman, and co-operating with him in the conduct of this war as well as in the conduct of the finances of this war. That was his former colleague Mr. N. R. Sarkar. Let us see what he has to say in regard to the manner in which this Government is mismanaging the affairs of our country:

"But what other foreign nations have to know of India is that in the past she had been successfully balked of a sound system of currency and exchange, that her industrial development and economic progress were retarded, that her banking system was ill-developed and that on the whole she was ill-fitted either to serve herself or make her proper contribution to the progress of world economy."

This is what he said in 1944 in the course of a booklet on "Problems of Indian Currency and Exchange". I need not add anything more to this, except one sentence. It is this:

"India has the resources to manage her currency and exchange in the best interests of her people. But if she is to make her contribution to international financial regulation, she must insist on acting as an independent entity and not as an inconsequential appendage of Great Britain."

My friend went to the International Monetary Conference and allowed India to act there and to feature there as an inconsequential appendage of Great Britain. My Honourable friend nods his head. So many people give him credit for having fought for India. He fought in a very unsuccessful manner. But why was he unsuccessful? The Americans were prepared to give only one seat to the British Empire. My Honourable friend was not prepared to tell his own people 'For God's sake, give up India and treat her as your ally. Then she can vote for herself and in that way you can exercise two votes, as friends and colleagues who are partners'. Therefore I say that the Honourable Member has failed and India cannot be grateful to him.

I now come to the Home Member. He is not here. He told us this morning that he is not thinking of releasing the members of the Congress Working Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already dealt with all the departments one by one.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Not with the Home Department.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go on repeating himself.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: All these years Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan was not released in public interest. Where is that public interest now? Within 24 hours of the Congress Ministry coming into power he was released and the Heavens have not fallen, British Imperialism has not been destroyed and my friend is not taking his ticket to go back to England. Why is it then that the

members of the Congress Working Committee are still being kept in jail. It is a huge joke. They want to frustrate our people, cow down our people. Although our people do not have any arms in their hands, they refuse to be cowed down. They are spiritually free and we are going to be free, whether you like it or not. The moment they released Mahatma Gandhi, thanks to God, there is a man who can dispense justice between them and us. The moment Mahatma Gandhi was released, the sense of frustration has gone out of the minds of the people of this country. And so long as Mahatma Gandhi is free in this country, it does not matter how many people you put into jail. We are free spiritually and we shall be citizens of a free country in a very short time, whether you like it or not.

I now come to the Food Department. I cannot discuss the activities of this Department at length, because I have set myself my own time limit on my speech, but I wish to make a number of suggestions. Before I make these suggestions, I wish to read out to the House two short extracts from two letters addressed to me on 14th March, 1945, from Tindivanam, South Arcot District, Madras Presidency where they refer to the freezing of the peasants' crops. I do not know whether the House has any idea of what it means, this freezing of crops. They know what it means when it comes to freezing of cloth stocks or yarn stocks. But this is nothing when compared to the freezing of peasants' crops. Here we are concerned with lakhs of peasants. Their standing crops are frozen, they are not allowed to cut, or reap or harvest the crops, they are not even allowed to take the grain to their homes unless they have the permission of the official and satisfy him in every possible way. Who are these so-called officials? They are petty village officers, *talagaris*, drawing a salary of Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 a month and our peasants are left to the mercy of these officers. Look at the result. This is what the above letter says:

"Now, the Grain Purchasing officer is going about the villages and is enforcing the terms of the order. He overestimates the yield from an acre and asks the peasants to give according to his estimate. In these parts, we received rains only very late and as a result of it, the yield is even 50 per cent. below normal. While so, the Grain Purchasing officer is compelling peasants to give paddy according to his estimation. Even peasants who do not own nor cultivate four acres are also asked to supply paddy. Grains that are left with us will last only for two or three months. Oral representations are not heeded to. In taking away the grain the normal requirements of either the family or the village is not taken into consideration. It is feared that this action of the Grain Purchase officer will tell upon the lives of the population."

This is one sorry tale of woe from the South Arcot District in Madras Presidency.

The other letter from Tindivanam says:

"Dry crops such as ragi and millets have also failed and the yield is ranging from 10 to 30 per cent. The agricultural labourer and the other lower class population of the village who are mainly dependent on the dry crops for their sustenance are left without any provision for major part of the year."

"It would be far better if ration is introduced in villages and the village population is assured of supplies at the rationed scale till the next harvest."

This is another tale of woe of our peasants. I therefore suggest that rural rationing should be introduced into our villages; if Government have to assure themselves that food famine is not extended artificially by their Grain Purchase officer and by their mismanagement of their food procurement activities. There must be equal rations between rural and urban areas so that whatever ration is given to the urban people, at least that much ought to be given to rural people also. In actual fact, the rural people ought to get more because they work much harder.

The next point is fixing of maximum price. We do not want this maximum price. They call it ceiling price. What we want is definite specific price at which the Government are prepared to purchase, and purchase all that we are prepared to offer to them. I assure you that you will not need these grain purchasing officers and issue of executive orders, because the peasants have no other use for their surplus produce except sell them and get a few rupees to pay their taxes, their dues to the money lenders and other people. If you

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do not fix a specific price, what happens is this. In actual practice you give licence to purchase this grain only to one or two people in any one of the districts. These people have a sort of monopoly and they can refuse to purchase, they can do what they like. When they refuse to purchase, naturally the prices go down. This is happening in a number of districts in South India. The price today in specified markets are much lower than maximum prices, much lower than economic prices. In order to save the peasants, it will be the kindest thing that you can do if you fix a specific price and purchase all the surplus produce that the peasants are prepared to sell and place at your disposal. At the same time we do not want you to take away all the produce from the village. You must have as much grain as is absolutely needed for the whole year for all the people in the village. Do not leave it in the hands of these landlords. You must collect the harvest from the landlords and keep it in co-operative store or with the local *panchayat* and then see that proper rationing is introduced through them and make food available for all agricultural workers who are not employed on land during several months in the year. We also want Government monopoly procurement, if it is possible. This is not impossible. In fact what is happening is monopoly procurement without calling it so; in fact there is not much difference. They have monopoly procurement free from all the responsibilities of monopoly procurement. The peasant must be associated with this organisation charged with fixing price. Therefore a specific price should be fixed and grains should be purchased in whatever quantities we are prepared to give, so that you take them as a monopoly and we need not be troubled by all these middlemen, the merchants and others.

The next point I wish to touch is about Food councils. These food councils now consist of only *johukums*. They are not conversant with the needs of peasants. The Food Department is now entirely divorced from the feelings of peasants and their co-operation. If the Food Department is really anxious to have the co-operation of the peasants, then they must reconstitute the Food Council and see that it contains at least a majority of peasants on them. We want more and more warehouses to be built. The Honourable Member said that he is thinking of having some warehouses as a post-war policy. We do not want them only as post-war policy. We want the Food Member to set apart a few crore of rupees and if necessary go ahead with the construction of these warehouses, and if possible a number of elevators also at big railway junctions so that our produce can be stored there and no damage need be experienced as has been happening in the recent past. We may be able to get the stuff there in anticipation of purchase on payment by Government later on.

We also want, Sir, minimum price fixed. I understand a departmental committee was appointed consisting wholly of officials. If there are one or two non-officials, representing genuine peasants, it will be good. I think Sir Theodore Gregory suggested that there should be a Standing Price Committee. Government have not yet established that committee as suggested by Sir Theodore Gregory. There should be representatives of producers and also representatives of your Department on that committee. At present the officers of your Department do not know the requirements of peasants.

Then, I wish to refer to the quality of foodstuff supplied to consumers. This should improve. I do not mean to say that our peasants are adulterating the foodstuffs that they sell. The peasants sell them pure, but it is these middlemen and ordinary traders who do the mischief and adulterate the foodgrains. There are the licencees and monopolists created by yourself who mix mud, or soak the grains in water, and play havoc with the foodgrains before they are sold to the consuming public. Thus the quality gets deteriorated. You are appointing an inspection staff, but that is not enough. You must invoke the co-operation of peasants, also, from these producing centres, and

also the co-operation of the consumers from the consuming centres. It is only then that both parties will be satisfied about the quality of foodgrains.

I now come to San Francisco delegation. Two of my Honourable friends are going there. I have no personal quarrel with either of them. It is quite possible that man to man, they are quite as capable as others who may be sent on behalf of other countries. The Government of India representatives go there as nominees of the Executive Council, whereas the other delegates who go to the conference will go there as elected representatives of their respective legislatures and also of their respective governments. That makes a world of difference. These gentlemen from India might say that they have been nominated or elected by the Governor General in Council. This seems to be a sort of smoke screen. In actual fact, some years ago, Mr. Churchill said in 1933 that India's representation at International conferences as decided by the Seventh Resolution of the Imperial War conference was unreal as its representatives were appointed by the India Secretary and act under his instructions. I should like to know whether it is true that the Secretary of State for India has no hand at all in the selection of these gentlemen. If any one has got a chance to dive into the archives or the records of this Government, I am sure he will not be surprised if he were to find not only the hand of Amery but also that of Churchill behind it. Sir, I will here give you two extracts. How the Secretary of State handles the Indian delegates was once described by the Honourable Sir Muhammad Habibullah who represented India at the Assembly of the League of Nations in 1928. He said:

"As soon as those of us who came from India were assembled in London, a meeting was held at the India Office when the position which we were occupying was explained to us on behalf of the Secretary of State on lines similar to those which have been reported by our predecessors."

Then, Sir B. L. Mitter—once the Law Member of the Government of India—explained to the Legislature the position of the Indian delegates *vis-a-vis* the Secretary of State. This is what he said in the other House:

"I wish this House to remember that the Indian delegation receives its instructions from the Secretary of State who has the constitutional right of supervision over the delegation."

This was the position in the past, up to 1933. And what is the position now? This House has given them an indication of its wish that it would like its elected representatives to be sent there on its behalf and on behalf of the country, and not these nominated Members. The Honourable Member got up and took shelter behind constitutional rights and provisions and said this House has no right to discuss the matter because it is the special privilege and prerogative of the Government of India to select its members. Sir, you were good enough to rule that this is on a par with the British precedent and therefore we would not be within our rights to demand a discussion in this House. I do not question your ruling but at the same time I wish to submit that there are other Governments also in the world, and they are not bound down by this kind of convention. They are not nominated Governments but elected Governments and representative Governments; they are able to select their own delegates. And why is it that this Government which is a nominated Government wants to take shelter behind this irresponsible provision and then plead that we should not encroach upon this field, merely because it happens to be a sort of Government at all?

Sir, one Honourable friend has already referred to the position of the U.S.A. I find that there a much more representative position is being taken up and also a much more satisfactory position. How do they come to their view point which they have to represent at the San Francisco Conference? They say:

"Those who represented the Government of the United States (at Dumbarton Oaks) were armed with the ideas and with the results of thinking contributed by numerous leaders of our national thought and opinion, without regard to political and other affiliations."

Are my Honourable friends prepared to give an assurance to this House that they are also prepared to take into consideration the views, opinions, hopes and ideals of all sections of the public in this country without any reference to their political affiliations, and are they prepared to go and plead for the real rights of

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India at that San Francisco Conference? I very much doubt, because they have not got the moral authority, the moral stature and the right to go there and fight for us all. They have not even developed that constitutional capacity to understand in a sympathetic manner our hopes and ideals and then to represent them ably and eloquently.

Then, Sir, the Americans are also anxious to do everything in that Conference in a non-partisan spirit of devotion to the paramount national interest in peace and security which has characterised our previous consultations.

What is the paramount interest that our members are going to keep in their mind? It is the paramount interest of Great Britain, not the paramount national interest of India. That is our difficulty. But they can certainly take into consideration the paramount national interest of our country only when this country is free or when this country can possibly come to be represented by its own elected representatives and by its real national leaders. Sir, there would be a world of difference if Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Mr. Jinnah were there instead of these gentlemen. If they were there they would be able to talk in the name of India with all the moral authority that all these 40 crores of people are capable of investing them with. But on the other hand these gentlemen go there in spite of our protests, in spite of our censures; already their status is robbed and their prestige is robbed of all decency, and they go there as a sort of apology for India. They can only behave there as puppets—they may be able puppets—of British imperialism and of the British Empire, not of India at all.

Then this Conference is going to work for the fulfilment of the hopes and ideals of the people. What are the hopes and ideals of this country? Does this Government know? Has it got the capacity to understand the hopes and ideals of this country? These were very eloquently stated in the Bombay Resolution where we have said that we want a world federation, world peace, a world army and defence force; and we want that all vestiges of imperialism shall be destroyed, and that no country in the world shall continue to be subjected to a colonial status. Are these gentlemen going to plead for these things? Are they going to tell the imperial powers which will gather there that they must shed their imperial robes and become merely independent countries like all other countries and recognise the freedom of all colonial people. They will not be allowed to do so because Mr. Churchill will not have it. There was a time when Mr. Churchill gave expression to a sort of feeling that the English people had better quit India instead of remaining in India if they are to beg India's co-operation in accepting British exports. This is what he said in 1933 before the Joint Parliamentary Committee:

"Far rather would I see every Englishman quit India"—

Please mark those two words. Your Viceroy wants us, the Congress people, to give up the slogan "Quit India". It was not we who invented this phrase but it was Prime Minister Churchill who did it—

"Far rather would I see every Englishman quit India, every soldier, every civil servant embark at Bombay than that we should remain clutching on to the control of foreign relations and begging for trading facilities, while all the time we were the mere cloak of dishonour and oppression."

That was then the position of Mr. Churchill and that is even today the position of Mr. Churchill, because he said he had not become His Majesty's First Minister in order to preside over the liquidation of British imperialism.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has set some limit for himself. He has already spoken for quite a long time.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I shall try to be as brief as possible.

Then, Sir, there is another difficulty. We go into this International Conference, but what is it going to do? It is going to invest these four big powers with the right to make peace for the world. But if any one of them breaks the peace of the world is there any chance that the other three powers and

all other smaller powers will be able to bring back order? Supposing America declares war tomorrow, what will happen? Even Mrs. Roosevelt said that she would be afraid of the U. S. A. under these conditions. These gentlemen will have the right to commandeer our defence forces. Today we are able to maintain our moral position that we have got into this war in spite of our protests and without being consulted at all. But tomorrow you will make a kind of show that you have consulted our Ramaswami Mudaliar and our Feroze Khan Noon and all these people and that India is a willing party to this great conference and this security scheme and therefore India is a willing partner in the future wars that are to come. I say this because there will be that security Council and there will be a staff committee and staff officers. The four powers will be China, the dwarf, Russia, the biggest, America, the next biggest and England coming last. Their Chiefs of Staff alone would be there and they have the right to decide when and where to strike, to commandeer your armies, and defence forces. You have no position there. Once they take that decision they commandeer your army, your naval and air forces. You have to place these things at their disposal, and you have no right to come to the Legislative Assembly and ask for its permission; your money will be placed at their disposal and your materials and everything else. That is the real danger that is in store for us. Are we going to make ourselves a party to this. We have already become a party to the U.N.R.R.A. and you have already laid aside six crores of rupees for it. God alone knows how much more money your successor is going to set aside. But do we have any control? Do we have any help from these people? What were they doing when millions of people were dying in the Bengal famine? The same thing is going to happen tomorrow. It will be the States that will be represented here, not the people. If the British and ourselves are at war among ourselves here in this country, we cannot bring that question to the notice of the Security Council that is going to be brought into existence, because it is not nations that are going to be the authority, it is the States only. Internal matters are absolutely taboo; therefore it is impossible for India at this juncture to commit herself to this conference and its proposed constitution; specially when these nominated Members are to go there and represent India.

Yes, India has a contribution to make to the rest of the world; India does not want to be a sort of parochial body at all. We do not want to be a frog in the well; we have a contribution to make. I dare say we are alone today who have got a message to give to the rest of the world, a message of hope to the blood-stricken world. Why? Because in spite of your so called science your civilisation, your racial arrogance and superiority, you have failed in retaining the element of humanity that is necessary. Why? You have engaged yourselves in these destructive wars and you have been thrown into these wars in spite of us. And then you come and tell us, "contribute more and more; it does not matter even if you have to starve; it does not matter even if you become poorer, but nevertheless make your effort, your best effort for saving the civilization and for the security of the world".

For whose security? For the security of England. For whose civilization? The whiteman's civilization. What is happening today? Four-hundred millions of commercial and industrial classes of white people are today dominating these fifteen-hundred millions of coloured peoples, colonials, Asiatic peoples, and all these Eastern people. You are robbing all our money and all our resources through unequal trade agreements and exchanges. You manage to get raw materials from your colonies and dependent countries, at too cheap prices and you employ your own labour and services at too high costs and then you sell the industrial commodities at too high prices in our markets. You under-price our services and goods and you buy them at cheap rates. In this way you have destroyed our economic resources. Fifteen hundred millions of colonial people are being robbed every day of the year for five hundred millions of you, and you have also the right to declare wars and create wars.

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Why are these wars caused? Because you fight among yourselves for this loot; it is a struggle between a number of thieves. We did not want to be a party to this. We said, "Yes, down with the superiority of Nazis, Nazism and Fascism; let us lend our weight to destroy Fascist robbers provided you agree to treat us as equals, provided you agree to liberate us, so that we all go hand in hand, as free people, and equal people, and put an end to this imperialist exploitation". Only when imperialism is put an end to only when the domination of your commercial and industrial classes over the colonial people is put an end to, will there be any peace in the world. And that is the mission of India. India is today on a peace mission, because we are waging a relentless war against your imperialism and fascism. You may say yourself that British imperialism is not fascism, but I may tell you that British imperialism is being viewed in the colonial countries as fascism and even worse. Of course British imperialism is something better in England and America. When you are making concessions to your working classes, when you think of family pensions, and also social securities, and so on you try to appear to be civilized people there, because you can afford to do so, but when you come here to us you come with all your claws and you leach away all our resources. We are at war with this system and this system can be ended only when there is a real peace in this world and there can be no peace until imperialism is destroyed and it cannot be destroyed until Sir Jeremy Raisman leaves his place, along with his other colleagues, to the elected Members of this House, until they recognize the freedom of this country and also the freedom of other countries.

There is now the talk of accountability of imperial countries to other countries for their colonial administration! We cannot understand this accountability of imperial countries for their custody of colonies. They are accountable to whom? To some of those Uncle Sams in America? Uncle Sam is as good or bad as his English cousin, because Uncle Sam did not hesitate to take over the West Indies without asking for the permission of the people of those islands. It was an exchange of concessions and islands from French hands to American hands. Is that the sort of Uncle Sam who is going to hold you to accounts?

With regard to China, they say, 'Free Charter for Asia'. How are the Asiatics going to be free? Step by step of the ladder of freedom. How many steps we do not know? Ex-Vice-President Wallace did not tell us. Montague's idea is being doled out to us in the name of American democracy. And this is the cousin to whom they are accountable. We do not believe it; the world does not believe it. You may shut us from the rest of the world, but whether we are in jails or outside, we shall continue to go on clamouring for freedom and we are sure to succeed against this British Imperialism as well as the new American Imperialism.

Sir, I wish to take the House into confidence and tell them that India has the honour of having taken the first steps to bring it into existence what is known as 'Colonial Peoples Freedom Front'. It is blessed by Mahatma Gandhi and I am sure, it will be blessed also by my Honourable friends of the Muslim League Party. We are all anti-imperialists and we are out to gain our freedom. Once we gain that, then it will be our task to liquidate British Imperialism, and in order to liquidate British Imperialism it is not only India that is on war path but a number of colonial people are also on war path. That is why you have interned a number of South Africans, East Africans, West Africans and a number of Negroes and other coloured people. That is why in Jamaica and other places you had to shoot so many innocent people. But I am sure no amount of harsh treatment will succeed in suppressing this feeling. There is a new wave of freedom and we are determined to get that freedom.

These people may say that there is China and other countries—Soviet Russia is anti-imperialist—and all the other communist countries, free countries, and

they will be able to assure the Indian people that they are going to get freedom for India. No, Sir. The colonial people are not in a mood to accept this sort of thing at all; empty promises; they are not going to listen to these false offers of hope. They insist upon being free they want their representatives to go and represent India at international conferences. My complaint is that my Honourable friend does not go there as a representative of this House, and he does not go there as a representative of this country. My Honourable friend can certainly play his part as an adviser to our delegation because he has got all that experience, but he cannot represent this country because they are the agents of Amery, Churchill and all the rest of them. Consciously or unconsciously they will always have at the back of their mind the consideration 'what is going to happen to us tomorrow and the day after; what is going to be our position'. Then, Sir, there will be representatives of other countries at this conference. They will look at our representatives—sweet tongued and well behaved—and yet others will think 'supposing we come to any sort of terms with these people at all, will those terms be acceptable to the real representatives of India'. I wish to assure my Honourable friend, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, that whatever agreement he may come to, it will not be himself and the people like him in their capacity as nominated members—he is welcome to come here as elected member, and I will be the first to congratulate him on that,—but as long as he is a nominated member, it will not be these people who will be implementing these decisions that will be come to. It will be the elected people of this country—if not tomorrow, after a few years—and it will be the responsibility of these people to say yes or no to whatever these people agree to. I wish to sound this note of warning from the floor of this House to the extent that it can possibly reach the other powers, that India is not going to be a party to what these gentlemen agree to at San Francisco. India is going to exercise its free judgment on the question of whether it is going to accept what these gentlemen agree to these or not. India refuses to be a party to imperialism, she insists that she should be accepted as one of the great powers, and even in spite of that, India does not want to be a party to any sort of scheme which aims at placing the great powers on the heads of smaller nations and dividing the whole world among the great powers.

Even the Round Table Quarter said that Britain had not the capacity or strength to entitle her to independent membership, but only because of her commonwealth. And because constitutionally Commonwealth could not be mentioned, England has come to be mentioned as one of the permanent members. But at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference all the time they had the British Commonwealth in their mind. If Britain were to be shorn of her Empire she would not be anything there. She would be one of the small nations. Already, Arthur Greenwood was crying the other day, oh, where is England. Everywhere conferences were being held but there was no conference in England. Let us invite them. Let our King come down from Buckingham Palace and greet them! That is the position of Great Britain. Sir Jeremy Raisman looks very grim because his country is so small.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has spoken for more than one hour.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Therefore, England can sustain her position provided she is prepared to recognise the rights of these other countries and also grant complete freedom not only here in India but also to the rest of the world.

Sir I oppose this Finance Bill.

Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan (Burdwan and Presidency Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, this is the last Finance Bill of the Honourable the Finance Member, and ironically enough, this is one of the worst this House has had before it.

Coming from a rural constituency in Bengal, I feel that I must participate in this discussion, if for no other reason than to bring to the attention of the Government that the plight of the people in my part of the country is perhaps

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the worst, particularly because the effects of war are being felt more by us than in any other part of India. The Finance Bill contains all the old measures of taxation: salt tax remains the same: the price of the postcard remains the same. The Honourable the Finance Member had done nothing to earn the gratitude of the poor people in the country and he has brought forth no measure to ameliorate their condition.

The Honourable Member thinks that his anti-inflationary measures are his biggest triumph and the present degree of stabilization of prices and the control of Indian and foreign goods the greatest boon he could hold out to a war-famished public. There, indeed, has been a fall in the commodity prices, but it has been insignificant and the cost of living is still three times as great as it was before the war. The various measures of control have not had the desired effects; rather they have proved to be failures, more or less. Instead of easing an otherwise tense situation, they resulted only in black market, scarcity and famine. The other day the Honourable the Commerce Member said in the House that there was no such thing as cloth famine in Bengal. Sir, I do not have any documentary evidence and do not require any, even if it be from the Honourable Member. My evidence is one of observation, day after day, in the rural parts of my province, and it is clear to me as daylight that there is an acute shortage of cloth. The standard cloth has remained to this day one of the myths of this war. The poor never got the so-called standard cloth, and the lucky few who could get just a few yards found it was wholly insufficient to meet their needs. At any rate, Sir, it is obvious to all who have their eyes open that the majority of the rural, and even urban, population in Bengal today go about the street semi-naked.

The trouble with the present system is that control is considered an imposition from above, the business purely of bureaucrats. The people, the men who are so vitally affected, have no voice, no say in the enforcement of these measures. If at all, anybody outside the official circle is associated with these measures, it is the person who is not interested in these measures and who is out to sabotage them. I refer to the set of some manufacturers, their agents and big merchants who sit on the Government control boards. This gives them a strategic position to delay, undo and distort these measures. I have only to refer you to the Textile Control Board to emphasize the grave situation that arises out of such half-measures.

There is, Sir, another side of this dismal picture. The black market and scarcity of goods have increased also because of the large troops now stationed in my province. The soldiers are prepared to purchase the goods they require at any price, without regard to the control orders. This directly encourages black market and results in artificial scarcity and famine of goods, and the civilian population already deprived of many of their day-to-day necessities, feel the pinch all the more. The Honourable the Commerce and Finance Members do not seem to know anything about it and have done nothing, even by way of anticipating such a situation and counter-acting it. And it could not but be otherwise. The Finance Member is interested in teaching men some object-lessons as to the virtues of spending less and saving less. He thinks he is fighting inflation, ignoring that he is, in one way, also inflating the miseries and troubles of the poor.

As I said in the beginning, I will confine myself mainly to the conditions in Bengal. The next important thing with which Bengal is concerned is food. No doubt, the food situation has eased a little. The Local Government is taking steps to make food available to all without distinction. But considering the magnitude of the population that is concentrated in Calcutta on account of war, it is up to the Central Government to render all possible help to the Local Government. The medical supplies are an open scandal. The medicines are supplied at irregular intervals; there is very little co-ordination with the unofficial medical relief organizations. The result is utter chaos. I ask the Government to take the lead in the matter and initiate a policy of

close co-operation with unofficial bodies, representatives of the people, the consumers, so that the prevailing difficulties are reduced to a minimum in the least possible time.

Talking of food, I cannot but mention the acute shortage of kerosene oil. Long queues are a common sight, while the poor people's homes are unlit all the same. We do realize the difficulties of war-time conditions and the priority that it must have, but we also feel that all this can be reduced, at any rate made much less cumbersome. Things like salt and kerosene needs must be provided for the people, thus giving them an assurance that their needs are not being overlooked. And, I say, this can be done for them, but also and only through them and their unofficial representatives.

The Honourable Member in his speech said that the people had generally appreciated the control of prices and were willing to co-operate. This is a fact, but it is precisely here that the Government machinery fails. The measure of control is not properly enforced and the co-operation of the people is not appreciated by the authorities. For if it were so, so much of misery and hardship would disappear. I must also point out here an outstanding grievance of the Muslims of my province. The proportion of Bengali Muslims, in the Central Government Departments and their attached and subordinate offices is ridiculously small. It must be remembered that, in general, a great majority of Government servants come from Bengal, and it is odd that the Muslims of that province who are in majority in their own homeland, should have such a small share in the jobs the Government offers, particularly in these days when the War has been responsible for the creation of thousands of new appointments. This is a grievance which Muslims of Bengal have all along placed before the Government and which has not been met so far. I hope the Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches will not lose sight of it.

The Honourable the Finance Member in his speech said that the people were generally ready to co-operate with the authorities in the control of prices and fully appreciated it, but, Sir, unfortunately it is precisely here that the Government machine fails. The authorities do not appreciate their co-operation. For if it were so, so much of hardship would disappear.

I come now to the post offices. The way in which the postcard has been treated all these years is a source of grievance and scandal. The postcard is an important item of economy in the house of the poor. And here no relief has been afforded to them, though this House has consistently pressed for a cheaper postcard for several years past. The stale argument of the Government is that the Postal Department is a commercial Department and it must balance its own budget. But may I ask the Honourable Member since when

the balancing of Budget comes to mean wholesale profiteering. I P.M. would not even grudge a surplus Budget to the Postal Department, which it is enjoying for the last so many years, provided it left the poor aside and did not resort to taxing them indirectly. And oddly enough the postal service, while so costly, in fact, costlier every year, is so sadly inefficient. Delay is its hall mark today. The Railways have been able to meet their demands and delays in running trains have considerably been reduced, yet the Postal Department still lags far behind. There are great delays in transit of letters and telegrams and this is most inexcusable, because you collect heavy rates from the public and do not render proper service.

Sir, in regard to the Defence expenditure, a few days ago, a question was asked in this House for furnishing details of expenditure under this item. Unless we have a full version of the various heads under which Defence expenditure is being allotted, it is impossible for us to follow how much exactly we spend on the war. How much India pays, how much Britain pays? These are very pertinent questions and need an answer from the Treasury Benches. It is said that the war in the Far East is to continue with greater vigour in the near future. This will naturally mean more expenditure and consequently it means a greater need for control over expenditure. We are told times out of number that the Public and Military Accounts Committees will review and

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scrutinise the expenditure. But theirs is only a post-mortem serves no means to check or withhold. What we want is an examination as and when the expenditure is sanctioned. In this way alone, the avoidable expense and waste can be eliminated. Last year, the Public Accounts Committee in its report revealed certain scandalous cases of waste and corruption in many departments. The more, I plead to the House, should not be lost on those in charge of the military expenditure.

While saying all this, I do not minimise the importance of prosecuting the war. We are as great anti-fascists as the Honourable Members sitting opposite. In fact, we are greater anti-fascists, because this country belongs to us and we want to safeguard against all foreign encroachments. We are therefore for the efficient prosecution of the war. Where, again, we do differ from the Government is the method. The war, Sir, provided an immense opportunity for building India's industry. Some industry has, no doubt, cropped up, here and there, but this is by no means what could be done and should be done. For nearly six years the Government has merely looked on, not even stirring its little finger. Other countries have done miracles during this war, and accomplished feats of industrial development. But we drag on, as if nothing has happened. Of course this does not bother the Honourable the Finance Member. But what is more—and this the Honourable Member may be interested in—it results in a set back to the war effort. The result is that the war prolongs, the offensive against Japan delays, being dependent on foreign supplies, and the difficulties of the poor people likewise increase manifold.

The civil side of the expenditure as well betrays huge waste. Take, for instance, the Supply Department. The war is coming to an end almost, the expense of maintaining this organisation multiplies. The orders placed by this Department, as the Finance Member disclosed, have undergone a decrease, but it continues to be riddled with highly paid commercial men. This is inexcusable as the activities of the Department become less and less. I suggest that there should be a periodical review of the cost of maintaining this Department so that it does not topple over. It is not enough to say that war needs have to be met. A more serious scrutiny is required, for after all, the justification of its cost has been assessed in the light of its activities, the demands on it and so on and so on.

Food Department is another case in point. This Department has a long list of British officers. Does it mean, Sir, that the British officers alone know the Indian conditions, the Indian people and the best way to feed them? Does it mean that Indian officers of the right calibre are not available and that India is full of men who do not know themselves? It has also been reported in the press that a fourth division is to be created in this Department in order to provide for a new section of service. To me, Sir, it looks very much like a back-door relief Department of the Government of India, replete with corruption and jobbery. It is high time that the Honourable the Food Member looked into the matter seriously and took away the burden from the masses of the people who ultimately shoulder it, directly or indirectly.

I would therefore suggest, Sir, that a periodical review, not only of the Supply and Food Departments should be made, but of all Departments of the Government of India. At the rate at which the expenditure is going up, I am afraid, Sir, the country will go bankrupt. We are told that there is to be an Advisory Committee to meet the contingency into which the Departments are heading. The decisions of the Committee can only be advisory and not mandatory. To check unbridled expenditure, each Department should scrutinise its expenditure and place it before the House at least twice a year.

Now, Sir, when I go home to my constituency, my people will naturally ask me as to what I have done during this Session. I ask the Honourable the Food, Finance and all other Members to tell me what exactly they want me to say. Will my constituency be satisfied if I am to say that because of

the war, all things will continue as before, that there will be more of hardships and difficult times ahead? Do the Honourable Members think that this will be of any comfort to them to know that their plight is to last longer still? I must confess openly, Sir, that the people are restive and anxious and curious to know if things are going to improve. I must at the same time confess that I do not see any way of hope coming from the dove-cotes of New Delhi. New Delhi has completely failed to understand that behind the economic anarchy in the country lies deep the roots of a political crisis, and unless they are eradicated, all efforts emanating from New Delhi will prove of no avail. We will go from one crisis to another, unless the political crisis comes to an end. The offensive against Japan itself cannot be speeded up, unless the political crisis is resolved, and unless the war in the Far East comes to an end, our difficulties will continue. Inside the country no amount of anti-inflationary measures will remedy the ruined economy, famine and scarcity.

What is urgently needed at the moment is an extremely realistic view of the situation. Only a National Government composed of all parties in the country can meet the requirements of the times. Other countries, right in the midst of war, have found it possible to change the horses, set up new Governments and have got going with them. Why cannot it be done in India here and now? It can be and must be done if we are to survive, for the half measures that the Government introduce at the moment are no solutions but only fidgeting with things, and as such all their efforts to improve the state of affairs are failures. Already the way in which the Government have selected the Indian representatives at the forthcoming Conference at San Francisco is an indicator of their intentions. When the war came we were not consulted, during the war itself we had little or no say in the shaping of the country's life and when the war is drawing to a close, the old policy of by-passing the people is asserting itself. This only alienates the masses and their sympathies. Unless the Government change their age-old line which is thoroughly out of tune with the times, they would be groping in the dark, unable to solve any single problem of importance. This, then, they must get clear into their heads, otherwise we all know the force of history is stronger than the caprice of individuals, and they will repent when it is far too late in the day to rebuild the boats they burnt. And all this must go on, unless the Government has better sense and vision, unless the Government gives up the old policy of sitting tight and learns better understanding of the situation.

I said just now, better understanding. This is what is needed in more than one way on the part of the Government. They are accustomed to think that they can by-pass the root causes of trouble, and through their top measures solve all problems. That is the typical way of a bureaucracy. Even after six years of hardship and misery that the war has brought, they could not understand that the misery could have been reduced, the war-effort promoted, if only they could solve the political crisis. The solution of the political crisis in the country would mean the association of the people with the Government. This will mean that the people will no longer look indifferently towards the war. The Honourable Member complained that Indian pilots were not forthcoming, and the 10th Squadron could not be created. It was because of two reasons. Firstly, there is not a Government of the people to infuse sufficient spirit amongst the people, particularly the young people. Secondly, the Indian officers are not treated well. Otherwise Indians are amongst the best fighters in the world. And these things can come about only if the Government have a proper understanding of the situation and realities of life. Once that happens, the economic crisis, the scarcity, famine, black market will disappear, the people would be aroused, and their best, patriotic instincts would come into play. The mass of petty officials will not have to harass the poor people to collect money for the War Fund and for the Savings Drives. Inflation could be reduced manifold and the clogging of the transport and industry would be undone. We see around us the example of other countries. There is much less misery in those countries, and the war efforts move ahead. In Britain itself all these problems are far less acute, for the obvious reason

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that the people of the country have a say in the affairs. Even in countries just freed from the Fascist yoke where there is chaos, famine, where everything is topsyturvy, the people are putting up with hardships and war conditions with a smile and a courage that is born of freedom. All this could be done here and now. But this unfortunately is a thing in which the British Government is not interested. Instead all manners of lies and fibs are spread about India in Britain and America through the machinery for which India pays. This is the height of bankruptcy and the mentality of a gambler who is losing his game, and this must end, if all the glib words of the Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches are to be translated into practice. Half measures will simply not do. This is the understanding on the part of the Government of which I spoke just now and which must prevail if things are to go well. But this is also an understanding which the Government fail to appreciate. If they must fail in this task, all their measures along with the Finance Bill now before the House will prove of no avail.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, the annual Budget which the Honourable Finance Member has presented, has been characterised by various speakers as an entirely war Budget. He has been accused, Sir, during his term of office or during the last few years, of thinking only of the war and nothing but the war. I personally fail to see how he can be criticised for this. In this country as in all other countries which are at war in a just cause, the war must come before everything else. If we do not first get on with it, all that we are fighting for cannot be brought about.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member will please resume after Lunch.

THE INCOME-TAX AND EXCESS PROFITS TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, and the Excess Profits Tax Act, 1940.

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 INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Sir, I had just started my speech when it had to be suspended owing to the lunch hour. I started off by saying that although a number of Honourable Members had criticised the Finance Member for making the war and its problems overshadow all other considerations in his budget and although they claimed that the Honourable Finance Member in the last few years had thought of nothing else at all in his waking and in his sleeping hours but of the war, I think that this is a matter on which I can congratulate him; and I do so for a practical reason: namely that since we are in this business every effort must be made to finish this unhappy business as soon as possible and with the utmost thoroughness and the utmost expedition that we are capable of. Now by the combined efforts of the Allies, where the efforts of India also have made their due and proper contribution, the end of this war is in sight, and we are happy that it is going to be a victorious and a glorious end.

When the war ends, that does not end all its problems. In fact the real problems produced by a great war are its after-math; and the after-math of this war is going to be as terrible as that of the last war. I remember at the end of the last war, which was not anything so great or so widespread as the present war, a great deal was said and talked about the new world that was to dawn after the war had been victoriously ended. I happened to be in England in the years 1919 and 1920; and in those years and the year before the newspapers, the public men, parliament and everybody else concerned thought and talked

all the time of a land which they said would be fit for heroes to live in. That is, England was to be a land fit for heroes to live in; and I believe so did the other countries which were participants in the war: they also promised their soldiers who were returning, that when they came back they would have decent houses adequate living wages and all sorts of attractive conditions of life. I remember in the year 1920 and 1919 that the dreams of those who came back were by no means fulfilled. In fact there was the greatest dissatisfaction among demobilised soldiers in the way they were treated. They constantly said that they certainly did not come back to a land fit for heroes to live in. In India exactly the same thing happened. The demobilised soldiers, although they were praised during the war and patted on the back and a great deal was said about them, found that when they were demobilised people forgot them very soon: a grateful country did not repay them with the gratitude which they had deserved. Therefore I take this opportunity of bringing this particular theme to the notice of those who sit on the Treasury Benches or those who will be their successors in the postwar period. I think that the greatest problem which confronts us is that these people who have fought for their country, people who have shed their blood, should be treated in the manner in which they deserve and in the manner in which they have been promised treatment. I was saying that failure to tackle this led to a great deal of trouble not only in this country but even in England and in the dominions, as soldiers who fought in the last war when they returned were not properly treated; and they found themselves disillusioned. The question is what are we going to do in this country? I need not recall the schemes of the Post-war Planning Member. There are all kinds of post-war schemes being put on paper and we hear nothing inside or outside the House but post-war plans. My submission is that the first precedence ought to do to the welfare of those who have fought for their country in this war. Need I describe the horrors of the present war? Are they not known to every one? The fact is that those of our young men and in this case, even our young women, who have gone out to fight in the war or to discharge duties connected with the war, have been through the utmost stress and turmoil. In other words, they have gone through hell. What is going to be their recompense? What place are they going to find in the post-war world? I am particularly thinking of young men, who have given up their careers, whether at the university or in business firms or even in Government service, who have willingly gone out to serve their King and their country and their allies. Many of them have laid down their lives; others have been maimed and may have been rendered unfit for active life. Yet there are a great many who will come back and will return fit. The point is how will they fit in into the post-war world design? It is impossible in the course of a brief speech to review the whole problem. But there are one or two parts of this great problem to which I wish to draw the attention of the present Government. It is unfortunate that the War Secretary is not here to listen to me. I feel that in the first place we are being told—at any rate it has been made public in this House—that Government intend to reserve 75 per cent (I may be corrected if I am wrong) of all vacancies during this period. (An Honourable Member: “70 per cent.”) 70 per cent. of the vacancies that arise for direct recruitment; and even places which are being filled now by temporary Government servants for the duration of the war, for those who come back with a good record of war service. Now, that is encouraging; it is a good thing. But how is the 70 per cent of the vacancies to be filled and what is going to be the criterion? If I mistake not, the other day one of the Members of the Treasury Benches speaking said that those vacancies would be filled in proportion to the communal representation that has been laid down i.e., if a certain community is entitled to 40 per cent. of vacancies in Government service they will be given that number of vacancies which are being kept in reserve for those returning from war service, and so on. I consider this is a most unfair arrangement. It is not even fair in this matter to lay down this communal proportion. There has been communal representation—in the service of Government—I personally do not hold with communal representation—but if there must be communal representation and if Government accept the

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principle that those who have shed their blood for their country at this time and those who have gone through the horrors of war should be given opportunities in the service of their country, and if they must be appointed not on merits or on the record of services rendered by these men, at least the proportion that is just and right should be in proportion to the number of men that a particular community has given to the war service. I do not like to mention names of communities; but my own feeling is that if for instance the Muslim community have contributed to the officer and the combatant ranks 50 per cent of the total of the fighting services, then that community ought to be given, not 25 per cent or whatever is their quota, but 50 per cent of the vacancies. In the same way, if the Sikhs have given 10 or 15 per cent to the fighting services, it is not the small proportion of 8½ per cent in which they share; but they should be entitled to a share of these vacancies in proportion to the fighting strength they have contributed. That, I think, is the fair and equitable measure of dealing with these vacancies which have been reserved for those who are doing war service. I would like Government to ponder over these matters because if they do not do so they will again have on their hands the problem which they had after the last war, namely, a very large number of highly dissatisfied and disillusioned men who have shed their blood and who in return will be kept out of an opportunity of serving their country.

The next point I would like to make is this. Adequate provision was not made, after the last war, for the sons and daughters and dependents of those who fell in the war or who were permanently maimed or disabled. The provision made for them was most inadequate and I would plead with all the earnestness I can command that those men who have given their lives and have made a supreme sacrifice for the country, since we cannot recompense them in any material manner, should not be forgotten and their sons and dependents should not be forgotten by a grateful country which lives because they died and I plead that due provision should be made in an adequate manner for them. In this matter I would strongly urge that any distinction between Europeans or Indians or between one community and another should be removed and that the allowances that are given should be adequate and should be given without discrimination.

My next point is this. I believe I am a man of peace. I am a man who has believed in peace all my life and yet I feel that the peace of a country can only be maintained if a country makes itself strong enough to prevent invaders and disturbers of peace to attack it without fear. This country hopes to attain self government before long. In a country like India which hopes to take its place with the great and free countries of the world, there must be an army strong enough to defend it. Nothing has been more regrettable than the manner in which our armies were demobilised. Countries which did not wish to fight, demobilised their armies. Now we are paying for the mistakes of statesmen who were too anxious to do away with the fighting services. They demobilised the fighting services and treated them badly and left the country in such a weak state that other countries which were aggressive got their chance. We hope that such a chance would never be allowed to aggressive people and that can only be done if we have a really strong army and I submit that a free India cannot continue to be free for any length of time, if it has not a strong army to defend itself. Nothing will please me better than to be able to follow the principle of non-violence but the world is not yet fit for non-violence. We have got to face facts. We have to look round and study the state the world now is in and not only what we wish it to be or what we may hope it might become in another generation.

My next point is that the Indian army should be a truly national army, an army that is officered by the natural leaders of this country, an army where every caste and community in this country feels it has a share and a place to

which it can go with self respect and in honour fight and serve in it with self respect and honour. The first point that I wish to make in this connection is that there should be no discrimination in the matter of the treatment given to the combatant ranks. Speaking frankly, let me say that I am in close touch with a very large number of young men. Throughout my life, I have been connected with education from primary to university work and I cannot help feeling that rightly or wrongly in the minds of our young men there is a feeling of suspicion. Many of them hesitate to join even the commissioned ranks because they feel that there is some discrimination against them. I am not here claiming that all that they allege is correct or that this accusation or fear or suspicion is altogether correctly founded. But there cannot be smoke if there is no fire and there is in the minds of these young men some fear that when they go out for training for the army they do not get quite the treatment which they expect. These are not matters which are pleasant to speak about but everyone knows what the feeling is. I merely make a reference to it and I express a sincere hope that this feeling may be removed by a really honest effort by the army authorities. Assurances have been given on this subject. I am not one of those who doubt the motives of others as I hope that others will believe in mine and I hope that during this present war the existing suspicion will be removed from the minds of young men, particularly our educated young men. It is not only educated young men but also Indian other ranks sometimes express such views and I believe with a certain amount of justification.

In this connection I am very sorry that the Army Secretary is not here. The other day when I got an opportunity to speak, I hope at any rate in my own estimate, I made a very good and strong point about the utilisation of the University Training Corps. The Army Secretary in his reply did not condescend to make any reference to what I had said. I said at that time that for years the University Training Corps now called the Officer Training Corps, have felt that the army authorities never took them seriously. Speaking from personal experience, I feel they were given the cold shoulder. Neither in the matter of equipment nor in the matter of training, were they given much consideration. During the war, to some extent, the University Training Corps have come into their own and I do acknowledge with gratitude that in recent years Government have assisted us with funds and also with facilities for training and with a certain amount of equipment, though owing to the exigencies of war they have found it very difficult to give much in the way of equipment. But we have found that in recruiting for the commissioned ranks of the army, practically no concession has been made, and very little advantage is given to those of our young men who have spent years in undergoing a course of training in the U. T. C. for instance, no facilities were given to them for direct recruitment. They still have to appear before the Selection Boards and for reasons which I and the Principals of my Colleges are even now unable to understand, they have not given their right place in the officer ranks of the army. I pleaded with the Army Secretary the other day to look into this matter and to see if they are really earnest in asking us as they continually ask us to encourage our University young men to go into the army, if they are sincere and earnest in their efforts and I have no reason to doubt their sincerity, they should make use of the agency which already exists, namely the U. T. C., and let these young people understand that they are welcome and that their claims because of the training which they have already received would be recognised. In this particular manner, I referred to the appeals that have been made to us—an appeal was made the other day by a very high ranking Air officer regarding the great need of officers in the Indian Air Force. My own University and some other Universities have established Air Training Centres, in others they are in the course of being established. I again want to ask the Government, if they will take these Indian Air Training corps seriously or does it only mean that this training which is being given to them is to be of no value, like the training in University Territorial Corps in recent years? I am glad that the War Secretary has now come to the House and I do hope that he will be able to look into these matters, because as I said, a national army can only be properly officered by the nationals of this country and I believe that a very large part of the ground

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for obtaining recruits to the army lies in the Indian Universities. Finally I hope that the foremost efforts during the war and after the war will be to remove the suspicion in the minds of our young men that there is discrimination in the army, and secondly that they would be encouraged from the Universities to go into the commissioned ranks and serve their country in this national army.

Before I sit down, I wish to refer to another matter and I do so with a certain amount of hesitation and unwillingness. For, I cannot forget that on an occasion like this, when people speak on the Finance Bill and on all things which whether in heaven or earth, I must say a word on behalf of the community which I have the honour to represent in this House. Sir, I have been asked to come to this House to represent a community of six million people, the Indian Christian community. I do not wish to quarrel with my Honourable friend who is not present here as to whether we are the third largest community, or the fourth or the fifth largest community in the country, or whether we are the smallest community in the country. What I do wish to say is that ours is a community very largely drawn from the humble and the poor, and to begin with was largely illiterate. It is spread over a very large portion of the country. I am fully aware that a very large proportion of my community live in Indian States, and I am glad they not only live there but live there as useful and happy citizens in States like Cochin, Travancore and other South Indian States, where in one case at any rate they form almost one-third of the population of the State. They have risen through their spirit of service to very honourable ranks in the services of these Indian States where the Rulers certainly are not Christians. My community, Sir, is very non-vocal. As I have said, the majority of my community are poor and lowly. Others are either public servants or are agriculturists. They are people who certainly find it very difficult to agitate and they do not say very much. Whereas other communities are well represented in this House, I happen to be the only feeble representative to speak for a community of six million people. The other day I was forced to put a question about the representation of my community in the local bodies in this Province. My Honourable friend Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan asked me whether it was not a fact that the Indian Christian community had declared before the Simon Commission that they did not want communal electorates and that they were prepared to work in general electorates and they did not ask for any reservations. I was a Member of the deputation which appeared before the Simon Commission. I repeat here what the deputation said there, and what the view point of my community is. I think all thinking members of my community will endorse my views. Our view is that we fully and entirely stand by general electorates. We do not ask for any reservations, we do not ask for communal electorates, and our view is based on a simple and practical reason. What is the good, Sir, that in a house of 145 Members, our community should have one or even six Members? What weight can we pull, what advantage can we get by that meagre representation? I feel, Sir, that safeguards in any constitution, particularly safeguards for minorities are absolutely futile. No safeguards put on paper are of any value. Treaties have been treated as scraps of paper. What earthly use are safeguards written down in a constitution which may be changed at any time and at any moment? We take our stand on the good will of our countrymen, on the trust and confidence which we can inspire and which we hope to inspire in them through our service, through the honesty of our motives and through what we can achieve by serving our countrymen and thereby taking our rightful place in the country. I stand fully by that, and I think that a majority of my community who are thinking men will stand by it. But, Sir, we are not the constitution makers. We do not make the constitution. We were not consulted when the present constitution was formed. The position now is that we are faced for the present with a constitution which holds the field. In that constitution, contrary to our views, unfortunately, communal electorates have been established. Under that constitution, even Government appointments have been doled out in a certain percentage among the various communities and merit is neither the first nor the sole consideration.

If merit were the first consideration, then my people would be the last to ask for any reservation. I have no quarrel with the majority of my countrymen, and if a personal reference might be forgiven, I would say, Sir, I happen to be today the twice elected Vice-Chancellor of a University where nine-tenth of the voters happen to be Hindus. I have been elected for four successive terms as Chairman of the Board of Education for the Indian States of Rajputana, Central India, and Gwalior where again nine-tenths of the members happen to belong to the majority communities. I do not say that I have been elected because of any particular merit in myself, but I feel, Sir, that I have served these learned bodies to the best of my ability for many years and that my colleagues, although they knew that I do not belong to their community, yet in preference to my rival candidates who belonged to the majority communities did me the honour of election because they had faith in my fairmindedness. Therefore I should be the last to plead for reservation of any kind of seats either in electorates or in the services of this country. But, as I say, Sir, I have got to speak for a community which goes practically unrepresented under the present constitution. As you see Sir, in this House, we can send no representatives. The Government are under no obligation to even nominate an Indian Christian. There have been times when no Indian Christian sat in this Assembly. At any rate nomination is entirely in Government's hands and it is their kindness that they have asked me to come to this House. I feel that that is an unfair situation for a community so large as mine. Then again in the case of district boards of municipalities and other local bodies, there are hardly any among these local bodies where Indian Christians have been given the right of election. I believe I would rather come in by election than by the favour of any appointing authority.

The other day in this connection I asked a question of my Honourable friend the Education Secretary as to why it was that in the Delhi Municipal Committee, the New Delhi Municipal Committee, the Notified Area Committee and the District Board of this province not a single Indian Christian had been made a member, at any rate in the last 15 years, and in the case of one or two of these bodies never since their foundation. I feel that I was given a very unkind reply. He said that I was myself a member of all these bodies for a term of 14 years. Sir, my submission is that this is typical of the way in which my community is treated. I happened to be the Education Adviser—a Government official—to advise these bodies on education. And when I asked my Honourable friend whether he represented the European Group here because he happens to be a European he said he certainly did not; and yet he maintained that I represented the Indian Christians in the Delhi and New Delhi Municipality because, though an humble Government servant and purely an educational adviser to these bodies, I happened to be labelled an Indian Christian.

Then, Sir, he went on to give an even stranger reply to my question. He said that the necessity for nominating Indian Christians does not seem to be so urgent—I am paraphrasing his words—because the presence of so many Christian officials is sufficient to guard their interests. I do not know who these Christian officials are; probably he meant the one or two Europeans who sit there as *ex-officio* members. Is not that a strange reason? It is surprising that there should be so little logic in the Government of India. If that is so, why should not the European Group in this House be abolished? When there are so many Europeans in the Treasury Benches why bring in the European Group from such large distances at so much trouble and expense to them? Why should not they themselves represent European interests?

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): They are first cousins; Anglo-Indians second and you are only third cousins.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: I am not even a fourth cousin.

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Sir, I am sorry to refer to these matters, but I wish to point out that to a community, merely because it is non-vocal, such serious injustice is done in every sphere of life. I say again with all the force at my command that we ask for no safeguards and we ask for no preferences; we only ask that we should be given our due share in the body-politic of this country. And we have again and again represented to Government that where our numbers justified we should be given the right to elect our representatives, be it to the local bodies, be it to provincial legislatures or the central legislatures.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Separate electorate?

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: I am not asking for any separate electorate and I will tell you why we do not ask for a separate electorate. All I ask is that if Government, for reasons which I cannot appreciate, are unable to give us an elected representative on the local bodies, they should at least do a small measure of justice in their capital city, whereby a community which numbers over 10,500 in this province, should not go absolutely unrepresented. In this case even I have now been removed from these local bodies, so that there is no justification for saying that I hold the interests of these people in my hands. I say therefore that they should do us this favour and appoint—if they will not give us the right to elect—representatives to these local bodies. Why should we be the only community singled out for complete non-representation in these bodies?

My Honourable friend Sir Zia Uddin asked me whether I want separate electorates. Sir, in a portion of the reply given to me by my Honourable friend the Education Secretary he gave me the glad news that since 1944 the ban against non-Muslims standing for general seats had been removed and therefore it was open to my community to stand for non-Muslim seats, and probably capture all the seats in the Delhi municipality and other local bodies. Sir, my point is this. If my Honourable friend Sir Zia Uddin will agree that there should be no reservations and no separate electorates, I am willing to take my chance with him or with any one else. But I cannot expect in any fairness that since electorates are divided among Muslim and non-Muslim, the non-Muslim community should be so magnanimous as to give up one or two seats to my community to contest and themselves stand out.

An Honourable Member: Are you not a non-Muslim?

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: I have already told you what community I represent. But the position is as I say in fairness that if it is decided that all electorates shall be open and free I have nothing further to say. If not a single person from my community gets in it is their misfortune. But I maintain that so long as the present system goes on and the electorate is divided into Muslim and non-Muslim, no small community can have a chance, and therefore Government, who are the authors of this arrangement and who are I hope fair to all communities, should not allow a small community like ours, because it is non-vocal, to stand out and go out into the cold by giving them such cold comfort by maintaining that their interests are safe in the hands of Christian officials or that they can now come in from the non-Muslim side.

Again in the matter of Government appointments I have to say a word or two. And I say this with very great regret because I have stated what my position in this matter is. Again this Government was responsible for dumping all minorities together and giving them a percentage of I think 8½ per cent. So long as that arrangement lasts my community comes off worst because, as I said, they are non-vocal. They believed and still believe in co-operation. My community at all times have co-operated with Government; they still have abundant faith in the good intentions of Government and in their impartiality. But what is happening? When we are needed we come forward with willingness. I have learnt on good authority—the War Secretary will correct me if I am wrong—that at the present moment Indian Christians form 13.5 per cent of the commissioned ranks of the Indian army; and I think he himself gave the

information that they form five to six per cent. of the total fighting strength of the Indian army. I bring that out merely to show that if a community of such small size and with very small martial traditions has come forward at the time of stress to serve their country and serve it ungrudgingly, is it fair that when anything in the way of reward is concerned or opportunities for serving their country are concerned, the same Government denies them those privileges because they are politically unimportant? It seems to me a very strange thing. I have been a good deal in England; I have noticed that as individuals you can ask for a no better friend than a Britisher, but when it comes to dealings collectively, when it comes to dealings as a nation, it is surprising that the British nation forgets its friends. I believe they treat their enemies, those who have fought against them, with much greater magnanimity and with much greater kindness than they treat their friends. My community has at all times and in the large majority been loyal supporters of Government; they still are. But are Government aware that among the younger generation there is the greatest discontent and the greatest disillusion? They feel that their claims in the services of Government, and their part in the service of public and local bodies, have been neglected, although they were the first to collaborate with Government. I would like to utter a note of warning, not in a spirit of hostility or carping criticism, but as an appeal to the sense of fairness of those who are responsible for this Government, not to alienate the community which has done so well for them.

Then, Sir, I would say this again that I feel that this proportion of 8½ per cent. in which all minority communities are put together acts very unfairly to my community. I would much rather that these reservations were dispensed with, but for so long as they exist the fairest thing is that they should be divided fairly and squarely on a population basis amongst the communities to which this proportion is allotted. I believe, Sir, the communities which share in this allotment are the Sikhs, the Anglo-Indians, the Parsis, the Indian Christians and the Buddhists. I say, if this proportion has to be retained, let this be divided among the various communities on a strict population basis.

Take the case of key positions. I think the representatives of this community have again and again pointed out to Government that in the matter of key appointments under Government our community is completely neglected. How is it that in the Viceroy's Executive Council no non-official Indian Christian has ever come in? Every other community has found its place. I hope that merit is the guiding if not the only determining factor while making appointments to His Excellency's Executive Council. I refuse to believe that my community has never produced or is not capable of producing men to occupy such positions. I feel that if Government have felt it their duty to give representation to all communities,—and I do not know that with the exception of Buddhists—there is any community in India who have not a member on the Executive Council—then the time has come that my community should also receive a similar honour.

There is another matter. Take the Federal Services Commission. Not one member of my community has ever been appointed to the Federal Public Services Commission. If merit is the criterion I do feel that there are men in my community, with the necessary experience, with the necessary education, who ought to be given the opportunity to serve their country in this way. I am sorry that I have had to speak of these matters, but I feel it is a duty which is incumbent upon me and I have tried to urge merely that so long as the present system lasts, my community should also be given their fair and proper share in the service of their country.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde (West Coast and Nilgiris: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, last year the Honourable the Finance Member while discussing the question of inflation said that we cannot think of fighting in the war and financing it without there being inflation. The other day, one of the other Councillors said that we, on this side of the House argue as if this country was not involved in the war.

We are fully aware that the country is taking part in war whether some people want it or not. But the question always remains as to why the effect of inflation should be so bad in this country as compared with other countries.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Which other countries?

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: England as well as America.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Why not try something nearer home?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): You always want to compete with people worse than you.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I always refer to countries similarly situated.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: The Honourable the Finance Member is an Englishman and he claims to be an expert. I have no quarrel with him but he must tell us why in his own country, which is in the thickest of the fight and which is as much responsible for the war as any of those big three countries, the inflation has not affected so much the lives of the people as it has in this country. We know that prices have not increased more than 25 per cent. as compared to the pre-war prices. In America, prices have not increased more than 15 per cent. But so far as India is concerned, it refuses to come down below 250 per cent. Certainly we would like to have an explanation from the Finance Member.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: One reason is that it is impossible for the Chancellor of Exchequer to be censured because of the volume of public borrowing in England, or the savings drive.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Sir, excuse is always a poor argument.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: This one is a very good argument.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: My Honourable friend can give us many excuses but we know it is because it is India that is ruled and that is England which is ruling that things are different. The main reason I am sure is—my Honourable friend will not deny it—that the Supply Member made this country a base for supply for not only to the civilian needs but also the war needs of all countries in the world and the Finance Member by spending only a pie produced a rupee note and with the help of the Reserve Bank put in circulation, crores of rupee notes in this country resulting in inflation. Having got inflation, he does not know how to fight it.

We have paid too heavy a price in the name of this war and in the name of inflation. Lakhs and millions have died in this country. We all know the experience of Bengal. My constituency—Malabar, South Canara and Nilgiris—has suffered a great deal on account of this inflation. Thousands have died due to disease and starvation and even today there are problems facing people there, almost similar if not the same, as we found in Bengal sometime back.

In combating inflation, the Finance Member advises people to give back those rupee notes and he is devising ways and means. Even today when he was asked whether he would circularize the provinces that coercive measures should not be used in selling war bonds, he said that they knew their job. We know what coercive measures are being adopted in the provinces and in districts in forcing these war bonds on the poor illiterate people. Sir we have never made this complaint by ways of political stunt, when we said that force was being used in its sale. It is well known. The Honourable Member refuses to enquire, he refuses to appoint a committee to enquire into these cases, he refuses to circularize. It has become a serious problem in the rural parts.

The next step which he has taken is a very dangerous one and that is imposing excise duty on certain goods which are really not excisable. I refer to the excise duty which he levied last year on betel nuts, tea and coffee. Of the three, the excise duty on betel nuts has become obnoxious, because as I understand—and I think the Honourable the Finance Member will not deny it—the excise duty is such a duty that is levied either in the process of manufacture or before sale to the consumers; and it is only today during the question hour that I found that the Honourable the Finance Member did not know the exact point in the process of manufacture or sale at

which this excise duty could be levied on betel nuts. Sir, we have seen in this country that products like vegetable products, cigars and cigarettes, salt, matches, kerosene, petrol and other articles, are subjected to excise duty. In the case of every one of these articles, there is a stage where it undergoes a certain kind of manufacturing process. But in the case of betel-nuts there is no such stage where it undergoes any process of manufacture. In the Excise Act it is said that duty will be levied on the cured betel-nuts and curing has now been interpreted as drying. Therefore from this point of view, if the Honourable the Finance Member had taken into his imagination to excise even rice and wheat, I do not think he would have been on different grounds because as we know paddy has also to be dried before rice is extracted. The fact that he has not excised paddy and rice or even milk in this country is a matter on which we must congratulate him and we should be thankful to him for this mercy. What I wish to emphasize is that the duty on betel-nut is most unjustifiable. Sir, last year we had not sufficient time to discuss this aspect of the case. In fact, this House rejected the whole Finance Bill. Therefore we had not time to go into the details. After it was certified by His Excellency the Governor General the Honourable the Finance Member has gone even to the extent of forcing some of the Native States to impose a similar duty in those States and today we find the same duty and to the same extent is being imposed in Mysore and probably to a lesser extent in Travancore and probably in the course of time this will be copied by all other Native States wherever betel nut palm is grown. The Honourable the Finance Member must have seen the debate that followed in the Mysore Assembly when the Chief Minister there introduced the Betel-nut Levy Bill. In that Assembly the Bill was thrown out. In the Mysore Council the Chief Minister begged of the members to allow that State to stand on par with British India. There also it was thrown out. Ultimately it was His Highness who certified that Bill and now it has become an Act and to the extent I have been able to collect information, I have come to know that British India is going to get Rs. 70 lakhs from Mysore whereas the Mysore Government is benefiting only to the extent of Rs. 5 or 6 lakhs.

Coming to the incidence of this taxation on betel-nuts, I should like to point out that it has virtually become a tax on the agriculturist. It is principally an agricultural product. I would like to know from the Honourable the Finance Member how wheat or rice differs from this product. All these articles are agricultural products.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Don't ask him how it differs. He may tax them also!

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: In all those places where the betel-nut is grown there is a tax by way of land revenue. In Mysore on garden the land revenue is Rs. 10 to 15 per acre. In British India for instance in South Canara, Malabar and the Nilgiris it is Rs. 10 to 13. Taking the average yield of a garden to be about two candies, we have found the average excise duty collected from one acre of betel nut garden comes to Rs. 150. That is, while the agriculturist is paying Rs. 10 to 15 towards land revenue, he is forced to pay before he is able to sell his betel nut produce Rs. 150 per acre towards excise duty.

Sir, it is likely that the Finance Member may say that we have subjected tea and coffee to the same kind of duty but the process and the manner in which it is produced is quite different. Further tea and coffee have got their marketing boards. What happened last year? Immediately this tax was imposed the Coffee Marketing Board which was selling its coffee at Rs. 80 per cwt. raised it to Rs. 94. In other words the producers of coffee got their Rs. 80 in spite of the duty. But what happened to the areca nut growers? They had to pay tax in advance before they were able to sell the betel nut. It has become in its very nature a direct tax on the agriculturist. There is no marketing board for betel nuts. There is no arrangement to keep the price at a certain economic level. Just before the war the betel-nut trade had to undergo serious difficulties. The Straits Settlements and Singapore, used to send large quantities of betel-nuts into this country. The prices were very

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low and several of these garden owners had to borrow money and carry on the agricultural operations. The moment we lost Burma and all those Straits, there was a greater demand for the betel-nut grower within the country. Therefore the prices rose a little. At this time the Government of India imposed the excise duty on it. Today we have reached a stage when the betel nut growers are thinking that if this tax were to continue it would be as well that they cut all those trees and revert to paddy growing.

When this excise duty was imposed last year, there were no specific rules. I will not be surprised if the Honourable the Finance Member says, as he said this morning, that he himself was ignorant how this betel-nut was produced, because in my constituency, South Canara,—Malabar and the Nilgiris,—the tax was forcibly collected on the crops which were harvested in the year 1943-44. It was clearly illegal, and it was not permitted under the Act; whereas such a tax was not collected in Bengal, Mysore and in some other places. I am informed that tax to the extent of nearly Rs. 15 lakhs was collected from one district alone and that is from my district of South Kanara. When they claimed that this amount should be refunded, the Department seems to be still investigating and have not yet come to a conclusion. I would request the Honourable the Finance Member to see to this aspect of the case as well, *viz.*, the hardship that was caused by enforcing all those rules, which were primarily meant for marketing of tobacco or imposing excise duty on tobacco, tea and coffee.

There is also one other aspect of the case. Under the Excise Act an uniform duty has been levied on betel-nut. It is two annas per pound. But all those who deal in betel-nut will know that there are more than a dozen varieties of betel-nuts and the prices also vary. I have found on personal investigation that the price of betel-nut in the market varies from 2 to 12 annas per lb. The lowest variety, the two annas variety is now excised at two annas per pound. Under the excise rules, I have found to my surprise that nobody can stock or keep betel nut for more than three months unless he has paid a duty on it. The difficulty arises this way. The cost of the lowest variety is two annas per lb. in the market and the duty on it is two annas per pound. Is it not a great hardship on the agriculturists? There is an option under the rules, either to destroy the stock in the presence of Excise Officer or to pay down the excise duty. Therefore the imposition of an uniform excise duty of two annas per pound on all varieties of betel nut is creating a great hardship, particularly on the producers of lowest variety of betel-nut. In these days when we have not got sufficient stock, when we are not getting imports. The lowest variety is not being marketed and it is being destroyed. Just as in the case of tobacco and other articles produced out of tobacco, there ought to be a varying rate of duty on betel nut as well, if my Honourable friend wants to continue this betel nut duty at all.

Just to give the effect of the betel nut duty in my district, I would point out that where the betel-nut garden area is only 10 per cent., the duty that will be paid by the producers comes to about Rs. 28 lakhs, whereas the 90 per cent. of the owners of land who produce paddy pay only Rs. 32 lakhs. Ten per cent. of the agriculturists have to pay 28 lakhs and 90 per cent. of the agriculturists pay 32 lakhs and that is the effect in one district. I was just trying to understand the total income the Finance Member expected in the coming year and I found that his estimate is very low. I am sure at the present rate the income is going to be a very huge figure. I hope the Finance Member will look into these various difficulties and also into the question of the legality of continuing the excise duty on betel-nut, especially on the ground that it is an excise duty directly on agricultural produce and that there will be no difference if tomorrow another Finance Member wants to impose a similar duty on rice or wheat. There would not be any difference legally. Therefore I would request the Finance Member to look into this question and the injustice that is caused by continuing the excise duty on betel-nut.

Next, I would like to refer to the food situation in the country. I am sorry the Food Member is not here. We know the country on the whole is deficit. He should not be under the impression that we attack him or argue from these benches with any political motive. I remember it was last year when he said, as if by way of threat, that he was going to enforce the food policy, whether some people were with him or not. I would like to know from the Honourable the Food Member whether in his experience and in his administration of the Department in the last two or three years he found any opposition. In fact, we on this side of the House are more anxious that the food problem should be solved without any scarcity being caused in any Province or in any part of the country.

Intimately connected with this problem is the question of the Grow More Food Campaign. We are sorry that this campaign has been only on paper. Last year we were given certain figures to show that the country produced about 3 million tons more than it produced in 1939 or 1940. But we know that those figures were all false and they did not relate to the actual state of affairs. If it were otherwise, and if the total produce was more last year than in previous years there is no reason why even today we do not have, even in those areas where there is statutory rationing, the volume of ration equivalent to one pound. The other day I put a question with regard to the volume of this ration in the different cities in the country. I found that in Delhi more than one pound is given, in Cawnpore nearly one pound is given, in Bombay more than one pound is given, whereas in my constituency, Malabar and the Nilgiris, it is only twelve ounces. In this connection I would like to refer to the resolution that was passed by the Fifth All India Food Conference which was held in the month of January. The very first resolution says that in no place more than a pound of food grains should be distributed through statutory rationing until that volume of one pound of foodgrains is reached in all places where statutory rationing has been introduced. Now it is nearly two months since this resolution was passed and my friend, the Honourable the Food Member, who seems to be deriving his inspiration more from this All India Food Conference than from this House is sleeping over it. I find both in the last Session as well as in this Session no opportunity was given to this House to discuss this important problem of food and whenever questions are put we get replies which are not satisfactory.

With regard to the Grow More Food Campaign I have to mention that the Forest policy that is being followed in several Provinces in this country has been greatly responsible for leaving vast areas of land fallow. I know in my own district that all those agricultural lands which can immediately produce paddy are laying waste, because the reserved forests have grown so close to these lands that it is impossible for the ryots to grow paddy in those lands. The Forest Department is doing nothing to alleviate the difficulties of the agriculturists. Therefore, Sir, this is one of the important problems, which the Honourable Member in charge of Health and Lands, should take note of and do something to see that these lands are brought under cultivation immediately.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Would the Honourable Member kindly elucidate why the proximity of reserved forests prevents cultivation? Is it owing to the depredations of forest animals?

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: The difficulty is that wild animals come down from forests and destroy the crops. Secondly all the 365 days there is terrible malaria, and people die, and there is nobody to take care of them. Thirdly, Government have not made any arrangements for distributing quinine free or for value, and there are no hospitals. I am speaking of my constituency. Sir, these are the some of the difficulties that are felt by the agriculturists.

The other factor connected with the "Grow More Food" campaign is the question of making available irrigation facilities. It is only this year, after several years of agitation, I find that the foundation stone of the Tungabhadra Project was laid. From the speech of His Excellency the Governor of Madras I find that this project will be completed only after eight years, therefore I cannot congratulate the Government of Madras. We find that out of 220 million

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acres in this country which are under food grains, it is only 56 million acres out of it that are irrigated, a very small area. Instead of bringing new lands, rather doubtful lands, under paddy or wheat, there is vast scope for irrigation in this country, and if the Honourable Member is really serious in producing more food grains, without which we all know we cannot solve the food problem, irrigation facilities must be provided to agriculturists, irrespective of cost, and we know in this country no irrigation project has been a loss: in fact, there are irrigation projects in Madras—for instance, in Andhra parts—which yield interest to the extent of 22 per cent. Even from the point of view of investment, a proper irrigation policy and projects in this country will not prove a national loss but gain. Therefore, it will be wise on the part of the Honourable Member in charge to see that immediate steps are taken to provide better irrigation facilities to the agriculturists rather than forcibly convert some lands here and some lands there from, either cashew or ground nuts to food grains.

In this respect my own constituency, which consists of South Canara and Malabar, offers large scope for minor irrigation projects. We moved this question in the local Council. The Madras Government was addressed, and they said, "Yes, we will give you some staff"; but it is now more than six months, no staff has been sent, no report has been prepared, and we are wasting months after months without any advance in this matter. Therefore, the Honourable Member must insist on the representatives of the Provincial Governments to make some advance in this matter.

Then, there is the question of the manufacture of ammonium sulphate and compost. The Gregory Committee report recommended that Government must immediately take up the question of manufacture of ammonium sulphate and the production of compost from rubbish. The other day I put a question, and in reply I find that in Malabar and South Canara they produced about 220 c. ft. of compost, and that last year they were able to supply about 200 tons of ammonium sulphate. This is a poor achievement. You know that the west coast is the worst area that is suffering for want of food, and we are anxious that Bengal scenes are not re-enacted there. Therefore, it is necessary that Government should take immediate steps to see that part of the country is made self-sufficient as regards food supply as soon as possible. That is possible only if Government is really serious in supplying all the needs of the agriculturists including agricultural implements.

There is the question of import of tractors. The Gregory Committee report advised that a sufficient number of tractors must be imported so that more food could be grown. I find either from the report of the speech which the Honourable Member in charge delivered before the Fifth All-India Food Conference or from his answers here, that they have been able to import only six tractors in to this country, I do not know where they are.

There is also a dearth of agricultural implements. I must mention in this connection what I read the other day in Sir M. Visweswariah's speech in which he says that even as it is, this country with its present resources can produce four to five times more steel or just all that steel that is required in this country. But he says politically we are unable to produce more steel. I do not understand it. Will the Honourable Member in charge of Supply or the Honourable Member in charge of Health and Lands tell us why there is a dearth of steel for agricultural implements, and why agricultural implements are not produced in large quantities or in sufficient quantities and made available to the country?

Sir, even with the available food grains, there is the question of transport. In the Madras Food Council Mr. Ramamurthy was asked why Malabar was not being given a pound of food grains per adult per day, he gave the reason that the food grains are not being moved by the railways in time. He did not say that the food grains were not available, but that the railways failed to move the food grains to Malabar. The other day I found during the railway debate bouquets and congratulations were being exchanged between the Railway Member and the Food Member, and the Food Member was saying "We are receiving all

co-operation from the Railway Board", I do not know who is right. Either the Madras Adviser was wrong.

An Honourable Member: Both are wrong.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: If the Food Member is wrong then the Railway Member is also wrong: somebody must be in the wrong otherwise I cannot explain this inconsistency. If the railways are not providing enough wagons to move the food grains they are really at fault. I would ask the Food Member to see that these food grains are carried continually—but there is one difficulty. The internal distribution of food. The Honourable Food Member says, it rests upon the respective provinces and it is their duty to see that the food is equally distributed and fairly distributed. But to see that no part of the country suffers for want of food certainly rests upon him he cannot deny that. Therefore in this connection naturally he requires facts and figures. It is more than three years or two years now since his department was created; and even today I can say that the department is not in possession of facts and figures as to how much this country wants, or how much food a province wants: even the provincial governments are not in possession of the figures. Statistics are all faulty and they do not try to collect proper statistics. You cannot get even a district collector to say how much his district requires. Therefore, in these circumstances I would wish that wherever we have got surplus food grains, they must be moved daily and continually to the deficit areas, so that when a real deficit occurs and when there is real starvation, these officials may not run about saying "Oh, our lines are cut or engaged otherwise we cannot move the food grains".

Intimately connected with the food administration is the question of the agriculturist's getting enough food. I was going through the Butler Report. He has produced a wonderful report in which he has given his experiences. He has examined all the different systems of procurement and distribution which are prevailing in different places in the matter of food administration; and I find that the needs of the agriculturists are not looked after properly. He says:

"Another aspect more serious, perhaps, than bribery and corruption is that of petty harassment by minor officials. That it goes on to a fairly extensive degree there is no doubt. That it should and must be eliminated is equally undisputed. That Provincial and State governments do not, generally speaking, take sufficiently specific steps in this direction is, I am afraid, a fact. I suggest that all administrations should be addressed and that the greatest emphasis should be laid upon the absolute essentiality of eliminating petty harassment and instilling into all officers and staff the fundamental principle that in food matters more than in any other aspect of administration Government officers are the servants of the people in the true sense of the word."

I hope the Food Member will make a note of it. I had occasions to complain about this matter and usually he gives the explanation that it is a provincial matter. (*An Honourable Member:* "He is not here!") But I suppose this report is produced for his benefit and I hope he will take the necessary steps.

At another place, the effect of the procurement is described as follows:

(p. xi)—

"One of the most vital aspects of monopoly procurement, if success is to be achieved, is to be able to assure the cultivator without any question that the interests of himself, his dependents and his village are protected, that is to say, he must, in surplus or self-sufficient villages feel that the requirements of the village will remain within the village area or at a nearby depot. Similarly, if procurement is to succeed in deficit areas, producers must be satisfied that Government is taking full responsibility for the feeding of the people and it is a curious but understandable phenomena that where the rural distribution arrangements are well organised and rural rationing is in force, procurement is found to be easier."

Therefore, these two considerations the Central Government must see are always kept before the Provincial Governments, and also see that they follow their instructions.

On the other aspect, about the price of these food grains, I am very thankful to my Honourable friend Mr. Ranga, who referred to it; but I would point out the disastrous consequences that are happening. It is true there cannot be a single price for the whole country; and it will not be possible; but there ought not to be a great difference between the prices prevailing in contiguous areas. The Butler Report says on page x:

"As an instance of what would appear to be unwarranted differentiation the case of Travancore, Cochin and Malabar may be quoted where the procurement prices fixed are approximately equivalent to Rs. 7-8-0, Rs. 6-15-0 and Rs. 6-6-0 per maund of paddy respectively."

Mr. J. D. Tyson: What page is that?

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Page x. This is in one area on the west coast; the whole area is a deficit area; why should the price in Travancore be Rs. 7-8-0 and in British Malabar Rs. 6-6-0, and in Cochin which is adjacent to British Malabar the price should be Rs. 6-15-0? He refers specifically to the Madras Presidency in his report at page v—where he says:

"These figures are all the more significant when it is appreciated that the level of grain prices in Madras has been kept consistently lower than in most other parts of India although it is, I believe, true to say that the cost of cultivation, at least in so far as the cost of labour is concerned, is lower in Madras than, for instance, in the North."

I must point out there is some mistake in this observation. Anyway I can quote this paragraph to show that the prices in Madras are kept deliberately at a very low level, and it is lower than the price—in any other part of India. As for the argument that labour is cheap, he should have also taken into consideration the amount of production per acre; as a rule in all those areas where we do not have irrigation, the production is much lower in the Madras presidency than anywhere else in India. Therefore, while fixing the price, these considerations must also be kept in mind. As regards the price, Mr. Butler says at page iv—

"On the one hand, everyone even remotely dependent on agriculture for their livelihood and also politicians will tell you that even now the cultivator is not getting a fair price for his produce and that the rise in the price of grain is not so great as the rise in the prices of consumer goods."

Therefore the Honourable Food Member must take all these relevant points into consideration when the price is fixed or when the paddy is being snatched from the agriculturists.

In this connection I will just point out what terrible mistakes are made in certain provinces. The demand is made in some places under the Defence of India Rules, and in some places they have got separate orders: e.g., in Madras we have got the Grain Procurement Order, which requires that a Government requisitioning officer should visit every cultivator's house and fix the surplus which he must be able to deliver or sell and in Bombay we have got the Levy Order. I was just going through this levy order and I found that a man who is paying Rs. 100 as assessment has to deliver 1250 pylees of rice which comes to 120 standard maunds. I have studied the question of production and from all that I know I can say that if 120 maunds of rice is taken forcibly from a person who is paying Rs. 100 as assessment in a ryotwari area, it is impossible for the family to live. There will be nothing left to live upon: either he will not have 120 maunds to give or if you forcibly take it, there will be nothing left for him to eat; and the working of this levy order, as I see it almost daily in the vernacular papers from Bombay, has led to complaints that the levy has been very excessive; and thousands of petitions and objections that are filed by the agriculturists are not heard and no final orders passed. I have got the same picture in my district. Thousands and thousands of objections are filed against requisition orders but they are not heard. At some time or other, Government, will forcibly take whatever is left. This state of affairs, as I said some time back

when I was speaking on the cut motion on this matter, should end. We should not think that it is the towns men alone who have got a right to live. If you are going to deny enough food to the very producer, you have no right to exist. (An Honourable Member: "Production will go down next year.") We are not against rationing. We are not against taking whatever surplus is available but we are against the suffering which the producers are put to. Let me make it clear that we are not afraid of the consequences, if the producers are forced to suffer in the manner in which they are suffering today. The situation is going to be very serious unless the Government of India instruct the provinces to see that the producers are not treated badly and in the manner in which they are treated today I am sorry to mention it in this House. In a place where there is no rationing, a fairly rich landholder, a respectable landholder died and his family was celebrating his obsequies and

they were feeding some 50 or 60 people. Rationing rules have application in that locality. The Tahsildar with a posse of police and the Sub-Inspector of Police went to the House and they entered the House when the people were eating. All people got up because outsiders entered the House. The Tahsildar and the other people went to the kitchen and examined every vessel in which the food was cooked. No steps were taken against them in spite of the fact that this high handed action of theirs was brought to the notice of Government. This is too serious. We have no objection to your introducing rationing in every village. We will give you all co-operation. We are more anxious than you are to solve the food problem of the country but if you want to solve it, solve it properly.

I should now like to refer to one other matter connected with the road policy of the Government of India. We find that the road fund is not being fully utilised for the development of roads in this country. Many of the villages do not have even *kucha* roads and the money earned by the excise duty, i.e., the duty levied on petrol is not being utilised for the construction of roads. In these days we are anxious that the movement of foodgrains should be facilitated without any difficulty and roads are absolutely essential. Therefore it is proper that the Government must devote some road funds towards the development of village roads. Even the motor traffic that we had in the past has been cut down to a large extent. We find on the roadside hundreds of people waiting for one lorry carrying 25 persons. Hundreds of people who want to travel don't get seats. Therefore I would request the Government of India to see that the buses which they obtain on lease-lend are assigned to the respective provinces in large numbers. The question may arise that this would be a heavy drain on petrol but luckily the use of charcoal gas in South India as well as other places has been a success and its use should be encouraged in all these public vehicles and petrol should be saved as much as possible.

There is also the other problem of petrol not being distributed on a reasonable basis to the civil consumers. I find that a man owning a car which is more than 10 Horse Power is given 12 gallons for three months, that is four gallons a month. With four gallons he cannot take his car more than 50 miles. You find the same story with regard to supplementary rations. They are not given, unless a man proves that either he is converted with some war effort or he is in the National War Front or he is in the food administration. It is almost impossible to get supplementary coupons for ordinary car owners. Therefore I would request the Government of India to call for these figures and to see whether it is not possible to increase the basic ration of the civil consumer. I find that logs of wood are being carried in our province in lorries which use petrol and the passengers are not being so carried. I also find that municipal lorries driven by petrol are used to carry rubbish whereas municipal members cannot get petrol. After all there is no urgency in the matter of firewood. These lorries which carry only firewood or rubbish should be allowed to use only charcoal gas and more petrol should be saved and given to civil consumers. The present basic rate should be increased to at least 6 gallons per month or 18 gallons a quarter as was originally the case.

I now come to the Department of Education, Health and Lands. We find the Government of India complaining that they are not getting enough educated men for the various industries and other technical jobs.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have now spoken for about an hour.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: I shall finish in five minutes. The Sargent scheme requires about 300 crores a year to put it into practice and we are really sorry to see that the Government of India have not yet published their decision, whether they are going to accept that scheme or not. In this connection I would like the Government of India to help substantially the Benares Hindu University, the Aligarh and Delhi Universities to enable them to start technical training colleges and to enable them take in at least one thousand students each. This is the only way by which higher technical education could be encouraged in this country. I feel that sending a large number of

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students outside this country for training is a huge waste. I would rather recommend a larger grant being given to these institutions.

I shall now refer to the Department of Archaeology. I find that this department has no archaeological policy, just as admittedly the Government of India had no mineral policy till now. The whole country is divided into 3 or 4 circles and we find that the work they produce is very little and the places which ought to have been explored have not been properly explored. Therefore I would request the Government of India to devote some time to see that in the case of those places which are not explored, particularly in Karnatak consisting of Belgaum, Dharwar and North Canara, sufficient grants should be made for exploring those areas.

Sir, the last point that I would touch is in regard to labour. The other day I put some questions and the Honourable the Supply Member was pleased to say that all the workers in Aravankadu Ordnance Factory, in the Nilgiris, which is in my constituency, were satisfied and that those objections which I put before him were only made by a very small number of workers, about 100 out of 3,500. Whether the complaints are made by one worker or 100 workers out of 3,500 workers, the small number of complaints should not stand in the way of redressing the grievances of the workers. What do I find here? I find that women coolies get six annas a day and the male coolies get about 14 annas a day. In this place where rice is selling at three seers to a rupee, what can woman cooly do with six annas. Sir, this happens in a Government owned ordnance factory. It is not a private factory. In all these labour matters, I want the Government of India must properly look after their own labourers working in the several ordnance factories, which I understand are about 20 in number in this country. The Government should introduce all those new reforms and projects before they compel the private industrialist in this country. On the other hand what do we find. The labourers working in private industries are much better off than those working in ordnance factories. The other day, my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi referred to the Aravankadu factory and I am very thankful to him. There are many complaints with regard to this factory and I do hope that the Government would look into the matter. The workers there do not get proper medical help, they do not get food grains, there is no cheap food grain shop for workers, people have to walk long distances in cold nights, and they are not provided with warm clothing. These are some of the complaints which I am sorry to say the Superintendent of the Factory seems to have refused to look into and he at one time seems to have refused to see even the leader of the Labour Union. This state of affairs cannot be tolerated. I wish Government will see their way, to treat these workers under them properly.

Now, Sir, there is only one more point, that is with regard to the two Bills that are before the Assembly, the Insurance Bill and the Banking Bill. I understand that the Income-tax Bill is about to be withdrawn. I wish, Sir, the other two Bills are also withdrawn. I, for one, would like that the Government of India instead of taxing the people and the consumers even instead of raising E.P.T., should start State Insurance and State Banking. All the profits which today are being appropriated by capitalists will get into Government coffers and we are here to support that move on the part of the Government. Instead of that, the Government are trying to kill these small Banks and the small Insurance Companies by bringing these Bills. It looks as if the Government are only prepared to destroy and not to construct. Sir, with these few remarks, I resume my seat.

Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury (Assam: Muhammadan): Mr. Deputy President, Sir, at the outset I want to point out that in my speech, I will make mention of subjects which will concern the Honourable the Food Member, the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies, the Secretary to the War Department, Secretary, Posts and Air and the Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands. I find only the Secretary to the Department of Education, Health and Lands is present in the House and other Members

concerned are not present. I do hope that what I will say will be conveyed to the other Members concerned.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): Will you kindly repeat?

Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: The Food Member, the Member for Industries and Civil Supplies, The War Secretary, the Secretary, Posts and Air and the Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands.

Sir, I am seriously concerned about the ever mounting defence expenditure of the Budget presented to us. This staggering expenditure of over 456 crores of rupees are ten times the pre-war figure. Besides this 456 crores of rupees, there are many concealed items of expenditure debited to India. We are told that these expenditures are for the defence of India. The question which is looming large in my mind is, is it for India's defence or are we spending for the vested interests of British imperialism? I think Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan has rightly said that shackled Indians are paying and fighting for others' cause. Justice demands that this staggering expenditure should be borne by His Majesty's Government.

⑨ Sir, we were told that every country suffered during the war and as India is at war, so her suffering is inevitable. We are gladly agreeable to undergo more suffering, if we get our freedom and right of self-determination. We are suffering not for our cause but for British vested interest. Apart from the staggering sums of money spent and various contributions made, India has sustained the greatest loss in terms of human suffering. Epidemic and famine are twin illegitimate war babies. Bengal lost over 35 lakhs of her population in starvation and another 35 to 40 lakhs have been crippled by various epidemics. We have paid so much at the altar of war goddess for nothing. Other countries will be free, they will have their own right of self-determination, they will have their liberty to reconstruct and rebuild their future in a way they like, but we suffered so much, paid so much, we showed so much courage and sacrifice, we underwent so much suffering, not for our interest but for the domination of British rule.

Sir, we are told of horrifying acts of cruelties, murders, slaughters by German and Jap fascism. They are really horrifying. In my district in Baniachong village alone, over 14,000 people died of malaria. The Secretary to the Department of Education, Health and Lands in reply to a question of mine the other day said that only 9,000 people died. I want to tell him that he is not correct. These staggering deaths occurred for want of quinine and proper food and the contagion came from war projects. There was no food or quinine because of war. Are not such staggering number of deaths in one single village under British rule more horrifying?

Sir, as one representing the Province of Assam, I want to tell the Honourable House that our province stands on an entirely different footing as compared to other provinces inasmuch as Assam has actually been in the war zone. Our province had to face an enemy within her frontiers. But, Sir, just as the soldiers fight in the battle field and the war profiteers make profit sitting at home, so our province, is bearing all the hardship of being in the war zone while provinces remote from the war zone are busy strengthening their resources. I beg to be excused for this observation by my Honourable friends from other provinces. They are busily setting up new industries and they are fortifying their positions for the post-war period.

As it is, Assam is a very undeveloped Province. We have not got institutions that are considered essential for the progress and development of a province. We have not got any University, Engineering College, nor have we got any Medical or Agricultural College. We have not even got the money necessary to start institutions like these. We have not got money to harness our rich undeveloped resources for productive purposes. In the past, ours have been a series of deficit budgets.

We are confronted with the anomalous position that a province like Assam which is an operational area is suffering all the ills of inflation, because the Central Government which command all the transport resources cannot pump

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into my province a supply of consumers' goods to meet the bare necessities of life. We have the ridiculous position that provinces in the rear which are not beset with the war problems of Assam are enabled to cash in on war-time prosperity by developing their existing industries, by starting new industries with direct financial assistance from the Central Government, by manufacturing articles of war which are sent to Assam to choke the lines of communication in the province which might otherwise have been available for importing essential goods. The plain truth is that other provinces are profiting by the geographical accident that Assam is nearest to enemy territory, that Assam's communications are required primarily for munitions of war, and that it has not been able to add to its three major industries, namely, oil, tea and coal. There is extreme scarcity of commodities like salt, sugar, clothes, etc. in Assam. Rich and poor equally suffered and are still suffering for want of these essential commodities.

Sir, in my province of Assam every steamer that plies in the rivers is either owned by India General Navigation Co., Ltd. (incorporated in England) or River Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. (incorporated in England); most of the tea gardens are owned by European firms, and our oil resources are in the hands of foreigners.

In reply to a question the other day regarding conditions in the River Steam Navigation factory at Fenchuganj, I was told that it is a provincial subject; but the company which controls the entire river steam transport of the country is strong enough not to be influenced by any observation of the Provincial Government. That is why I wanted to point out here that out of 145 workers in the factory more than 82 are getting less than one rupee a day as wages in these hard times. But the reply to the questions was avoided by the War Secretary.

Sir, the Government of Assam have made every effort to improve the provincial finance. They have made every effort to improve their position. But still we find that nothing effective could be done. The Government of India have given us dolos in the shape of reduction of the slabs in the civil defence budget, exemption from the payment for Assam Rifles, some assistance in the matter of Grow More Food campaign. In the words of the Finance Minister of Assam, "what Assam wants from the Government of India is not dolos but equitable share".

Assam is deplorably poor, the standard of living of her population is very low. It cannot be raised without the help of the Central Government. The Niemeyer Award gave Assam only 30 lakhs of rupees annually from the Central Government. It is painful to tell this Honourable House that apart from petrol tax, and normal cess on tea, only by assessing an excise duty of annas two per pound on our tea, the Central Government is pocketing 3½ crores of rupees, which is more than the pre-war revenue of Assam. We have been agitating for a long time for the revision of the Niemeyer Award, but in spite of the justice of the cause the matter still remains where it was. I appeal to Government not to stick to the Niemeyer Award dogmatically but to reconsider and re-allot a greater sum for my war-ravaged province.

Sir, if the Government of India would be serious to grow more food, then hundreds of acres of land would not lie fallow in my province of Assam. There is the line system in Assam. This line system prevents immigrants from the districts of Bengal to settle and cultivate lands in Assam and even to be employed as labourers within the line.

To raise the standard of the people of Assam, to secure advance in education, in health and other matters, we must be assured of ample food for ourselves and to export to deficit areas for importing such goods which we need most. Greater areas of Assam can be brought under cultivation and the Grow More Food campaign can be made successful, provided the Central Government care to do it.

Sir, His Excellency the Governor of Assam while addressing the Assam Assembly on the 16th November last said:

"Mymensingh immigrants who have no advantage in education or health over Assamese people, produce two to three times the amount from the same acreage."

Still they are evicted and driven from the land where they have settled for several years. This shows that if the fallow lands are distributed to these landless cultivators for cultivation more food can be had.

The stock arguments against abolition of Line System are baseless apprehension of over-population, hampering the interest of tribal people and lastly the question of peace. Sir, the question of over-population is absolutely baseless. With Assam's immense natural resources and by developing agriculture and industry both extensively and intensively, more and more people can be provided in Assam. Regarding the misapprehension of hampering the interest of tribal and indigenous population of Assam, there is enough fallow land, and keeping a portion reserved the rest can be distributed amongst the landless immigrants.

Sir, His Excellency the Governor of Assam admitted in his speech of 16th November last:

"Nowhere else in India has there been such a mixture of races as in the Assam Valley and nowhere have the peoples lived in more harmony."

Still the question of peace comes! Peace will be disturbed, more shooting will take place if there are men without land; whereas thousands of acres of fallow land lie for nothing.

Sir, His Excellency the Governor of Assam on the 16th November spoke about two analogies, Palestine and South Africa, in regard to the abolition of the Line System. We never support the South African Government for ousting the Indians who through toil and suffering brought prosperity to that country. The right of Indians in South Africa must be respected and protected. The Palestine analogy, I think, was inappropriately quoted in connection with the removal of the Line System. The British Government, after the first world war, brought Jews from various European countries and grafted them in Palestine, gave them lands which were previously owned by the Arabs. In Assam the immigrants can be given fallow lands, not those lands which are owned by the people.

Sir, all taxes are ultimately borne by the consumers. The peasant's only recreation is tobacco and betel-nuts. These commodities have been taxed to deprive the poor people from their only recreation. The total amount of taxes collected on tobacco and betel-nuts is meagre in comparison with the huge war expenditure. Cannot the Honourable the Finance Member ask His Majesty's Government to pay this petty sum or raise it in India by loans to give relief to the poor people? Sir, Bengal and parts of Surma Valley of my province are the main growing centres of betel-nuts and the imposition of excise duty on betel-nuts tells heavily on the poor growers as well as the poor consumers to whom it is a cheap recreation. The imposition of excise duty on betel-nuts, irrespective of the prices of the different qualities, is wholly unreasonable. Bengal and parts of Surma Valley are the producers of poorest and cheapest quality of betel-nuts. The present price of betel-nut varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 40 per maund without duty and the excise duty on the cheaper quality works out as high as 100 per cent. and on the superior quality as about 25 to 40 per cent. The main burden, therefore, falls on the already heavily burdened poor consumers. In all fairness this excise tax on betel-nuts should be abolished and relief must be given to the poor people.

Sir, I am receiving letters and telegrams from every trade centre of my province that there is no cloth in the market. A man-made famine in cloth has been created in the country. The food famine was limited to Bengal, Orissa and Travancore but the cloth famine is everywhere throughout India today. In spite of a huge paraphernalia of a Textile Directorate we are being thrown into a barbaric stage of civilisation. Government should see that the distribution is made through proper persons and cloth is available in all parts of the country.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

[Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury.]

Sir, when thousands and thousands of people were dying from starvation in my neighbouring province of Bengal, huge quantities of foodgrains were kept in stock purchased at an unfair price from the agriculturists and were allowed to decompose. The ban on export aggravated the Bengal famine. What a greater calamity can be brought on this earth by the present most irresponsible Government? Sir, during the last two years enormous quantities of foodgrains have been decomposed in various places. In most of the cases decomposition occurred for not storing them properly. I am sure if the quantity of foodgrains that have been rendered useless by this irresponsible Government were left in the hands of the people, or various local organisations, many of the valuable lives in Bengal could be saved. Let the Government publish facts regarding total quantities of decomposed food side by side with their much-advertised achievements from Grow More Food campaign. I am sure it will be seen that we lost more food than what was grown as a result of the Grow More Food campaign.

Sir, I am talking of last December when monopoly purchasing agents in Surma Valley offered only Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 3-8-0 per maund of paddy. For obtaining a seer of mustard oil, salt and kerosene, one had to sell a maund of paddy. Common sense says that the price of a commodity should be fixed at such a rate, so that the seller can purchase his requirements with the price obtained. But this policy was not followed in Surma Valley. Thus the agriculturists were deprived of the fair price and the stores were allowed to be decomposed.

The Honourable the Food Member the other day in reply to the cut motion of my Honourable friend, Mr. Dam, said that he made exhaustive tour in Assam. I know what was the extent of his tour. He went to Sylhet one afternoon and left for Shillong the following morning where he put up in the Government House and left Shillong the following morning, came to Sylhet and then left Assam. No public representatives could see him or talk to him. He got all the information given by the Government officials there.

Now, the Assam Government has adopted a policy of direct official procurement. There should be a ceiling price for rice and paddy in parity with prices of other essential commodities required by the peasants. If that is not done, Surma Valley peasants will be compelled to sell their products at a much cheaper price and buy their necessities at a higher price. This will mean that many of their essential requirements will remain outside their reach and thus there will be further deterioration of their already ruined condition.

Sir, in Assam there has been an appalling deterioration in postal service. I draw the attention of the Secretary, Posts and Air Department, to this fact.

Sir, I will not take much time of this Honourable House, and will conclude by referring to two points which I hope the War Secretary will kindly note. Many houses and educational institutions have been requisitioned for war purposes in my province. Now that war conditions have improved, may we not expect that our educational institutions and houses will be given back to us?

Then, Sir, for the purposes of landing grounds and aerodromes, villages have been acquired but unfortunately the question of compensation is still pending in several cases, and this has caused unspeakable hardships on those who had to leave their hearth and home. My Honourable friend Mr. Dam raised the question and he had some correspondence with the Central Government but it was of no use. When I was coming to Delhi on the 1st of February, people from Kulaura, Akhaila, and Shalutikar met me and told that they had not yet received proper compensation. I request the Government to take immediate and proper steps so that all those people may get their compensation money without further delay in respect of all land acquired for military purposes.

With these words, Sir, I conclude.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, at the outset before I speak I would like to say that the points on which I propose speaking relate mostly to the Finance Department,

the Industries and Civil Supplies Department and there are one or two points relating to the Defence Department. I am sorry the Honourable the Finance Member is not here.

Sir, I quite realize that in the midst of a total war it is not right and proper for us to question the justification or otherwise of the methods adopted to secure the essential requirements of the various Services, nor is it desirable to go into the various items of expenditure. Although we have spent a considerable amount both on revenue and capital heads, under the head of 'Defence' in the last few years, it is rather strange that, unlike what has happened in Canada and Australia, the expenditure does not seem to have left us with any defensive strength of a permanent value. Is it not surprising that even under the stress of war, Australia, a far off Eastern Continent, with comparatively less natural advantages than India, has been able to build up Aircraft and Shipbuilding industries capable of meeting the requirements of war? Even in the matter of Navy and Air Force, what we now possess cannot surely be regarded as adequate to the size and requirements of our country.

I would like to make a submission in regard to the colossal expenditure on Defence. If Government are really anxious to allay the misgivings in the minds of people of all sections, with regard to the justification of the huge unproductive expenditure on Defence and if Government are really desirous of infusing confidence in the people of the country, it would be highly advisable to have the co-operation and assistance of a non-official Committee of Financial Experts of the country to scrutinize the expenditure, not with the idea of finding faults with past actions, but with a view to avoid the recurrence of errors of omission and commission. The impression legitimately prevailing in the minds of even responsible persons seems to be that, under the pretext of war, any amount of waste is permissible, and that anything can be done with impunity in the matter of handling the tax-payer's money.

The next point I wish to refer to is the question of sterling balances. The accumulation of sterling balances in London during the last few years has been a source of anxiety to this country, and a good deal of controversy is raging round the question of the means of its realisation by this country. High hopes were raised when the President of the United States of America convened a Conference of the United Nations at Bretton Woods to find a solution for the various monetary problems which would confront the world after the war. The Indian delegation, which consisted partly of officials and partly of non-officials, all men of great capacity and integrity suggested that the Sterling balances, which the United Kingdom owed to India, should be liquidated through the mechanism of the International Monetary Fund which was proposed to be set up. Curiously enough, the Indian delegation was asked by the American Government delegates to seek the solution of our problems through a bilateral arrangement with the United Kingdom. Thus, the very objective of concerted multilateral action was defeated by suggesting recourse to bilateral action. If the question of the orderly liquidation of India's sterling balances is not to come within the jurisdiction of the proposed International Monetary Fund, we do not quite understand what benefit India is likely to derive by joining the Scheme. It looks like saying: Your problems are your own, but do come to assist us in solving the difficulties of others.

Sir, Sterling balances are mounting up every day. Having regard to the magnitude of these balances, it is obvious that they cannot be liquidated overnight. The great Allied Nations are not going to assist us. It is, therefore, essential that some arrangement should be reached with regard to the principles governing the manner in which the liquidation is to take place. It cannot be denied that, as a creditor, India should have her say in regard to the form and the period during which the repayment should be effected, subject, of course, to the limitations of the returning capacity of the United Kingdom. The Finance Member has told us that since many of the material data are still incomplete and uncertain, no negotiations can usefully be entered upon with His Majesty's Government until after the end of the war with

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Germany. The answer is strange and if anything is likely to confirm the suspicion of the intentions of the debtor. I am not suspecting the Finance Member. I know he is doing his best to fight our case and safeguard our interests. But the earlier an arrangement is reached the better it would be in the interest of both parties.

I now come to the question of the Empire dollar pool. Since the inauguration of the Empire dollar pool, India is being made to contribute to it all the dollars that accumulate to her credit. It is true that India has been allotted every year a certain amount of dollars from this dollar pool. It is, however, strange that a statement of accounts on the operations of the pool is not forthcoming. Last year, the Finance Member was good enough to refer to His Majesty's Government's willingness to set aside, each year, as a special case, a part of the dollars accruing from India's exports surplus to the United States of America. He has just informed us that the Government of India, after a very careful examination of current figures and tendencies, have agreed to accept an amount of 20 million dollars for the calendar year 1944 and a similar amount for 1945, these amounts being earmarked for India's post-war development. This is indeed a small mercy for which we are thankful to the Finance Member.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): You are always thankful for small mercies.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: What can we do when the people on the other side are not prepared to take office?

I next come to the question of commercial safeguards in the Government of India Act. I am sorry that I did not say that I would also like to have the Member for Planning and Development also present when I am speaking.

I refer to the legitimate agitation amongst the nationals of this country for the deletion of those clauses in the Government of India Act of 1935 which relate to commercial safeguards, on the ground that those were put up specially to protect the interests of British and foreign commercial interests in the country at a time when India was in the position of a debtor to the United Kingdom. It is urged that those safeguards, which are looked upon as a provision to make discrimination in favour of British interests, should be done away with having regard to the fact that the table has now been reversed by India having become a creditor nation. I wholeheartedly agree with the Member for Planning and Development when he said that the solution of this problem must be sought not in a spirit of mutual antagonism and mistrust, but of mutual co-operation and goodwill. It is a matter of some satisfaction that the Government of India are taking active steps to bring home to His Majesty's Government the existing snags in the Indian Constitution and to set right the position.

I hope when the Member for Planning and Development visits the United Kingdom shortly he will be able to come back with some achievement in his pocket.

I would here refer to a very important questions for us. I shall refer to it very briefly—the post-war requirements of capital goods. I would make reference to a matter which has been exercising the minds of us, the manufacturers. As the House will doubtless appreciate, we would require a considerable amount of capital goods in the immediate post-war period—and I am referring to my own industry—and several mills in this country have already placed orders with the representatives of manufacturers of capital goods for various types of capital goods, even with a deposit of a certain percentage of their estimated value. The orders placed are still in the books of the manufacturers and we have given 5 per cent. deposit. The terms and conditions under which these payments have been made, however, stipulate that they will be forfeited in case the goods are not accepted by the indentors within a reasonable time.

This was the position before the Planning and Development Department was formed and before Government came on the scene. Government have since announced a scheme of registration of capital goods and have declared their intention that if necessary they will exercise control in the matter of allocating priorities. We paid this 5 per cent. deposit on the ground that we were told by the British manufacturers that the priority for deliveries would remain on the dates of the booking of orders, which can be booked after the receipt of the five per cent. deposit. Now that the Government have told us that they are going to control priorities, we would like to know the position with regard to the orders already placed by us with the manufacturers. If, as is proposed now, the Government would come in to distribute machinery on a controlled basis, we feel that it is only fair that these amounts which were paid to secure priority should be returned to us, so that there is one authority to control priorities. We were told when we had an interview with the Planning and Development Department in Bombay that Mr. Pillai, the Secretary of Commerce Department who had been deputed to England, would be discussing these matters with His Majesty's Government. I understand he has returned and I hope the Planning and Development Member will be in a position to make a statement on the subject.

Now, Sir, I come to another very important matter, namely, the question of the consumers' goods. The other day, Sir, when the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies, in reply to a supplementary question of mine said that the proposal to import 10 million yards of cloth in 1945 had been communicated not only to the Chairman of the Control Board but formally placed before the Textile Control Board I was taken aback.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): I do not think I said that.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: That is the report which I had sent to me by the official reporters. I wired to the Chairman of the Textile Control Board because I take pride in the fact that I have a good memory. I was present at the meeting of the Board throughout and I did not remember any reference to the Government proposal to import 10 million yards. However, I did not like to contradict the Honourable Member but I went for verification to two members of the Control Board who happened to be in Delhi and they also were of the same opinion. I also got a reply from the Chairman of the Control Board yesterday. In his reply he said:

"Statement made Industry Member proposed import ten million yards British cloth was not referred. Six months back Government put forward proposal through Commerce Department for import 20 million yards fine cloth from U. S. A. and U. K. I opposed such imports on ground that they being subsidised cloth will unfairly compete with Indian equivalent types. As alternative suggested that Government may relieve Indian industry from exporting to countries which India is not likely retain after War by allowing British Textiles to those countries. Welcomed import of fine yarn 40's count and over to maximum 5 million lbs. and any quantity double yarn available to relieve handloom weavers. Have put these views on record with Textile Commissioner."

So the proposal to import these 10 million yards was neither communicated to the Chairman of the Textile Control Board nor formally placed before the Board, nor discussed, nor were we aware of it. So I want to correct the impression that the Textile Control Board are a party to the importation of this foreign cloth from the United Kingdom or the United States of America.

This brings me to the general question of the importation of consumers' goods. The consumers' goods scheme seems to me, Sir, to be rather a brilliant stroke of British commercial diplomacy and is fully in keeping with the traditions of British business, but it does not do much credit to the foresight and imagination of the Government of India. The ostensible purpose of the Hydari Mission is to give relief to the Indian economy but when we consider it against the background of the British export drive—and we are reading in the papers nothing but the determination of the British commercial magnates to make an intensive export drive—we cannot be too sure that this somewhat belated, and rather ominous, awakening on the part of the Government of India of their

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responsibility to the Indian consumer is not at least partly due to the organised pressure of foreign commercial interests. His Majesty's Government have left us in no doubt about their commercial policy. As the President of the Board of Trade recently stated, Britain will need at least a 50 per cent increase in her export trade, as compared with the pre-war level. Since the outbreak of war, British exports have already shrunk by about 250 million sterling. The policy of increasing exports by 50 per cent. over the pre-war level would mean that Britain will try to recapture markets for £250 million, which have been lost during the war and find additional markets for £250 million. The American industrialists have declared a similar objective of raising their exports to double the pre-war figure, i.e., from 1,000 million to 2,000 million dollars. Reports are daily pouring in of the preparations being made by the United Kingdom business interests to re-establish their position in the Eastern markets. We do not propose to emulate their example, but helpless as we are, I presume we are expected to dig our heads into the sand and refuse to read the signs of the times. We are expected, I believe, to lull ourselves into the belief that the Consumers Goods Scheme is not inspired by any other motive than a genuine regard for the interests of the Indian consumer.

What are the chances of Indian industries against this menace of foreign consumer goods? We are told that Government propose to continue the system of quantitative restrictions and fix quotas in such a way as to allow sufficient scope for the existing Indian industries. The scheme sounds eminently reasonable, on paper. If the Government are really to fulfil their avowed intentions, they must have in their possession sufficient information, not merely about the existing production, but also the productive capacity of the numerous industries, big and small, which have come into existence or have expanded, during the war. We have passed through 5½ years of abnormal trading conditions, and a number of new factories have come into existence in miscellaneous lines, such as chemicals, Mill stores, drugs cutlery, etc., either directly as part of the war effort or for meeting the needs of the civilian markets which were formerly supplied by imports. I do not think that Government possess sufficient information to enable them to decide the fate of all these industries which are scattered all over the face of the country and which will be directly affected by the proposed policy of encouraging consumer goods imports. A few organised industries like textiles, paper, etc., may be able to assist Government with the necessary data, but the many new factories which have come into existence have no organisation of any kind and their interests also deserve to be protected. The Supply Department is concerned only with such industries as come into the purview of war contracts, but even with regard to these, I am not sure that their interests will be safe, if the Government merely rely on the necessarily scanty data which the Supply Department have collected as a by-product of their main business of placing contracts. The Industries Department is the only Department technically concerned with the other small industries, which cater for the civil markets but we have not so far heard of any systematic attempt by that Department during the two years of its existence to collect comprehensive data about the productive capacity of these industries. In these circumstances it is idle to pretend that Government are really in a position to afford adequate protection to the numerous small industries which are in different stages of infancy against this threat of foreign imports.

It is certainly realised that no elaborate enquiry into the position of different industries is perhaps possible at this stage until at least the permanent Tariff Board which has been promised by the Planning and Development Member comes into being. But that is no excuse for inaction. We cannot afford a repetition of the experience of the last war when so many newly established concerns were allowed to perish in the few years following the cessation of hostilities. In any programme of post-war industrial development, our first duty should be to preserve and consolidate the industries which have already

been established, before turning our attention to the development of new industries. Nor, on the other hand, can Government say that protection in due course will be afforded by the Tariff Board? It will be a case of bolting the stable after the horse is stolen.

In course of time the number and variety of consumer goods for which Government will have to fix quotas will go on increasing and I do not think Government can perform this function satisfactorily unless they take into confidence the various interests which are affected by their action. It is high time that the Government evolved some procedure for consulting the interests concerned. Mere *ad hoc* consultation will not suffice for the purpose, and I would suggest that a satisfactory procedure would be for Government to announce beforehand the global quotas which they propose to fix for different categories of consumer goods, with comparative figures of pre-war imports and invite comments from the interests concerned before a specified date. I do not think any harm is likely to result if Government disclose their intention beforehand regarding the quotas they propose to fix. A public notice of this kind will at least give a warning of Government's intentions to the numerous unorganised industries which are likely to be affected and give them an opportunity to present their case in time, instead of their having to wait until the threat of imports has actually materialised and the Government in the meanwhile deciding their fate in complete ignorance of their position. If any complaints are received against the quotas proposed by Government, they should be considered in consultation with a Standing Advisory Committee which should be representative of industrial as well as importing interests.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: As well as of consumers.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: This is obviously an emergency procedure and is no substitute for long term arrangements but is necessary to meet the present situation. I must emphasise that there is a fundamental difference between war-time and peace-time controls, and if India is to achieve a smooth transition from war to peace economy, Government must make the maximum use of consultation with commercial and industrial interests. Any lengthy process of trial and error, similar to that we have already gone through with regard to wartime imports, will be disastrous to India's future interests.

I will illustrate my remarks by mentioning cases of two or three industries. I understand—I have not been able to verify the figures yet—that the productive capacity of this country for manufacturing electric bulbs is about six lakhs of bulbs. The annual consumption is about 16 lakhs and there is a gap of ten lakhs. There is a great shortage of bulbs and Government have ordered the importation of a large number of bulbs. The bulb manufacturers naturally fear that if these foreign bulbs come in large numbers the industry which they have established during war time would be jeopardised. I am told the position is the same with regard to the manufacture of bottles and other glass ware. Therefore I say to the Government—that I am not against the importation of consumers' goods both as an anti-inflationary measure and in meeting the requirements of the civilian population—I am anxious that this Government which established the Planning and Development Department and brought to the Treasury Bench one of the most distinguished businessmen of the country, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, should be careful in their policy of importation of consumers' goods. If the importation of consumers' goods is followed without any investigation or enquiry the position will be the same as after the last war and I think my Honourable friend Sir Ardeshir will then be well advised to pack up his kit and go back to Bombay by the first Frontier Mail.

I am taking up a new point. Can I take it up tomorrow morning?

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 20th March, 1945.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 20th 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

PROTECTION TO BICHROMATE INDUSTRY

1115. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the Honourable the Supply Member seen the statement of Mr. B. S. Lalkaka, Chairman, Bombay Bichromate Manufacturers Association, that the industry was established at the sole request and desire of Government and with a promise of full support and protection at the proper time by no less an authority than the then Commerce Member, the Honourable Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar?

(b) Is it a fact that foreign bichromate has been imported to the extent of two thousand tons and that such import might lead to the closing of some of the plants and factories in India?

(c) Under what circumstances has this been done?

(d) What steps do Government propose to carry out the undertaking given by them?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) At the beginning of 1944 an import of 2,000 tons of bichromate was arranged to meet the anticipated deficit in the indigenous production required for Defence Services orders for *khaki* cloth. A subsequent change in the Defence Services demands as regards the colour of the cloth rendered the imported stuff surplus to requirements.

(d) Approaches have been made to the U. K. and other allied countries to determine whether the surplus bichromate can be re-exported. As a result 800 odd tons have already been re-exported. Tentative orders for an additional 150 tons have been received, and the possibility of further export is being explored. If it is found that the total quantity cannot be disposed of in this manner, it may be necessary to restrict output in India for a few months in order to dispose of the surplus.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If the output is so restricted will Government consider measures, direct and indirect, to assist those who have brought the industry into existence?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I propose to consult the industry before any action is taken in this direction.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know the difference in price between the imported quality and the article produced in India?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I have not got the exact figure, but the imported price is distinctly less.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the number of tons required in this country, and what is the quantity produced by the industry in India?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I believe, Sir, the total quantity produced in this country is about 1,500 tons. Against a special order 2,000 more tons was required for the Defence Services than what is being produced in this country, and therefore that extra quantity was obtained, but since obtaining it the colour has been changed: for the Burma operations, they do not require *khaki*, but some other colour—green.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the normal need of this country?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: This product was not produced at all before the war. It is an industry which was started during the war, and I cannot, therefore, say what is the normal civilian requirement.

THIRD CLASS CARRIAGES BUILT

1116. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

- how many third class carriages on the improved model have been built;
- on which lines they are working now; and
- at what rate Government propose to build them in future and in how many years they expect the new model to be generally in service?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) 398 Third Class carriages on the improved model have been built to-date.

(b) I lay on the table the information required.

(c) The rate at which these coaches will be built depends largely on material supplies.

It is not possible to say at this stage in how many years the improved design of coach will be generally in service.

Statement

New types of lower class stock placed in service on various Railways in India.

Railways	B. G.	M. G.	Total.
B. & A.			
B. N.	48	71	119
B. B. & C. I.	49		49
E. I.	74	10	84
G. I. P.	6		6
Jodhpur	14		14
M. & S. M.		2	2
Mysore	20	19	39
N. S.			
N. W.	13	14	27
O. & T.	1		1
S. I.		25	25
	8	24	32
TOTAL	233	165	398

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether any of these carriages are running on South India lines?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: On the S. I. Ry. there are 8 broad gauge and 24 metre gauge, and on the M. & S. M. Ry. there are 20 broad gauge and 19 metre gauge.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Any on the N. W. Ry.?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There is one on the broad gauge.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if Government will give special attention to this matter and give it priority?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir, but as I have explained previously, it is difficult owing to the war to get the materials. We cannot for instance get teakwood for the purpose. I mentioned in the course of the Budget debate that for war-time purposes we may have to build austerity carriages out of local timber instead of this new type of carriage for which we cannot get materials.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will Government please consider rebuilding the existing carriages on the new model?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are new carriages being built, and if so, how many are of the improved type?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As I said previously, we are getting 200 broad-gauge under-frames from Australia, and we have about 80 in this country. On these we shall have to build whatever type of body we can. We cannot get the materials for building the new type.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What is exactly an 'austerity carriage'?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I hesitated to use that word, because I know travel in III Class is already somewhat austere, but by an 'austerity carriage' I mean a carriage built with whatever materials we can lay our hands on.

STEPS AGAINST CORRUPTION IN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

1117. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) what steps have been taken to put down corruption in Railway employees;

(b) how many cases of corruption have been found by them and prosecutions launched; and

(c) whether cases of corruption with regard to reservation of seats have come to his notice, if so, what steps have been taken with regard to this matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) In addition to the steps normally taken by the Railway Administrations to put a stop to corrupt practices on railways, a special organization has been set up by the War Department to deal with the question. A few selected subordinates have also been deputed by each railway to work in conjunction with the Special Staff and to render them assistance. Detailed instructions to implement the scheme have been issued from time to time and these include provision for action against the person offering bribes as well as against the railway servant guilty of corrupt practices.

(b) The information readily available, which is in regard to the activities of the special staff only, shows that of 277 cases detected up to the quarter ending 31st December, 1944, 125 cases have so far been put up for trial before Tribunals or in Courts.

(c) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. As regards the latter portion, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to Starred Question No. 500, asked by Mr. Manu Subedar on 17th November, 1944. In view of the undertaking given therein, Class I railways have been asked to undertake a special drive in this respect.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With regard to answer to clause (b) may I know the punishment meted out to them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have not got the details with me. It varies from dismissal—I beg your pardon, this refers to court-cases, and it is fine and/or imprisonment, but I cannot give the details.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the difficulty in obtaining a conviction in a court of law will Government consider the desirability of departmental action against the delinquents?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir, departmental action is taken in the normal course. Of cases which are brought up by the Special Department, a number are referred back by the Special Department to the Railways for action. 58 cases were sent back to the Railways for departmental action up to 31st December 1944. Of these cases 17 men were discharged. The House will realise, however, that these cases are sent back to the Railways because the Special Department has not sufficient evidence to secure a conviction, and that therefore it is not to be expected that Railways should convict on evidence which is not sufficient for a court of law.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Will the Honourable Member assure the House that departmental action which is taken will be sufficiently deterrent?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I hope so, Sir, but, as I said, you are asking the Department to convict on evidence which a court will not accept. I understood that the House is very anxious that Railway servants should be punished only on real evidence.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if any rules or instructions have been laid down to show which cases should go to the Tribunal, and which to the ordinary courts? At present even small cases go to the Tribunal and waste the time there.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That question should be put to the War Department.

CONTROL OVER COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IN INDIA OF BRITISH AIR COMPANIES

1118. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state whether it is a fact that under sections 115(1) and 115(3) of the Government of India Act, the Government of India are powerless to prevent full commercial activity on the part of air companies registered in the United Kingdom and operating in India both for the long distance routes as well as for any local routes?

(b) Have Government recently examined the position with reference to the Air Conference held?

(c) Have they given this subject to the delegation which is sent to the Commonwealth Airways Conference?

(d) Is it a fact that no other Commonwealth is bound in like degree in this matter and that the constitution of none of the Dominions contains anything corresponding to section 115?

(e) Will Government state their policy in this regard and whether they propose to approach His Majesty's Government for an adequate modification of this section?

(f) Do Government propose to encourage private enterprise in India or establish State ventures?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: (a) and (e). I have nothing to add to the speech made on the 2nd March by the Honourable Member for Planning and Development on the Honourable Member's Resolution on the provisions of the Act relating to commercial discrimination and the reply given to (a) and (b) of Mr. Neogy's question No. 247 on the 9th August 1943.

(b) Yes. The International Civil Aviation Conference dealt with the International Air Services and the position remains unchanged.

(c) The agenda of the Commonwealth Aviation Conference did not include this item.

(d) I regret I have no information.

(f) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that monopoly working of aircraft has been fixed for the United Kingdom, does the Honourable Member convey to this House that this corporation of the United Kingdom will be able to compete in India on any route, either with state enterprise or private enterprise?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: I did not catch the first part of the Honourable Member's question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Certain arrangements have been announced in the United Kingdom for conducting air carriage after the war. Does it not mean that those arrangements apply to India *ipso facto* in virtue of those sections, and that, whether it is state enterprise in India or private enterprise, this English octopus will be able to compete? Government have no power to restrict the working of the English enterprise set up under monopoly conditions in England?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: The Honourable Member's question is too long and involved to enable me to give a reply straightaway. If he will please put it down on paper, I will be glad to give a reply.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member aware that a monopoly organisation has been set up in the United Kingdom?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: I have seen certain reports in the papers, just as the Honourable Member has done, *viz.*, that His Majesty's Government have certain schemes in hand for the operation of international or external air services from the United Kingdom to various parts of the world.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government considered the effect of the establishment of this organisation on the working of aircraft carriage in India, either by the state or by private enterprise?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: I do not think that has any effect on the question of air transport operations in this country.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the great and strategic importance of the airways and the manufacture of aeroplanes in this country and also in view of the railways already being in charge of the Government, will Government consider the advisability of not encouraging any private enterprise to come into this matter, but themselves take up the manufacture as well as the manipulation of the aeroplane services in this country?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: I have already stated, Sir, that the matter is at present under the consideration of Government.

ABSORPTION OF STORES DEPARTMENT IN SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

1119. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state since when the Stores Department was absorbed by the Supply Department?

(b) Are the Stores rules generally, and in particular the rule about rupee tender, in operation, or have they been suspended by any ordinance and, if so, which ordinance?

(c) Is any distinction being made between the permanent personnel of the Stores Department, both on the purchase and inspection side, and similar officers appointed by the Supply Department (i) at present, and (ii) after the war?

(d) In respect of how many industries and trade have liaison officers been appointed by the Supply Department, who are they, and what is their remuneration?

(e) Is the Supply Department functioning as a centralised Department operating from Delhi, or have they got decentralised sections in India and, if so, how many sections and how are these sections worked?

(f) What is the method of common or central control with a view to establishing common or central policy?

(g) Who scrutinises and deals with indents from (i) Defence Department, (ii) Allied armies, (iii) other Departments of the Government of India, and (iv) civil requirements of the Eastern Group countries, and in what manner are these indents then assigned for purchases?

(h) Has the Supply Department got any code or handbook giving instructions to its officers and, if so, will a copy be laid on the table of the House?

(i) What was the total value of purchases made by the Supply Department in 1943-44 and 1944-45?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) The Indian Stores Department came under the administrative and executive control of the Supply Department with effect from 12th April, 1940.

(b) The Stores Purchase Rules including the rule about rupee tender have not been suspended but their provisions have been relaxed by the Department of Commerce Notification No. 18-S & I(2)-War/40, dated the 24th February 1940, which was published in the *Gazette of India* dated the 24th February 1940.

(c) (i) There is at present no difference in the position, status and duties of the officers belonging to the regular cadre of the Purchase and Inspection Branches of the Indian Stores Department and Officers of the corresponding status employed in these Branches in connection with war work except that the scales of pay attached to War posts are generally lower than the scales of pay allowed for corresponding posts in the permanent cadre of these Branches.

(ii) The services of some of the Officers employed against war posts are terminable at any time without notice and of others at one month's notice on either side. At this stage nothing can be said as to their chances of permanent absorption after the war.

(d) A statement giving the necessary information is laid on the table of the House.

(e) and (f). The Supply Department is organised as an ordinary Department of the Central Government with five Directorates General and eleven

Attached Offices. The Directorates General and the offices of the Coal and Steel Commissioners have Branch Secretariats attached to them but the activities of the Supply Department are co-ordinated through and controlled by the Main Secretariat in Delhi.

(g) (i) With the exception of ordnance stores, indents of Defence Departments are placed on Supplying Departments by the various Provision Offices of General Headquarters, India. These Provision Offices consolidate and scrutinise all demands from lower formations.

Indents for ordnance stores are placed on the Supply Department by G.H.Q. and by Central Ordnance Depots in accordance with a programme and policy laid down by the Master General of Ordnance in India.

(ii) The indents of the Allied armies are scrutinised mainly by India Provision Offices who meet the requirements from their stocks which they replenish by indents on the Supplying Departments along with their own requirements. Demands of Allied armies for stores of types peculiar to them are scrutinised by Brig. Provision Co-ordination and Supply, M.G.O. Branch, G.H.Q., and placed on the Supply Department by him.

(iii) Other Departments place their indents for goods available in India on the Supplying Departments of the Central Government; and on D.G., I.S.D., for goods required from the U. K.

In respect of items (i), (ii) and (iii) above, indents will be placed on the Supply Department, the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, the Food Department and the Railway Department, according to the nature of stores required. As regards the actual purchase procedure, it varies from Department to Department. The procedure in the Supply Department has been that on receipt, the indents are passed on to the C.C.P.(S) or C.C.P.(M) or cross-mandated to the Controllers of Supplies or Directors of Munitions Production, as necessary; purchase is then effected by open or limited tender or by negotiation. As regards the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, indents are placed directly on the Textiles Commissioner who cross-mandates, where necessary, on the Controllers of Supplies. The Food Department takes Purchase action either by inviting tenders or through agents or by negotiation. The Railway Department place bulk orders for wagons on the Wagon Building Panel in the country and make arrangements for locomotives and boilers through the Secretary of State. The orders for rails, etc., are placed on the Steel Commissioner.

(iv) Civil requirements of the Eastern Group countries of goods produced in India are met through ordinary trade channels and are debited to the civil quotas allotted to the countries concerned.

(h) No. Purchase Instructions have, however, been issued from time to time and some of them are contained in the Contract Manual, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

(i) The total value of purchases made by the Supply Department during the financial years 1943-44 and 1944-45 is as follows:

Value in rupees

1943-44.—1,37,44,10,561 or 137.4 crores.

1944-45.—1,11,80,84,468 or 111.8 crores.

(April to December 1944 only.)

Figures for the months of January and February 1945 are not yet available.

Statement

Serial No.	Industries and Trade in respect of which Liaison Officer appointed by Supply Department	Name of Liaison Officer	Remuneration
1	2	3	4
1	Steel	Mr. L. F. Berry, O. B. E.	Rs. 1700 p.m.
2	Shipping functions in respect of various commodities.	Mr. S. J. Mathews.	Rs. 800 p.m.
3	Honorary Adviser on Woollen Industries, Cawnpore.	Mr. W. R. Watt.	Nil.

1	2	3	4
4	Honorary Adviser on Tanning & Leather Industries, Cawnpore.	Mr. A. C. Inskip	Nil.]
5	Honorary Adviser on Jute Supplies, Calcutta	Mr. I. G. Kennedy	Nil.
6	Honorary Adviser on Rope Supplies, Calcutta.	Mr. J. S. Quin	Nil.
7	Honorary Adviser on Petroleum Products, New Delhi.	Mr. R. N. B. Brunt	Nil.
8	Honorary Adviser on Timber Supplies, Calcutta.	Mr. C. Williamson	Nil.]
9	Honorary Adviser on Hides, Cawnpore	Mr. Mohd. Amin	Nil.
10	Honorary Adviser on Web Equipment, Calcutta.	Mr. H. N. Thomas	Nil.
11	Vehicles Liaison Officer India Supply Mission, U. S. A.	Col J. L. Dawson, V. C., I. A. O. C.	Rs. 2,205 p.m.
12	Vehicles Liaison Officer India Supply Mission, U. S. A.	Col. J. H. G. Chapman.	Rs. 2,205 p.m.

(Note:—Advisers are allowed a small annual grant to cover their office expenses. They are also allowed halting and travelling allowances for journeys performed on Government duty.)

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that for civil requirements

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is not the Honourable Member satisfied with the very long answer? I think we must go on to the next question.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO GOVERNMENTS, ETC.

1120. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

- whether any grants or contributions are made from his Department to any Governments, Associations or persons;
- if so, the persons and institutions to whom these grants are made; and
- the amount spent on such grants?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) and (b). In respect of Governments the answer is yes. It is not clear what the Honourable Member means by Associations, but if he means tribes, the answer is that allowances are paid to the Frontier tribes. In respect of persons, no allowances are paid except those to Afghan refugees detained under Regulation 3 of 1818 or under other forms of restriction. As explained before, where grants are made, they are not made to individuals.

(c) The annual expenditure on the Frontier tribes' allowances is Rs. 9,15,000. The collection of financial details about the expenditure on various allowances would involve an expenditure of time and labour such as is not justifiable in war time.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the Governments to which this Government makes grants?

Sir Olaf Caroe: There is the Government of Muscat; there is the Government of Nepal.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are the purposes for which these grants are made?

Sir Olaf Caroe: Will the Honourable Member make clear what grants he means? His question is a sort of omnibus question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In regard to the tribes as well as to independent or quasi-independent Governments like Muscat.

Sir Olaf Caroe: To put it in a very few words, for general good will.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know what is the total amount paid to Muscat and to Nepal annually?

Sir Olaf Caroe: Speaking from memory, the amount paid to Muscat is about Rs. 80,000 a year and there is also a war subsidy of Rs. 2,40,000; the amount paid to Nepal is Rs. 10 lakhs a year.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if this war subsidy is in the nature of a dearness allowance?

(No reply.)

REGROUPING OF RAILWAY ADMINISTRATIONS

1121. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

- (a) whether the matter of regrouping Railway Administrations with a view to having efficient administration was considered by Government; and
- (b) if so, what groupings are considered, and when Government expect to come to a conclusion in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With regard to part (a) and the 1st portion of part (b), the Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad's question No. 492 on the 23rd February 1945.

With regard to the 2nd portion of part (b), the Government hope to come to a decision as soon as the matter has been duly considered.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know what are the groupings considered?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I referred the Honourable Member to the answer given to Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad's question on the 23rd February.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the economy resulting from this grouping?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: One cannot tell until the decision has been arrived at, how the amalgamation should be made.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know whether this House or any advisory committee will examine the regrouping before the decision is finally arrived at?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, when we have any scheme to put before the Committee. As a matter of fact, I propose to put one aspect before the Central Advisory Council at its next meeting.

RAILWAY POSTS TO WHICH INDIANS ARE NOT PERMANENTLY APPOINTED

1122. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

- (a) the posts in the Railway Board and the Railway Administrations to which no Indian has been permanently appointed till now;
- (b) the reasons for Indians having not been admitted to these posts till now; and
- (c) whether there are any statutory reservations for Europeans with reference to any of them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Apart from the post of Chief Commissioner of Railways, I understand that there is no type of post on the Railway Board or on the Railways to which at one time or another an Indian has not been appointed permanently.

(c) The reply is in the negative.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Has any Indian been appointed at any time as Chief Commissioner?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I said: 'Apart from the post of Chief Commissioner of Railways'.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will Government consider the desirability of appointing an Indian as Chief Commissioner of Railways for one day at least?

PREFERENCE GIVEN BY SUPPLY DEPARTMENT TO FOREIGN PRODUCTS

1123. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Supply Member been drawn to the speech of the Chairman of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce on the 25th January 1945, in which he said:

"The experience of industrialists has, however, been somewhat bitter during the last few months and it is generally felt that as more and more shipping space is becoming available, the Supply Department of the Government of India is not displaying any keenness in purchasing indigenous products and are preferring and even indenting foreign goods the like of which could easily be available in this country. A case in point is that of cycles and drugs and tinctures manufactured in this country?"

(b) What is the true position with regard to the orders and importation of cycles, drugs and tinctures manufactured in this country?

(c) How much has been purchased in India and how much has been imported during 1943-44 and 1944-45 (up to the 31st December 1945)?

(d) Is it a fact that Government have placed orders with Indian manufacturers for such things as biscuits and soap for the Army and that considerable quantities of these articles are now being imported and given for the consumption of the civilian population?

(e) Have Government received any complaints, or been informed of any discontent on the ground that the normal market for the civil population in India is being denied to the industries concerned and that goods of well-known brands from the United Kingdom are being advertised by being placed in the market freely in large quantities?

(f) Do Government propose to give a general assurance on this question in order to allay apprehensions in all quarters that the system of placing orders by Government and of the importation of consumer goods will not work against established industries in India?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Government have seen the extract from the speech quoted by the Honourable Member.

(b) Cycles of Indian manufacture were purchased in 1943-44. In September 1943 an enquiry made in the U. K. revealed the fact that British Cycles could be produced at about half the prices paid for Indian cycles. The quality of Indian cycles was also not as satisfactory as expected. The purchase of Indian made cycles was, therefore, stopped. No British cycles have, however, so far been imported by Supply Department. A little over 8,000 cycles were imported into India in 1943-44 from the U. S. A.

Orders for all items of drugs, which are produced in India, and for all tinctures, were placed in this country.

(c) A statement is laid on the table. This, however, does not include information about imported drugs, which is being collected and will be laid on the table, when complete.

(d) There have been no imports of soaps, with the exception of a negligible quantity of medicated soaps.

As regards biscuits, about 30,000 tons of a special brand of biscuits known as Shakarpara biscuits are required by the Q. M. G. for Indian and British troops. The total Indian capacity, however, for the manufacture of this particular type of biscuits is only 15,000 tons, and this is all taken up by the Defence Services. To make up the balance of 15,000 tons, the Q. M. G. tries to import various brands of biscuits from abroad releasing the entire Indian output of other brands of biscuits for civil consumption. This has effectually obviated imports of foreign biscuits for civil consumption as can be seen from the fact that during 1943-44 only 125 cwts. of biscuits were imported for civil consumption and from April to October 1944 only 20 cwts. During the period 1st April 1944 to 31st December 1944, although the Q. M. G. has been able to secure only 402 tons by imports, he has not taken any additional quantity of Indian made biscuits.

(e) and (f). A representation was received from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry about the general import policy of Government with particular reference to consumer goods. At a meeting of the representatives of the Government Departments concerned with those of the Federation, it was explained that Government were fully alive to the need for releasing as much of local production as possible to meet civil needs. It was also explained that in authorising imports of consumer goods from abroad, the general supply position in the country was carefully considered and that imports were allowed only in respect of those articles where Government were satisfied that there was either no production or that indigenous production was not sufficient to meet the total requirements of the country. In view of this policy Government feel no justification for any apprehensions.

Statement

	1943-44		1944-45	
	Indigenous	Imported	Indigenous	Imported
Cycles	18,189	Excluding 8250 received under lease lend, total "non-defence" imports were 28355.	Nil	Total "non-defence" imports were 23,286 (from 1-4-1944 to 1-11-44).
Drugs	Worth Rs. 53,41,535	*	Worth Rs. 26,59,891 (from 1-4-1944 to 31-12-1944)	Nil
Tinctures	Worth Rs. 26,00,000	Nil	Worth Rs. 5,50,000 (from 1-4-1944 to 1-7-1944)	Nil

* Figures are being collected and will be laid on the table.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur-Rahim): In the case of long answers of this kind, the statement ought to be laid on the table. That has always been the practice of this House.

CERTAIN A CLASS MUSLIM GUARDS REVERTED TO B CLASS IN HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

1124. *Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that on the Howrah Division, East Indian Railway, in the month of May, 1944, Muslim Guards of over 45 years of age who passed written and oral tests for the duties of Assistant Station Masters after they had been promoted to the posts of 'A' Class Guards were again detailed to attend Senior Assistant Station Masters' Refresher Course at the Chandausi Training School, East Indian Railway?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Muslim 'A' Class Guards reverted to the posts of 'B' Class Guards in August, 1944, on the result of the Chandausi Senior Assistant Refresher Course of May, 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply Starred Questions Nos. 1124 to 1126 together.

Information is being obtained and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know whether in regard to all the questions put from this Group, the same reply has been given by the Honourable Member for about two years?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Not to all questions. But these questions were admitted only on the 14th. It is necessary that these matters of relatingly minor administrative detail should be referred to the Railways and that a reply should be received from them. It is not possible always to get the reply in time. We do not keep this sort of information in the Government of India.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: One of the objects of asking these questions is to bring these grievances to the notice of the Honourable Member. If the replies are laid on the table, the member concerned does not see them.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If the Honourable Member could arrange for more time to be given, we can get the answers in time. If the Honourable Member just wants an answer, then it would be equally good if the questions were unstarred.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: In 11 days' time the Department should be ready with an answer. Otherwise they should ask for 20 or 30 days' time.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: We do our best. These matters of detail have often got to be referred to Divisions and the replies cannot always come in in time to be dealt with on the floor of the House.

A CLASS NON-MUSLIM GUARDS SENT FOR REFRESHER COURSE IN HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

1125. *Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that on the Howrah Division, East Indian Railway, non-Muslims of over 45 years of age, after their promotion to 'A' Class Guards, have never been sent to Chandausi to attend Senior Assistant Station Masters Refresher Course?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of non-Muslims sent to Chandausi to attend the said refresher course during the period from January, 1941 to December 1944?

CERTAIN A CLASS MUSLIM GUARDS REVERTED TO B CLASS IN HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

1126. *Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee. (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if he is aware that on the Howrah Division, East Indian Railway, the Muslim 'A' Class Guards who were reverted to 'B' Class Guards in the month of August, 1944, have served the administration as Guards since the 2nd March, 1922, with good service records, passed all the Departmental Examinations and got rewards, *vide East Indian Railway Gazette*, No. 24 of 1943?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state the objection to keeping them as 'A' Class Guards?

ARREAR DEFICIENCY OF PROBATIONARY ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS, ETC., IN HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1127. *Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that on the Howrah Division, East Indian Railway, the arrear deficiency in the categories of probationer Assistant Station Masters, Signallers and Guards during the year 1943-1944 has not been made good either in the same categories or in other categories of the same value?

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

(i) the number of vacancies in the categories of probationer Assistant Station Masters, Signallers, Guards 'A' and 'B' Class filled by direct recruitment during the period from January, 1943, to February, 1945;

(ii) the number of vacancies reserved for Muslims in each category;

(iii) the number of Muslims and non-Muslims recruited in these categories who are still in service; and

(iv) the categories in which the arrear deficiency was made good and the number of Muslims appointed therein?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). In view of the fact that the orders regarding reservations of a communal basis in direct recruitment do not require such proportions to be observed in respect of individual categories but in respect of the Railway as a whole, it is not essential that deficiencies in individual categories should be made good. During the year 1943-44 Muslims were recruited on the East Indian Railway to the extent of 21,789 per cent. against the prescribed percentage of 20.5. Accordingly, I do not think any useful purpose will be served by collecting the detailed statistics asked for by the Honourable Member. I would, however, add for the Honourable Member's information that Government understand that on the East Indian Railway a check is exercised to ensure that the recruitment of Muslims and Other Minority Communities in the prescribed proportions to posts carrying higher pay and better prospects, such as Guards, is duly observed.

KITCHEN CAR SERVICE ON GRAND TRUNK EXPRESS

1128. *Mr. Frank R. Anthony: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether unlike many of the other important trains, the Grand Trunk Express only has a kitchen and not a Restaurant Car?

+For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1124.

(b) Is he aware that the food served by this kitchen car is of the poorest quality, served in the dirtiest manner and incomparably worse than food served generally in Refreshment Rooms and in Restaurant Cars?

(c) Do Government propose to discontinue the kitchen car service and arrange the Grand Trunk Express schedule in such a way that passengers can have their meals at specified stations or, in the alternative, to have a Restaurant Car attached to this train?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) An Indian refreshment car runs daily on the Grand Trunk Express trains between Balharshah and Delhi.

(b) The car is intended primarily to serve Indian food, and the quality of this food and the service are satisfactory. Government are aware that complaints have been made of the European style meals and service which the contractors of the car attempted to provide in order to meet the demands made by passengers.

(c) It is not proposed to discontinue the Indian Refreshment Car as it meets a real want. Orders have, however, been issued to the contractors not to provide European style meals with effect from the 1st April 1945. Passengers requiring European style meals can obtain them from Refreshment Rooms at specified stations at which the trains have been given convenient halts.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: When it is alleged that food is dirty and the reply is that it is not so, but that it is good, may I know who made the enquiry and how was it found out to be good in the face of the allegation in the question that it is dirty?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The question was directed to the European style of food. This Indian Refreshment car was never intended to provide European style of food, and it is now proposed to discontinue supplying European style of food. The matter was discussed in the Local Advisory Council and that is the conclusion they came to. European style of food will hereafter be provided at stations when the train halts.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The question is that the food supplied is bad, whether it is Indian style of food or European style of food. May I know whether it is so?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am informed that the Indian style of food is satisfactory.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Who says that? Have you made enquiries and found out that it is satisfactory?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The whole matter was discussed in the Local Advisory Council.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: May I point out that the reply to part (b) is based on an erroneous deduction? The question is about food generally, not European style of food nor Indian style of food. The complaint is about the food served, whether European or Indian, that it is bad. As a matter of fact, I know from personal experience that the food served is bad. I do not know where the Honourable Member gets his information from, that it is satisfactory.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Because of the relative absence of complaints. The matter was discussed in the Local Advisory Committee. If the catering car ceases to serve European style of food, it will presumably be able to concentrate more satisfactorily on its proper purpose, namely the provision of Indian style of food.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Why don't you do the catering departmentally? Run your own Departmental kitchen.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That raises another question.

ABOLISHING RAILWAY LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE

1129. ***Lala Sham Lal:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to abolish the Lower Gazetted Service on the Indian State Railways; if so, when;

(b) if the reply to (a) above is in the negative, whether the Honourable Member has changed the policy enunciated in his speech (page 8) delivered in

February, 1944, while introducing the Railway budget, to the effect that Government proposed to carry through the measure at the appropriate time; if not, within what period it is proposed to abolish the Lower Gazetted Service; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to revise the methods of selection for promotion to the Lower Gazetted Service; if so, what they are; if none, whether it is proposed to do so now?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b) Government propose to abolish the lower Gazetted Service at the appropriate time, but are not in a position to say when that time will be.

(c) Yes. The instructions follow generally the procedure prescribed for the promotion of subordinate staff to selection posts as contained in Appendix II-A to Volume-I of the State Railway Establishment Code, a copy of which is in the Library of the House, the principal change being the inclusion, in the Selection Boards, of Principal Officers and the Deputy General Manager (Personnel).

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if this question relating to Lower Gazetted Service was placed before any Advisory Committee, after the Standing Committee did not agree? Has it been placed before the Standing Finance Committee again for being reconsidered?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir, it was fully discussed by the Standing Finance Committee for Railways.

OFFICIATING PROMOTIONS TO LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1130. ***Lala Sham Lal:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the subordinates promoted to officiate in the Lower Gazetted Service on the North Western Railway during the calendar year 1944, with particulars of their (i) pay, (ii) service, (iii) designation in the substantive post, and (iv) the period of officiating service; and

(b) whether the Railway Board has under consideration any revised method of selection of persons for promotion to Lower Gazetted service either in officiating or permanent capacity; if so, whether any orders have been issued, and whether the Honourable Member will please lay a copy thereof on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I lay on the table of the House a statement giving the required information.

(b) With a view to co-ordinate the practice in regard to the promotion of subordinates to gazetted posts, the Railway Board have issued detailed instructions, a copy of which I lay on the Table.

Statement showing numbers of subordinates promoted to officiate in lower Gazetted Service during the calendar year 1944 together with particulars of designation, pay, service and period of officiating service.

No	Designation		Rate of substant-ive pay as on 1-1-1944	Service as on 1-1-1944		Period of officiating service	
				From	To		
	Substantive 1	Officiating 2	3	4	5		
<i>Transportation (Traffic) and Commercial</i>							
			Rs.	Yrs. M. D.			
1. Office Supdt.	Asstt. Officer.	Personnel	500	23	7 14	10-1-44	9-3-44
						13-12-44	
2. Head Clerk Claims	Junior Assistant	Commercial.	275	27	8 26	26-1-44	Still officiating
3. Chief Controller	Asstt. Transportation Officer.		500	31	5 25	19-1-44	27-2-44
						22-5-44	21-6-44
						2-11-44	Still officiating

1	2	3	4	5
		Rs.	Yrs. M. D.	
4. Head Clerk Claims	Junior Assistant Commercial.	275	35 11 29	28-1-44
5. Office Supdt.	Assistant Personnel Officer.	500	32 7 28	27-1-44
6. Supdt. Operating	Junior Assistant Movement.	500	31 10 5	12-2-44
7. Assistant Controller.	Junior Assistant Commercial.	290	18 4 19	11-3-44
8. Head Clerk Commercial.	Do.	230	14 5 2	13-3-44
9. Traffic Inspector	Asstt. Transportation Officer.	440	16 11 28	17-3-44
10. Litigation Inspector.	Junior Assistant Commercial Litigation.	278	15 7 20	18-5-44
11. Office Supdt.	Junior Assistant Personnel.	500	21 7 22	30-5-44
12. Head Clerk Claims	Junior Assistant Commercial.	190	21 7 20	31-5-44
13. Traffic Inspector	Asstt. Transportation Officer.	500	32 7 29	1-6-44
14. Asstt. Staff Warden.	Asstt. Personnel Officer.	350	15 2 5	13-6-44
15. Traffic Inspector	Asstt. Transportation Officer.	420	16 10 4	13-6-44
16. Traffic Inspector	Do.	500	34 6 24	12-6-44
17. Do.	Do.	440	16 8 7	22-6-44
18. Chief Controller	Do.	400	25 3 27	30-6-44
19. Traffic Inspector	Assistant Commercial Officer.	350	16 11 26	29-6-44
20. Asstt. Staff Warden	Asstt. Personnel Officer.	350	15 6 16	24-6-44
21. P. A. to Station Supdt.	Asstt. Commercial Officer.	190	25 11 22	10-7-44
22. Traffic Inspector	Asstt. Transportation Officer.	500	22 2 17	5-8-44
23. Claims Inspector	Asstt. Commercial Officer.	480	29 9 29	25-8-44
24. Office Supdt.	Asstt. Personnel Officer.	330	16 4 23	16-5-44
25. Head Clerk Claims.	Junior Assistant Commercial.	260	25 8 15	19-9-44
26. Senior Claims Inspector.	Junior Assistant Commercial.	135	26 3 13	25-9-44
27. Supdt. Personnel	Junior Assistant Personnel I.	460	33 1 20	14-12-44
28. Watch & Ward Inspector.	Junior Assistant Commercial.	200	18-2-29	19-12-44
29. Supdt. Commercial.	Do.	500	23 1 0	30-12-44
30. Publicity Inspector.	Do.	275	25 5 12	9-12-44
31. Traffic Inspector	Asstt. Transportation Officer.	440	17 4 18	20-12-44
32. Do	Do.	440	17 5 14	9-12-44
<i>Engineering.</i>				
33. Permanent Way Inspector.	Assistant Engineer	375	17 5 19	1-2-44
34. Inspector of Works.	Do.	475	18 9 11	26-11-44
35. Bridge Inspector	Asstt. Bridges.	330	19 3 2	8-4-44
36. Inspector of Works.	Asstt. Engineer	400	21 5 10	11-5-44
37. Office Supdt.	Asstt. Personnel Officer.	500	23 6 5	11-5-44
38. Inspector of Works.	Asstt. Engineer	200	6 6 23	17-12-44

1	2	3	4	5
		Rs.	Yrs. M. D.	
39. Permanent Way Asstt. Engineer	Inspector.	500	28 7 4	9-6-44
40. Do.	Do.	500	27 8 14	19-6-44
41. Do.	Do.	375	34 2 19	28-6-44
42. Supdt. Drawing Engineering.	Do.	270	13 1 16	3-7-44
43. Inspector of works	Do.	160	5 4 7	17-7-44
44. Computer	Do.	330	17 5 5	24-7-44
45. Permanent Way Inspector.	Do.	330	18 7 2	6-8-44
<i>Transportation (Power) and Mechanical</i>				
46. Shd Foreman	Asstt. Mechanical Engineer.	675	20 10 26	2-2-44
47. Asstt. Chief Mechanical Draughtsman.	Chief Mechanical Draughtsman.	500	35 5 11	18-1-44
48. Shop Foreman	Asstt. Works Manager	650	19 9 7	1-4-44
49. Loco Foreman	Asstt. Mechanical Engineer.	525	26 8 14	27-5-44
50. Shop Foreman	Asstt. Works Manager	550	27 10 0	12-6-44
51. Foreman	Asstt. Mechanical Engineer.	650	19 2 27	27-6-44
52. Asstt. Supdt.	Asstt. Personnel Officer.	330	22 2 26	28-7-44
53. Carriage & Wagon Inspector.	Asstt. Mechanical Engineer.	550	24 0 26	26-7-44
54. Shop Foreman	Asstt. Works Manager	475	22 1 20	31-7-44
55. Head Chemist	Asstt. Chemist and Metallurgist.	475	15 11 27	11-11-44
56. Shop Foreman	Asstt. Works Manager	650	20 6 18	14-7-44
<i>Signal</i>				
57. Block Inspector	Divl. Asstt. Signal Engineer.	525	37-11-28	25-5-44
58. Signal Inspector	Do.	600	34 10 16	7-8-44
<i>Electrical</i>				
59. Electrical Foreman.	Asstt. Electrical Engineer.	650	18 2 19	26-2-44
60. Do.	Do.	650	26 9 26	1-6-44
<i>Stores Branch</i>				
61. Traffic Inspector	Asstt. Rationing Officer.	420	15 6 9	4-1-44
62. Depot Store-keeper.	Asstt. Stores Officer	450	31 2 1	1-6-44
63. Do.	Do.	375	20 10 17	1-6-44
64. Asstt. Staff Warden.	Asstt. Rationing Officer.	350	20 6 12	22-6-44
65. Superintendent	P. A. to Dy. Controller of Stores.	460	31 3 15	31-7-44
66. Asstt. Staff Warden.	Asstt. Rationing Officer.	290	32 6 0	9-12-44
67. Dy. Asstt. Supdt. Press.	Asstt. Supdt. Press	550	16 9 26	18-9-44
<i>Medical.</i>				
68. Head Clerk Medical.	P. A. to Chief Medical and Health Officer.	275	15 6 19	6-7-44
69. Asstt. Surgeon	Asstt. Medical Officer	350	12 0 13	31-7-44

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAY DEPARTMENT (RAILWAY BOARD)

No. E44PM12.

New Delhi, dated the 14th November, 1944.

To

All State-managed Railways.

Promotion from subordinate service to the L.G.S. or from subordinate service to the Superior Service where no L.G.S. exists.

The Board have recently had under consideration the procedure for selecting subordinates for promotion to gazetted ranks and made enquiries, in their letter E44PM12, dated 17th July, 1944, of the Administrations of those Railways on which a Lower Gazetted Service

(b) Non-Matriculation means a standard of education below that of a pass in the Matriculation or any other examination recognised by Government as equivalent to it. The term has not been defined specifically any where.

(c) Yes.

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

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member which other examination is considered equivalent to Matriculation in this Department?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Sir, I have not got here with me the list, but there are quite a large number of examinations which are considered equivalent to the matric, e.g. one of them is the Chiefs' College Diploma; another the Junior Cambridge, and various other examinations which I cannot name straightaway now.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know whether postal peons are permitted to sit for clerical examinations without any specified qualification and this is to the extent of 20 per cent. of the vacancies?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Yes, Sir.

SELECTION FOR PROMOTION OF INSPECTORS OF WORKS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

†1133. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if he is aware of the fact that the principle of selection in the matter of promotion of Inspectors of Works on the North-Western Railway is being abused?

(b) Do Government propose to entrust the selection to the North-Western Railway Service Commission? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government have no cause to believe that the principle of selection in regard to promotion of Inspectors of Works on the North Western Railway is being abused.

(b) The Government see no reason to enlarge the scope of the functions of the N. W. Railway Service Commission.

ASSISTANT MASTERS IN EAST INDIAN RAILWAY SCHOOL, TUNDLA

†1134. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state how many Assistant Masters (not optional teachers) there are in the East Indian Railway School at Tundla, and how many of them are Muslims?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The number of Assistant Masters other than teachers of vernacular and other special subjects is 12, and none of these is a Muslim.

MUSLIM JUNIOR CHARGEMEN (ELECTRICAL BRANCH) NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

†1135. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state the number of Muslim Junior Chargemen in the Electrical Branch (Power Side) of the North Western Railway in 1938, and their number at present?

(b) How many vacancies of the Junior Chargemen (Power Side) in the Electrical Branch of the North Western Railway occurred from 1938 up till now, and how many of these were filled, stating the number of men by communities who were appointed or promoted against these vacancies?

(c) Is it a fact that the posts of Junior Chargemen are required to be filled by the candidates of the various communities in accordance with the Communal Rotation Order laid down by the General Manager, North Western Railway? If so, will the Honourable Member please state if these orders were observed in filling the vacancies of Junior Chargemen in the Electrical Branch of Mechanical Division? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The number of Junior Chargemen employed in the Electrical Branch (Power Side) of the North Western Railway in 1938 and at present is three and four respectively.

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

(b) 14 vacancies occurred from 1938 onwards and were filled as follows: Five by Muslims; seven by other Minority Communities; and there were two unreserved vacancies.

(c) Yes, so far as that proportion of the vacancies filled by direct recruitment and not those filled by promotion or transfer is concerned. As regards the latter portion, the communal reservation orders have been observed so far as practicable and the under-recruitment of a particular community or communities is carried forward to the next year for adjustment.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN KARACHI DIVISION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

†1136. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Railway Member been drawn to the resolutions passed by the General Body on the N. W. R. Muslim Employees' Association, Karachi Division, regarding the paucity of Muslims in the Karachi Division, North Western Railway, which were published in the issue of the *Eastern Times*, Lahore, dated the 2nd November, 1944? If so, is it proposed to consider the recommendations contained in the resolutions? If not, why not?

(b) Is it a fact that one of these resolutions demanded the posting of a Muslim Deputy Personnel Officer to the Karachi Division? If so, do Government propose to concede the request made therein? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Yes. Government do not propose to take any action as the matter is within the competence of the General Manager. A copy of the question is, however, being sent to the General Manager for such action as he considers necessary.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN KARACHI DIVISION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

†1137. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that the Government of India fixed in 1934 percentages for initial recruitment of Muslims at 60 per cent. for Subordinate and 70.1 per cent. for inferior establishment, respectively, for the Karachi Division, N. W. R.? If so, have Muslims been given their due share? If not, why not? Do Government propose to take action against those responsible for denying the Muslims their full representation while making initial recruitments? If so, what? If not, why not?

(b) Is it a fact that the Personnel Branch of the Divisional Office, Karachi Division, North Western Railway, has a majority of non-Muslims? If so, why? If not, will a statement, community-wise, be placed on the table of the House? How and when do Government propose to give full representation to Muslims in that Branch?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The percentages for Muslims in direct recruitment to the subordinate and inferior services on the N. W. Railway are 60 and 61.27 respectively. The percentage of 70.1 for inferior services is that allotted by the N. W. Railway Administration to the Karachi Division in keeping with the principle on which the overall percentage of 61.27 was fixed for the N. W. Railway as a whole. As regards the second and the third portions, Muslims have not obtained their share of vacancies in subordinate categories in direct recruitment in the Karachi Division due to a shortage of Muslims applying for employment, especially as clerks on the line. In view of this, the remaining portion of this part does not arise.

(b) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. As regards the second portion, prior to the issue of the directive laying down the method by which a preponderance of any one community in Establishment Branches should be avoided, non-Muslims were already in a very great majority in the Personnel Branch of the Divisional Superintendent's Office. As regards the last portion, Government have reason to believe that the directive referred to will gradually bring about the desired result.

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

SENIORITY OF MUSLIMS RECRUITED IN KARACHI DIVISION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1138. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that according to the policy laid down by the Railway Board, 60 per cent. of the posts filled by initial recruitment are reserved for Muslims on the North Western Railway? If so, is the seniority of Muslims so recruited maintained strictly in conformity with the communal rotation order? If not, how is their seniority maintained?

(b) Are Government aware that the seniority of Muslims in the Karachi Division, North Western Railway, who had been confirmed as T. P. V., is being ignored by relegating them to Grade I from Grade II by recruiting non-Muslims in their place? If not, what are the true facts and do Government propose to institute an enquiry into the matter? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. As regards the second portion of the question, the reply is in the affirmative, except that so far as men passing out of the Walton Training School on the same date and posted to the same Division are concerned, relative seniority is determined by the order of merit obtained by them in their particular course of training.

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

DISCOURAGEMENT TO MUSLIMS FOR APPOINTMENT AS ASSISTANT PERMANENT WAY INSPECTORS IN KARACHI DIVISION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1139. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that application from Muslims in the Karachi Division, North Western Railway, with better qualifications are withheld while those of their compeers with comparatively lesser qualifications forwarded to the Subordinate Service Commission for post of Assistant Permanent Way Inspector? If not, what are the facts, and do Government propose to enquire into the matter? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government are informed that two junior clerks possessing the same qualifications, one a Hindu and the other a Muslim, applied, and the application of the latter was not forwarded. The matter is being investigated in communication with the North Western Railway Administration.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN ESTABLISHMENT BRANCH OF HEADQUARTERS OFFICE, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1140. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that Muslims are under-represented in the Establishment Branch of the Headquarters Office, North Western Railway, as is evident from the figures given below:

Year	Total No. of clerks in all grades	No. of Muslim clerks	Percentage	Total No. of Head clerks	No. of Muslim Head Clerks	Percentage
			Per cent.			Per cent.
1942	66	29	43	6	2	33
1943	64	28	43	6	2	33
1944	64	28	43	6	Nil	Nil

If so, what are the reasons for non-compliance of the orders of the Railway Board which specifically provide 60 per cent. of the total establishment for Muslims?

(b) Is it a fact that the number of Muslim officers in the above Branch is negligible? If so, is it proposed to promote Muslims to higher posts? If not, why not?

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

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The correct position as on 31st December, 1942, 1943 and 1944 is given in a statement which I lay on the table.

The Honourable Member's version of the Railway Board's orders is not correct. The instructions on the subject were to the effect that as a temporary measure 50 per cent. of the vacancies in the clerical staff of Establishment Branches filled by direct recruitment should be reserved for minority communities till such time as their representation in these branches reached the overall percentage prescribed for the Railway concerned. There is every reason to expect that the full effect of the orders will be attained in due course.

(b) The officer in charge of the Personnel Branch is a Muslim, and Muslims are considered for higher posts in the Branch provided they are suitable and are available.

Statement showing the total number of clerks, including Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents employed in the Establishment Branch of the Headquarters Office, North Western Railway, as it stood on 31st December 1942, 1943 and 1944.

Year	Total No. of clerks in all grades.	No. of Muslim Clerks	Per-cent- age.	Total No. of Head Clerks.	No. of Muslim Head Clerks.	Per-cent- age.	REMARKS
1942	65 plus 3 Tempy.	30	44	4	2	50	
1943	65 plus 6 Tempy.	34	48	4	*	25	* One promoted as Assistant Superintendent.
1944	65 plus 9 Tempy.	37	50	1	†	†	† Due to proceeding on leave preparatory to retirement of one Head Clerk and promotion of Assistant Superintendent as Office Superintendent.

The above figures do not include seven Muslims (including one Head Clerk who are at present on deputation with other officers or Departments.

CERTAIN POSTS OF MARINE DEPARTMENT TREATED AS SUBORDINATES ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

1141. *Mr. Muhammad Ahsan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the Marine Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway the following posts have been treated as subordinates to keep up the over-all percentage of Muslims:

(i) Navigating Serang Scale 50—5/2—85; (ii) Navigating Serang Scale 35—3—50; (iii) Deck Serang Scale 26—2—40; (iv) Tindals Scale 22—1—28; (v) Seacunny Scale 20—1—28; (vi) Deck Serang Scale 26—2—44; (vii) Driver Scale 50—5/2/85; (viii) Driver Scale 30—3—45; (ix) Driver Oil Engine Scale 22—1—28; and (x) Tindals Engine Room Scale 22—1—28?

(b) If the reply to part (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of staff, community-wise, employed in the said posts in the year 1943-44?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Government are not in possession of the details but understand that some of these categories are treated as 'subordinate' in keeping with their qualifications, status and duties and not for the reasons stated by the Honourable Member. Practically all deck staff of the Marine Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway are Muslims, as they are recruited from a Muslim class which mainly follows this profession.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Is the Honourable Member trying to get details in the meantime?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: What details are asked for?

BLOCK SIGNALMEN ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

1142. *Mr. Muhammad Ahsan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that appointments to the post of

Block Signalman on the Bengal and Assam Railway are not taken into account for the adjustment of communal quota?

(b) If the reply to part (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to place a statement on the table of the House showing the appointments in the said category community-wise during the years 1942 and 1943?

(c) Is it a fact that only inferior staff were installed in the said subordinate category?

(d) If the reply to part (c) is in the affirmative, is it not against the recruitment rules?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to starred questions Nos. 1142 and 1143 together.

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

ABSORPTION OF A. R. P. STAFF ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†1143. ***Mr. Muhammad Ahsan:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that consequent on the abolition of A.R.P. organisation on certain stations on the Bengal and Assam Railway, the personnel employed therein are now being absorbed in the sanctioned cadre of the Railway to the detriment of the interest of Muslims?

(b) If the reply to part (a) is in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state the number of staff communitywise employed on the inception of A.R.P. Organisation on the said Railway and the number of staff communitywise who are now being absorbed in the permanent cadre on the said Railway?

PANELS OF CONTRACTORS, CHITTAGONG DISTRICT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

1144. ***Mr. Muhammad Ahsan:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that panels of contractors have been formed in Chittagong District of the Bengal and Assam Railway by the Food Supply Department and the Engineering Department?

(b) If the reply to part (a) is in the affirmative, will he please state how many Muslim contractors have been empanelled and were given contracts during the year 1944?

(c) If the reply to part (a) is in the negative, will he please state if it is the intention of the Administration to form any other panel and if guidance will be given by the Railway Board?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), (b) and (c). The information asked for is not readily available.

The matter is within the competence of the Railway Administration and a copy of the question will be sent to the General Manager for his consideration.

VENDING CONTRACTS TO NON-PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTORS IN ALLAHABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

1145. ***Mr. Muhammad Ahsan:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that in 1940 the Railway Board made a rule that no person who is not a professional contractor will be given a vending licence on any Railway and that he will never be given contracts for supply of any kind on Railways?

(b) If the reply is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please state if on the Allahabad Division of the East Indian Railway these rules are being observed?

(c) Is it a fact that on the Allahabad Division of the East Indian Railway tea stall licence and tea vending contract has been given to a non-professional contractor?

(d) If the reply to part (b) is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please state on what stations such licences have been given to non-professionals on the Allahabad Division of the East Indian Railway during 1943 and 1944?

*For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1142.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) In conformity with the recommendations made by the Central Advisory Council at their meeting on March 15th and 18th, 1940, the Railway Board laid down certain general principles to be ordinarily followed. One of these was to the effect that where new contractors of vending licensees had to be selected, the choice should be limited to professional caterers.

(b), (c) and (d). Yes: I understand that in one instance only the principle has not been rigidly observed. This was in connection with the tea stall contract for Muslims at Etawah station. The matter has already been brought to the notice of the General Manager who will take such action as necessary to rectify matters.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I inform the Honourable Member that his information is incorrect? Because, in Fatehpur one N. K. Bansilal has been given the contract of tea stall, who is a grain merchant and not a caterer; another cooly contractor Madan & Co. has got it in Mirzapur. And this information has been withheld from the Honourable Member. Will the Honourable Member make inquiries?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will certainly look into the Honourable Member's allegation.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member find out from the General Managers of other railways whether this principle of giving it to caterers is being followed on their railways? As a matter of fact, it is given to persons who employ sub-agents to do this work.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I understand that, generally speaking, they do observe the principle which is recommended. In this particular case on this particular railway I understand there was only one case of a Muslim retired employee who was given the contract which, when we discovered it, was brought to the attention of the General Manager.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a general complaint about it on other railways also? Will he therefore find out whether the instructions are followed or not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If the Honourable Member has any reasons to suspect that this principle is not being observed, and if he will be good enough to put down a question, I shall be pleased to answer it.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Is the Honourable Member aware that on the North Western Railway at any rate—I do not know about other railways—there is a regular scandal that people are given contracts who have not followed the profession of caterers or aerated water vendors, and that they in their turn sublet these contracts to other people who carry on the work under fictitious names?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not aware that there is such a general scandal or that the rules are not observed. I am perfectly well aware that there is one particular case alleged which I am personally investigating.

PAY, ETC., OF TELEGRAPH MESSENGERS

†1146. **Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state the salary of a Telegraph Messenger?

(b) What are the allowances, per month of Telegraph Messengers, on an average?

(c) Are the Messengers entitled to any pension?

(d) Is so; after how many years of service?

(e) Has any telegraph messenger got any pension? If so, how many?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) and (b). There are two classes of telegraph messengers, one on fixed time-scales of pay, and the other on task work rates plus subsistence allowances. Amongst the fixed pay messengers, there are

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

adult and boy messengers. Task work earnings are so arranged that they are at least equal to the minimum subsistence allowance sanctioned for the station. The scales of pay and subsistence allowance, which vary according to locality, are given at pages 67, 69 and 80 of the Manual of Appointment, and Allowances of the officers of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. Both classes of staff get dearness allowance and good conduct pay, and in some localities house rent and compensatory allowances also. It is not possible to state the amount of allowances drawn on an average, as this varies according to localities and is different for old and new entrants.

(c) Yes

(d) They are entitled to pension like other inferior servants of the Central Government after rendering qualifying service of not less than 20 years. Service of less than 20 years qualifies for a lump sum payment as gratuity.

(e) A large number of telegraph messengers who have retired from service must be in receipt of pensions. The number of such retired messengers is not readily available.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST RAILWAY HOSPITAL, ERODE

1147. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that there have been complaints against the management of the Railway Hospital at Erode;

(b) if it is a fact that the nurse at this hospital has complained against the conduct of the Assistant Surgeon who is in-charge of the hospital; and

(c) if the Railway authorities have investigated these charges and taken necessary action; and, if they have not, if Government propose to direct them to do so without any further delay?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (c). The reply is in the affirmative.

EXTRA THIRD CLASS CARRIAGE FOR MADURA PARCELS PASSENGER AND OTHER TRAINS

1148. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if the South Indian Railway Advisory Committee at their meeting in January decided that an all second class carriage be put on the Madura Parcels Passenger in place of a second and third class composite carriage which has been running in that train till now; and if similar changes on other passenger trains by that and other Railway have been made or are under consideration;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, whether Government propose to attach an extra third class carriage to these trains to compensate for the decrease in third class accommodation caused by the above plan;

(c) whether Government are aware that the Advisory Committees of the Railways have no representatives of third class passengers and have, therefore, a tendency to ignore the interests of those passengers; and

(d) in view of the fact stated in (c) whether Government propose to take steps to include at least one representative of third class passengers on each of these Committees, preferably one who is recommended by prominent kisan or labour organisations?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. I am informed that a bogie second and third class composite has been put on these trains in replacement of the third class carriage on and from the 20th February. With regard to the second part of the question, there is no proposal for a similar change on other trains on the South Indian Railway. I have no information of any such action having been taken, or being now under consideration, by other railways.

(b) This is a matter for consideration by the Local Advisory Committee.

(c) and (d). Government are not so aware. Advisory Committees of the Railways have on them representatives of the Provincial Legislature or Passengers' Associations to represent the travelling public, as well as a representative of the Central Legislature. These should adequately represent the interests of all passengers including third class passengers.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Are Government aware that though these members are expected to represent the interests of all passengers they are liable to overlook the needs of third-class passengers and it is necessary to have a member who actually travels third class?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already replied to that. Where Passengers' Associations are recognised as representative, they are represented on the local Advisory Committees. There are four, I think, on four railways. There is a Passengers' Association on the South Indian Railway and surely that should represent third class passengers.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Since part (a) of my question shows that these members are liable to forget the needs of third class passengers, will Government give their attention to this matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not think we can do more than put the Railway Passengers' Association on the Local Advisory Committee. It is for the local passengers to see that that Association adequately represents their interests.

NON-STOPPING OF TRAINS AT WAYSIDE STATIONS

1149. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether it is the policy of Government to ask Railway authorities not to stop trains at small way side stations on the plea of fuel economy;

(b) the number of stations on the South Indian Railway and the Madras and Southern Marhatta Railway where the mail, express, passenger and goods trains have not been halting since January, 1942, and the approximate amount of coal believed to be saved by this arrangement per year;

(c) whether Government are aware that the cancellation of train halts at many stations causes great hardship to poor people, particularly women and children, who have to come from long distances and wait indefinitely at large stations for doubtful accommodation on trains;

(d) if Government propose to take steps either to restore these train-halts or to provide adequate facilities for road, transport, for rest at railway stations and for certainty of train accommodation for these passengers; and

(e) if Government propose to take immediate steps to—(i) provide separate decent waiting and bath rooms for third class women passengers at all Railway junctions and large stations and (ii) appoint Indian women on the staff of Railway stations and as Inspectors travelling on the trains, in order to help third class women and children passengers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes. Railway Administrations have been instructed to consider either the closing of smaller stations for passenger booking, or the reduction of halts of passenger trains at such stations to one per day in each direction.

(b) Information as to the number of stations at which halts have been eliminated since January 1942 is not readily available, and cannot be compiled without an expenditure of time and labour which would not be justified in War time. I can, however, give the approximate number of stations closed since the beginning of the War and they are 52 on the M. & S. M. Railway, and 151 on the S. I. Railway. As regards the saving of coal effected, I would refer to the reply I gave to parts (c) and (d) of Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar's Starred Question No. 1009 on the 15th instant.

(c) The curtailment of any facilities which have been in existence for some time must necessarily cause inconvenience to the travelling public, but this is inevitable in present conditions.

(d) The halts cannot be restored until the transport situation in general, and the coal position in particular, improve. As the Honourable Member is aware, the question of providing more road services to relieve the congestion on the railways is under very active consideration by Government, who are reconsidering the matter in the light of the recent cut motion passed by this House. 'Waiting' facilities at the larger stations are adequate to meet normal requirements, and I am afraid it is not possible to increase them to meet the abnormal conditions created by the present emergency. It is not possible to devise any measures to ensure certainty of train accommodation in present circumstances.

(e) (i) I am afraid I can hold out no hope that the measures advocated can be adopted in present circumstances, when all the resources of railways are strained to the utmost to cope with the essential requirements of the civil population and of war-time traffic. The suggestions will, however, be considered in our plans for post-war development.

(ii) This matter has been considered in the past and I will refer it again to the General Managers of the M. & S. M. and S. I. Railways.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Now that the railways are making large profits will Government realise the necessity of giving their immediate attention to part (e) (i) of my question?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir, but it is not a question of money but of materials.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to the last suggestion will the Honourable Member see that Indian women are appointed to look after women passengers because many of the Indian women passengers do not know English and if Anglo-Indian women are appointed they are of no use to Indian women travelling in the third class?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, I will certainly consider that, and I hope that they will also do their best to try to persuade women and children not to travel under the present conditions.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT SELECTION BOARDS, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†1150. ***Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that no Muslim Officer was included in the personnel of Selection Boards held in the Medical Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway in the years 1943 and 1944 to select candidates for promotion to the following posts:

(i) District Medical Officer, (ii) Assistant Medical Officer, and (iii) Assistant Chemists and Laboratory Assistants (Senior and Junior)?

(b) If the reply to part (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Muslim officers and of those who constituted those Selection Boards?

(c) Is it a fact that non-Muslims who possessed M.B. qualifications were appointed District Medical Officers (Open Line) ignoring Muslims who possessed Foreign Degrees?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply Starred Questions Nos. 1150 to 1152 together.

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.

IGNORING MUSLIM CLAIMS FOR CLERICAL GRADE PROMOTIONS IN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†1151. ***Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the Medical Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway in the years 1943 and 1944, promotions to 'D', 'E' and 'F' grades of the clerical cadre were made, ignoring the seniority claims of Muslims and without appointing Selection Boards?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Muslims and non-Muslims promoted to the said grades, the comparative seniority of the rejected Muslims, the promoted non-Muslims and the selecting officers, date-wise?

NON-APPOINTMENT OF MUSLIMS AS ASSISTANT MALARIOLOGISTS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†1152. ***Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the Medical Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway in the years 1943 and 1944 no Muslims were appointed as Assistant Malariologist, though Muslims applied for the post in response to the advertisement for the posts?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Muslims and non-Muslims who were called for selections and appointed?

(c) Is it a fact that Muslims of the requisite qualifications were rejected?

(d) If the reply to (c) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the qualifications of the non-Muslims who were called for selection and Muslims who were rejected?

(e) Is it a fact that the deficiency in the said recruitment has not been made good?

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†1153. **Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the Medical Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway for the construction works in the years 1943 and 1944, Muslims were inadequately represented in promotions for the following posts (i) Higher Clerical Grades (ii) Ward Keepers and (iii) Malariā Inspectors?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Muslims promoted to the said posts?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I regret I am unable to collect the details asked for, but I would point out that promotions are not made on communal considerations. In non-selection posts the criterion is seniority subject to fitness and, in selection posts, merit and suitability, due weight being given to seniority.

RESTRICTIONS ON BOOKING OF GREEN FRUITS FROM MUZAFFARPUR RAILWAY STATION

1154. ***Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that restrictions have been imposed on the booking of green fruits from the Muzaffarpur Railway station on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway;

(b) if he is aware that such restrictions never existed before and that they are ruinous to the indigenous trade of the locality;

(c) if it is a fact that no such restrictions exist on any other Railway; and

(d) in view of the importance of this trade, whether he proposes to consider the desirability of removing such restrictions, if any; if not, why not?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1150.

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

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to Mr. Badri Dutt Pande's Starred Question No. 798 on the 7th instant and add that the report called for from the General Manager of the O. and T. Railway has not yet been received.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: May I know whether there is any ban on the booking of fresh fruits at Muzaffarpur?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is what I am trying to find out. I must say that it is a little disappointing that I have not had a reply to my previous enquiry. It may be that the question is a little more complicated than appears at first sight; it is possible, for instance, that the ban, if any, is not put on by the Railways, but by the Provincial Government or some other authority. I have no information and am trying to investigate.

DUTIES, ETC., OF LITIGATION INSPECTORS, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1155. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the nature of duties assigned to Litigation Inspectors on the North Western Railway;

(b) their scales of pay and hours of employment;

(c) the allowances admissible to them;

(d) whether they are permitted to act as Attorney under special powers from persons (Railway servants) sued by a party claiming wages or money in which Government are not defendant; and

(e) whether Government propose to prescribe a detailed procedure enabling them to act as Attorney by Special Powers from Railway servants; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Litigation Inspectors are entrusted with the conduct of Railway cases in Civil Courts.

(b) The pay of the Senior Litigation Inspector is Rs. 320—15—380. This is the old scale, the revised scale has not yet been determined. The scales of pay of the Litigation Inspector and Assistant Litigation Inspector respectively are, Rs. 200—10—270 (old) and Rs. 200 (Revised). Rs. 150—10—190 (old) and Rs. 160 (Revised). As their duties are rightly classed as supervisory, they are excluded from the provisions of the Hours of Employment Regulations.

(c) No special allowances are granted to them. They are, however, allowed travelling allowance, dearness allowance and local allowance as admissible under the ordinary rules.

(d) The only circumstances in which Litigation Inspectors act as attorneys are when they so act on behalf of the Administration under special powers of attorney from Railway Paymasters, as defined in, and in connection with, the Payment of Wages Act, Government being the defendant.

(e) Where a Railway servant, not being a Railway paymaster as defined in the Payment of Wages Act, is sued, Government not being the defendant, the procedure prescribed in Rule 1602 of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, applies.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what are the minimum qualifications of Litigation Inspectors?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am afraid I shall require notice of that question.

PAY, ETC., OF PROSECUTING INSPECTORS OF POLICE (RAILWAYS)

1156. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the scales of pay of the Prosecuting Inspectors of Police together with their number and Headquarters;

(b) the duties and functions of the Prosecuting Inspectors of Police on Railways; and

(c) the duties and functions of the Director General of Railways, Calcutta area?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I lay on the table a statement giving the required information.

(b) The duties and functions of the Prosecuting Inspectors are to prosecute cases investigated by the Special Police Establishment in local courts and to assist the Public Prosecutors in the prosecution of cases before the Special Tribunals, constituted under the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1943.

(c) The functions of the Director-General of Railways, Calcutta, Area, are:

To provide complete co-ordination of all Railway working in this area and, for this purpose, he is empowered to issue orders to all authorities in connection with the direction and control of railway traffic to, from, and within this area. He is also consulted in respect of all proposals likely to affect the line capacity within his jurisdiction. He is considered as the local representative of the Railway Board in the Calcutta Area and his decisions and orders, within his directive, have the authority of the Railway Board. He represents the Railway Department with local branches of other Departments, and non-railway bodies, both civil and military. The organization of the Tank Wagon Controller, Calcutta, is also under the administrative control of the Director-General of Railways, Calcutta Area, which comprises the Howrah and Asansol Divisions of the East Indian Railway, the Kharagpur and Adra Transportation Divisions of the Bengal Nagpur Railway, the Broad Gauge Section of the Bengal and Assam Railway, and the Calcutta Port Commissioners' Railway.

Statement showing the scales of pay number and headquarters of the Prosecuting Inspectors of Police.

Designation.	Scales of pay.	Number.	Headquarters.
Prosecuting Inspectors of Police	90—10—180—E. B.—200—10—300.	2	Bombay and Karachi
Do.	Selection Grade 320—20—400 Rs. 180—7½—300	2	Lahore and Rawalpindi.
Do.	Rs. 150—10—250	1	Jubbulpore.
Do.	Grade III 175	1	Madras.
	„ II 225		
	„ I 275		

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: With reference to part (b) of the question, may I know what is the need for having Prosecuting Inspectors of Police when the Railway Police is there to handle these cases and follow them in the Court?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am sorry I cannot answer that off hand; I will investigate.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Do they prosecute the cases of passengers only, or of staff as well?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Both.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if as a measure of economy the Honourable Member has considered the amalgamation of the post of Litigation Inspector with Prosecuting Inspector?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have not considered that and I do not think it is a question of economy. It is a question of efficiency in carrying out their functions.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that both Prosecuting Inspectors and Litigation Inspectors are drawn from the same profession—lawyers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I presume so.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to part (c) may I know from the Honourable Member whether this is purely a war-time appointment, or is it likely to continue even after the war is over?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It has not been considered as a post-war proposal in any way. It is to deal with the control of the intensive traffic in that area in war time.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: What is the extent of the authority of this officer with reference to the General Managers of the Railways concerned?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I have read out a long statement defining his duties.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Are the General Managers definitely under the orders of this officer with regard to the various matters referred to by the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: For certain purposes, yes, Sir.

EXPENDITURE ON PRINTING OF "INDIAN RAILWAYS IN WAR TIMES"

1157. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the reasons for expending Rs. 75,000 for printing "Indian Railways in War Times"?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The intention of the booklet is to give briefly in readable and attractive form some idea of the work of Indian Railways during the war, their development, their problems, and above all the strain imposed by the present War; also the manner in which that burden is being successfully shouldered. It is hoped that the information given in the booklet will help the public and other transport users, both in India and abroad, to realize the nature of the problem and the achievement.

Mr. Manu Subedar: How much paper was used for this purpose?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I shall require notice of that question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Was the book circulated free or was it sold?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It has not yet been circulated. It is intended to circulate a number of copies free and also to sell it.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How many copies have been earmarked for free distribution?

(No reply was given.)

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the Indian Railways alone have started such a publication in order to detail the difficulties which lay before the Railway Administration in this country or similar publications have been brought forward in other countries in connection with the war?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The origin of this proposed booklet was in fact an excellent publication by the English Railways which set out a lot of relevant facts in a most attractive form and we propose to follow their example.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will this publication be circulated to Members of this House?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I shall certainly see that copies are circulated to Members of this House.

SUPPLY OF SOFT COKE FOR PREPARING HOT BATHS AT DELHI RAILWAY STATION WAITING ROOMS

1158. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the arrangements made for the supply of soft coke to be consumed in preparing Hot Baths by the Waiting Room Bearers at Delhi Railway station for the use of the travelling public; if no arrangements have been made, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Hot-water heaters for the supply of hot baths in the Waiting Rooms at Delhi burn steam coal.

Arrangements for the provision of coal for use in the heaters are at present in the hands of waiting room bearers. I understand there has been considerable difficulty in obtaining sufficient coal, and, if conditions do not improve, it may become necessary to discontinue the provision of water for hot baths.

TECHNICAL STUDIES ABROAD FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES

1159. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state if it is proposed to consider the claims of highly qualified

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

personnel employed in the Ordnance Factories in India for higher technical studies abroad? If so, what is the procedure introduced or proposed to be introduced for selecting the candidates for training?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The names of all officers in the Ordnance Factories, who are considered suitable for higher technical training, and who can be spared from duty in the existing circumstances, are being collected, and when the list is complete, Government will make the final selection.

The procedure for selection is still under the consideration of Government and a decision is expected to be reached shortly.

NON-PROVISION OF QUARTERS TO MUSLIM EMPLOYEES AT CHITTAGONG, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

1160. ***Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee** (on behalf of **Dr. Habibar Rahman**): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that the Muslim Employees of the Bengal and Assam Railway stationed at Chittagong are not provided with quarters?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to place a comparative tabulated statement on the table of the House showing the number of personnel occupying the Railway quarters and also the number of senior Muslim employees who have not been allotted quarters?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). No distinction is made between Muslim and non-Muslim employees in connection with the allotment of quarters but the conditions created by the war in the Chittagong zone render it impossible to provide all staff with Railway quarters in that area. I regret I cannot undertake to compile the statement asked for under present conditions.

ACCOMMODATION TO HINDU STAFF IN REQUISITIONED HOUSES AT CHITTAGONG BY BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

1161. ***Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee** (on behalf of **Dr. Habibar Rahman**): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that a house has been requisitioned by the Bengal and Assam Railway at Chittagong through the District Magistrate and only Hindu staff have been accommodated therein?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, does he propose to arrange to requisition another house at Chittagong for the accommodation of the Muslim employees?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government have no information and as the matter is within the competence of the General Manager, a copy of the question is being sent to him for consideration.

PUTTING QUALIFIED MUSLIMS ON RELIEVING LIST OF TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

1162. ***Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee** (on behalf of **Dr. Habibar Rahman**): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that the Muslim employees who have qualified themselves in departmental examinations of the Traffic Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway are generally put on the Relieving List instead of absorbing them against permanent vacancies which go to the staff belonging to other communities?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to place a tabulated statement on the table of the House showing the number of staff community-wise and the manner in which they, after having qualified themselves in the departmental examinations, were absorbed in the following categories on the following Districts:

Districts	Categories
Calcutta	Assistant Station Master.
Paksey	Relieving General Clerk.
Katihar	Guard.
Chittagong	Goods Clerk.
Lumding	Parcel Clerk.
Dacca	Booking Clerk?

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

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

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN ESTABLISHMENT SECTIONS AT CHITTAGONG,
BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

1163. *Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee (on behalf of Dr. Habibur Rahman): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that no Muslims are appointed in the Establishment Sections of the Offices of the different Department (*viz.*, Traffic, Engineering, Signal Electrical, A.R.P., and Administration) at Chittagong on the Bengal and Assam Railway?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to place a statement on the table of the House showing the present strength community-wise of the Establishment Sections of the said Departments?

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

MEDICAL OFFICERS, ETC., ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

1164. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Medical Officers, District Medical Officers and Sanitary Inspectors on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway and the number of Muslims therein on the 31st December, 1944;

(b) the number of Medical Officers, Doctors and Sanitary Inspectors appointed temporarily or in permanent category during 1944, community-wise;

(c) whether these vacancies were advertised; if so, when and in which newspapers;

(d) the method adopted for appointment of these Medical Department personnel in 1944 on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway; and

(e) whether the same method was adopted by Oudh and Tirhut Railway when the administration was company-managed?

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

PROMOTIONS TO LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE, EAST INDIAN AND BENGAL
AND ASSAM RAILWAYS

1165. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the number of subordinate service men promoted to the Lower Gazetted Service, community-wise, on the East Indian and Bengal and Assam Railways from January, 1944, to February, 1945;

(b) the method of selection;

(c) whether Selection Committees were appointed and Muslim Officers Associated on all occasions; and

(d) whether the names of selected candidates were sent for approval to the Railway Board; if so, whether the Railway Board were satisfied that communal adjustment was made?

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

(d) It is not necessary for the names of subordinates selected for promotion to the Lower Gazetted Service to be sent to the Railway Board for approval except when it is proposed to confirm them in gazetted rank.

A CLASS GUARDS ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

1166. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of "A" Class Guards on the East Indian Railway on the 31st December, 1944, and the number of Muslims therein;

(b) how many of them were appointed through direct recruitment in 1944 and the number of Muslims therein;

(c) how many of them were promoted from "B" Class Guards; and what the number of Muslims on the East Indian Railway on all Divisions was; and

(d) whether the reports of direct and indirect recruitment to "A" Class Guards on the East Indian Railway in 1944 were sent to the Railway Board and whether they were scrutinized for the purpose of communal adjustments?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply starred questions Nos. 1166 to 1171 together.

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

APPOINTMENTS TO LOWER GAZETTED RANK

†1167. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) the total number of appointments made in subordinate category and Lower Gazetted rank on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway during 1943 and 1944 and the number of Muslims therein;

(b) how many of these posts were advertised and in which newspaper;

(c) how the selection was made and if any Selection Committee was set up on all occasions;

(d) the principle adopted for setting up Selection Committees; and

(e) if any list of approved candidates is maintained by Selection Boards and whether temporary or permanent vacancies are filled accordingly?

OFFICERS AND SUBORDINATES IN FOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT,
OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

†1168. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the total number of officers and subordinates drawing Rs. 60 and above in the Food Control Department of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway;

(b) the number of Muslims in the categories referred to in (a);

(c) whether their appointments were made through promotion or through direct recruitment;

(d) how many employees directly appointed are Muslims and how many of those indirectly taken from the administration are Muslims;

(e) how many of those posts were advertised for direct recruitment by the Oudh and Tirhut Railway; if none, why; and

(f) the total number of officers, community-wise?

RESIGNED MUSLIM GUARDS NOT REPLACED BY MUSLIMS IN HOWRAH
DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

†1169. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that on the Howrah Division, East Indian Railway, the vacancies of temporary 'A' and 'B' class Muslim Guards who resigned in the years 1943 and 1944, were not filled by Muslims according to Rules?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Muslims who were appointed in these vacancies?

(c) Is it a fact that the vacancies of 'A' class guards were filled in February and March, 1945, by direct recruitment?

(d) If the reply to (c) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of vacancies of 'A' and 'B' class Guards during the period from January 1943, to February, 1945, filled by direct recruitment and the number of Muslims and non-Muslims who were appointed in these vacancies and are still in service?

MUSLIM WIRELESS OPERATORS IN HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN
RAILWAY

†1170. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that on the Howrah Division, East Indian Railway, in the years 1943 and 1944 against the newly created posts of wireless operators, the number of Muslims who were given training was below their quota?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of posts of wireless operators and the number of Muslims and non-Muslims selected for training?

MUSLIM WIRELESS OPERATIONS IN HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

1171. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that on the Howrah Division, East Indian Railway, in the years 1943 and 1944, Muslims who completed their training along with non-Muslims as wireless operators have not yet been absorbed in these posts according to their quota?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Muslims and non-Muslims absorbed as Wireless Operators during the said period?

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

IMPORT OF BRITISH-MADE CARS

1172. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Has the attention of the Honourable Member for War Transport 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 Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me on 15th March 1945, in this House, to question No. 1035 by the Honourable Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha.

POSTPONED STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WRITTEN ANSWERS

(Postponed from March, 12, 1945)

CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS BY INDIA AGENCY GENERAL

901. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Foreign Secretary please state whether the India Agency General forwards confidential reports about the activities of Indian visitors and students and even Indian officials like those employed in the Supply Mission, and if it is a fact that these reports contain information about their political views, activities and associations?

Sir Olaf Caroe: It is not in accordance with the public interest to disclose any detail of reports received from a diplomatic post.

UNSATISFACTORY DISTRIBUTION OF COAL

917. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to refer to his answer to a supplementary question in connection with my starred question No. 397 on the 20th February last in the course of which he stated that the Committee of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce passed a resolution thanking him and the officers who are working with him for the care with which the coal distribution was being made, and state whether it is a fact that the said resolution referred merely to 'appreciable raisings of coal during recent months' and had no reference at all to distribution of coal?

(b) Is it a fact that on the 22nd December, 1944, the Committee of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry addressed a communication to the Department of Supply in the course of which they referred to difficulties which were still being experienced by a number of industries in spite of there being an improvement in the raising of coal and suggested that all extra raisings of coal should be earmarked for the consumption of industries as otherwise there was every likelihood of some of the industries being closed down for want of coal supply resulting in enormous losses to private enterprise and hardship and unemployment to Labour? Will the Honourable Member please state what action, if any, has been taken for the purpose of carrying out the suggestion made by the Committee of the Federation, as aforesaid?

*For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1166.

(c) Is the Supply Department keeping itself informed about the position of each individual industrial concern as affected by the present difficulties of coal supply? If so, does the Honourable Member propose to make a statement indicating the present position of each industry concerned and pointing out the improvement, if any, that has taken place of late in the matter of coal supplies to it?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Yes. Although the wording of the Resolution referred only to "appreciable raisings of coal in recent months", the forwarding letter of the Federation stated that the resolution had been adopted after discussing questions relating both to raisings and distribution. Further the resolution mentioned by name the Deputy Coal Commissioner (Distribution). From these two facts, I felt justified in inferring that the Federation had appreciated the manner in which having regard to limitations of various kinds, coal was being distributed.

(b) Yes. I regret it is not possible to accept the suggestion that all extra raisings should be earmarked for the consumption of industries.

(c) No Sir, with the exception of the more important industrial concerns the Supply Department does not keep itself informed about the position of each individual industrial concern. This is a matter for one or the other Department of the Government of India or of the Provincial Governments. As regards the second part of the question, I have stated frequently in this House that Government do not consider it in the public interest to disclose stocks of coal with or supplies to, various consumers.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
RAILWAY COMPARTMENTS BUILT

92. Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) how many first and second class compartments have been made in the Railways after the beginning of the war and the number of passengers they are intended to accommodate;

(b) how many third class compartments have been made during the war and the number they are intended to accommodate;

(c) considering their use, how much each seat in these classes earns for the Railways; and

(d) what percentage they work in relation to their cost?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (d). The information asked for is not readily available and its collection from Railways would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justified in war time.

I am able, however, in reply to starred question No. 1116 by the same Honourable Member to give the numbers of carriages built on the III class improved model.

BUNGALOW PEONS TO NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY OFFICERS.

93. Lala Sham Lal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether officers on the North Western Railway are entitled to 'bungalow peons'? If so, under what circumstances?

(b) Do these officers get bungalow peons when their houses are fitted with Government telephone connections? If so, why?

(c) What are the duties of these peons, and are they also required to cook for officers or their families as well as do other household and private jobs in such employ?

(d) Are the bungalow peons entitled to free housing accommodation in the same bungalow where they are employed? If not, are there any duty hour rosters for them under the 'Hours of Employment Regulations'? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, in the interests of the service, bungalow peons have been allotted only to certain specified officers' posts on the North Western Railway.

(b) Yes, if this is considered necessary in the interests of the service.

(c) They are required to deliver urgent telegrams and other important messages and to attend to urgent work after office hours. The reply to the rest of this part of the question is in the negative.

(d) No, but they may occupy outhouses of such bungalows, if vacant, provided the officer has no objection. As regards the latter portion, such staff are treated as 'Intermittent' under the Hours of Employment Regulations and a duty roster has been drawn up for them.

CLERKS AND SORTING POSTMEN IN CALCUTTA POST OFFICES

94. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the number of clerks and sorting postmen working in the following post offices in Calcutta:

(i) Rash Behari Avenue, (ii) Narkeldanga, (iii) Hastings; and (iv) Garden Reach?

(b) Is it a fact that according to the number of staff these offices should have been under the charge of a Selection Grade Sub-Postmaster but they have been placed in the charge of a time scale Sub-Postmaster? If so, why?

(c) Do Government propose to sanction Selection Grade posts for these offices? If not, why not?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) to (c). Information has been called for and a reply will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

INCREASE OF HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE TO CERTAIN SUB-POSTMASTERS IN CALCUTTA.

95. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether it is a fact that it has been ordered by Government that officials who are in receipt of house-rent allowances will get 20 per cent. more?

(b) If so, is any increased rate of rent being paid to the Sub-Postmasters of the non-delivery town Sub-Offices of Calcutta and Howrah?

(c) If not, do Government propose to sanction the same?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Presumably the Honourable Member refers to the compensatory house rent allowance sanctioned for ministerial staff in Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi as a war-time measure. Such allowance is limited to a maximum of ten per cent. of pay. In regard to officials who are already in receipt of house rent allowance, the increase will be limited to a maximum of ten per cent. of pay. In Calcutta the allowance is not granted to militarised staff.

(b) and (c). Increase in the house rent allowances if justified under the orders referred to in the reply to part (a), will be sanctioned by the Postmaster General.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE TO POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS STAFF OF DELHI AND NEW DELHI.

96. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state the conditions in detail under which conveyance allowance is paid to the Posts and Telegraphs staff of Delhi and New Delhi?

(b) Is conveyance allowance also paid to the Posts and Telegraphs staff of Bombay and Calcutta? If not, why not?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to starred question No. 10 on the same subject by Mr. Abdul Qaiyum on the 15th of March.

(b) No. The reason is that in these big cities there are well-organised and cheap means of transport, such as suburban trains, tramways and buses.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DELEGATION AT SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Secretary for External Affairs please state what will be the status of the Government of India Delegation at San Francisco Conference?

(b) Has any instruction been given to the Members of the Delegation by Government?

(c) Is it a fact that the British Government has given an assurance to the Government of India, that in case objection is taken to India's participation in World-Security Conference on the ground of her non-sovereign status, the British Delegates would vouch for the sovereign status of this country within the British Commonwealth?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) The status of Government of India's delegation will be identical with that of the delegations of any other one of the United Nations' delegations.

(b) The Government of India's representatives will in due course receive a brief of general instructions.

(c) His Majesty's Government would undoubtedly give support if India's right were challenged, but the right of India as a belligerent member of the Allied Nations to participate in the Conference has not been, and could not be, questioned.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will this delegation function independently or will it function as a subordinate branch of the British Delegation which is going to this Conference?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The Honourable Member seems to have subordination very much on his mind.

Mr. Manu Subedar: You seem to have it very much more in your mind. I want an answer to this question. I want to know whether this delegation is expected to function independently, and in the event of differences with the delegation of the United Kingdom whether Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar will be free to express his views and the views of this country?

Sir Olaf Caroe: Of course he will be. If the Honourable Member were to take the line that this gives an opportunity for India to stand forth and work towards independence instead of talking about subordination it would appear far better in the eyes of the world.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I heard that somebody was going to give instructions to this delegation. May I know who is going to give instructions to the delegation and what will be the nature of those instructions?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I cannot disclose what the instructions will be but they will be given by the Governor General in Council that is by the Government of India.

(At this stage several Honourable Members rose in their seats.)

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

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will those instructions be consistent with the policy of the delegation to function as absolutely free agents representing this country in that Conference?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I should say so entirely.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Then what is the difficulty about disclosing to the House the nature of those instructions?

Sir Olaf Caroe: If the Honourable Member had some idea of International Conferences and foreign affairs generally, he would realise that no Government, when it sends a delegation to another country to attend a large International Conference, would disclose in advance the instructions which it gives to its delegation.

(At this stage Mr. Abdul Qaiyum rose in his seat.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Sardar Sant Singh.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know whether the instructions framed by the Governor General in Council and given to its delegation will stand in need of approval of the Secretary of State for India, or will it be independent of that approval?

Sir Olaf Caroe: They would not be approved. They would be seen. The Honourable Member will realise that all the delegations of the British Commonwealth of Nations will gain advantage in the peace as they have gained in the war from working together.

Sardar Sant Singh: My question has not been answered yet. May I know if the will of the people of India as represented by the instructions given by

the Governor General in Council will prevail or will it be subordinated to the will of the British people as represented by the Secretary of State for India responsible to Parliament.

Sir Olaf Caroe: I cannot understand. The Honourable Member has asked me three questions in one and I cannot give an answer.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will the will of the Government of India as decided by the Governor General in Council prevail, or will it be subordinated to the interests of Great Britain as approved by the Secretary of State for India?

Sir Olaf Caroe: In all negotiations, particularly on the international stage no State holds all the cards in its hands. It has to adjust, compromise and discuss and on that principle it will be necessary for the delegation of India to adjust, compromise and discuss.

(At this stage Mr. Manu Subedar and Prof. N. G. Ranga rose in their seats.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The matter need not be carried any further.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

REQUISITIONING OF "CHATEAU WINDSOR" BUILDING IN BOMBAY

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received a notice from Sir Cowasjee Jehangir expressing his intention to move an adjournment of the House for discussing a matter of urgent, definite and public importance, namely, the requisitioning of the building in Bombay known as "Chateau Windsor".

This has been the subject of a short notice question as well as an ordinary question. This question was raised about a fortnight ago.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): There were two sets of questions asked in this House. Government were kind enough to reply to a short notice question of mine.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That was on the 14th.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Yes, Sir. In the answer given by my Honourable friend Mr. Trivedi, there seems to be some confusion. He gave an answer in this House and the reports in the papers do not seem to have been quite accurate. So far as I can now remember, his answer given in this House was that he was considering giving instructions to the authorities to withhold requisitioning for the time being. I understand that that was his answer.

Then in another set of questions asked by my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, a part of the answer given by my Honourable friend, Mr. Ram Chandra who now represents the Department in the House, was that "whenever possible only such accommodation is requisitioned as is vacant or used only partially or occasionally". I received a telegram late last night from a firm of Solicitors called Eastley Lam & Co. The telegram runs as follows:

"Secretary Bombay Government replied today requisitioning cannot be withdrawn as building Chateau Windsor required for operational necessities."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the building consist of a number of flats?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): How many flats?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I just tell you. My question referred to two buildings—Chateau Windsor and Sea Green. In both these buildings there are about fifty flats to the best of my recollection. Now after these questions had been answered in the manner I have explained in this Honourable House, it appears that the Government of Bombay have informed the tenants or this firm of Solicitors, Eastley Lam & Co. to the effect I have read out, namely, that Government now propose to take this building with at least 25 flats in it. I therefore desire, Sir, to move this adjournment motion in the House on the strength of this telegram which I have received and on grounds that Government are determined to requisition such buildings in the city of Bombay.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Have they got the power and do they requisition buildings like these?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Who, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Have they requisitioned other buildings in Bombay?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I cannot tell you how many buildings they have requisitioned. I do not know that requisitions have been sent to the tenants of two buildings—Chateau Windsor and Sea Green and copies of those requisitions have been given to my Honourable friend.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I know that in Calcutta many buildings have been requisitioned by the military. I suppose the same sort of thing has happened in Bombay. I should like to know what is the particular nature of this building and what were the particular reasons why this one building should not be requisitioned.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: The requisitioning of this class of buildings, so far as I know, has not taken place till now. These are buildings in a fairly good locality in Bombay, where permanent residents of Bombay are living with their families, many of them professional men making their living in Bombay through their professions and it is now desired by Government to throw them with their families on to the streets of Bombay.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I should like to hear what the Government Member has to say.

Mr. Ram Chandra (Government of India: Nominated Official): I submit that the motion is not in order for two reasons. Firstly, the letter conveying the warning that the building Chateau Windsor is likely to be requisitioned from the 1st of April was issued on the 20th February. Nothing has happened since then. The position, as far as I know, still remains the same. No requisitioning order has yet been served. Further, Sir, as you pointed out, the question of requisitioning this particular building was answered by my friend, the War Secretary, on behalf of the Defence Department only last week. I am not aware of the circumstances that have led to the telegram which my Honourable friend has just read. It is quite possible that owing to an incorrect report of Mr. Trivedi's reply that appeared in the press, the tenants of this building Chateau Windsor may have asked the Bombay Government whether there was any possibility of their withdrawing.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the Honourable Member suggest that there has been no change in the situation since the short notice question was answered?

Mr. Ram Chandra: There has been no change in the situation.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: That is not correct. According to this telegram—it is not from a tenant but from a respectable firm of solicitors, Eastley Lam & Co., the Bombay Government replied to them saying that requisitioning cannot be withdrawn and it means that on the 1st of April those tenants will be on the streets of Bombay.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): The Honourable Member says that the order was never served.....

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

Mr. Ram Chandra: My information is that a letter containing the warning was issued on the 20th February and that the actual requisitioning order has not yet been served. That is my information.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Perhaps the Honourable Member better find out.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I have also received a copy of the telegram. May I suggest that the order has been served and the Bombay Government has refused to withdraw the order. There is some confusion. Perhaps we can postpone it till tomorrow to give time to the authorities.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I want to know whether other buildings in Bombay have also been requisitioned.

Mr. Ram Chandra: Yes, Sir. Several people have been asked to vacate the residence which they were occupying.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Of this class?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I could not say. I could not say that the building contained the same number of flats.....

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Permanent residents of Bombay? Can they assure me that no building has been requisitioned which is inhabited by the permanent residents of Bombay, many of whom are earning their living in Bombay as professional men?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I am not sure that I can safely make a statement, that other buildings also contained the same number of flats and the same class of people earning their living in the same manner. But I do know that people have been put to some inconvenience and the Bombay Government try to minimise that inconvenience as far as possible.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is there any provision of law under which the military authorities act, that they are not to disturb any particular class of tenants in requisitioning buildings.

Mr. Ram Chandra: No, Sir. Any action that is taken is taken under the provisions of the Defence of India Act and the Rules made thereunder. There are no separate rules saying that buildings of a certain description alone will be requisitioned and others of another description will be left untouched.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I submit that in the Defence of India Act, in the very foundation of it, it is laid down—and I quoted it in the question which I asked—that the life and property and the residences of people will not be disturbed. It was specifically stated and the kind of action which Government is now taking is in contradiction to the foundations of the Defence of India Act.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: In contravention of it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As regards this motion to adjourn the business of the House, the position is this. This matter was raised on the 14th of March by a short notice question and I understand from the Government Member that the situation so far as requisitioning of this building is concerned has not changed; so far as his information goes. If the situation remains unchanged there is no justification for an adjournment motion. The other difficulty which I feel is, unfortunately a number of buildings in big cities like Calcutta and Bombay are being requisitioned and people are put to great inconvenience. Unless some special case is made out, I cannot see how an adjournment motion.....

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Does the Honourable Member give an undertaking to the House that the position has not changed? If he gives that undertaking to the House, I will not press the motion. I want a categorical undertaking that the position has not changed. If he gives that I will be very pleased to withdraw the motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He made that statement.

Mr. Ram Chandra: I will read out what the War Secretary said in answer to the short notice question.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I do not want that. I want a categorical undertaking that the position has not changed. That is the ground on which the President is ruling the motion.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is not the only ground on which I hold that this motion is not in order. It is one of the grounds.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE

NET EARNINGS OF RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED RAILWAY LINES.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I lay on the table a statement showing the net earnings for the financial year 1943-44 of recently constructed railway lines.

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR LEGISLATIVE DEPT.

Statement showing net earnings during the financial year 1943-44 of new Railway Lines opened on and after the 1st April 1937

(NOTE—Only such lines as are entirely open and have been working for a full year are included).

Se- rial No.	Name of project	Wbrk- ing Rail- way	Gauge	Mile- age.	Date of op- ening.	Net in- come cre- ditable to the project for 1943- 44.	Percentage re- turn of income (column 6 on capital outlay). 1942-43 1943-44	Estima- ted per- cent- age re- turn of income on capi- tal out- lay some years after op- ening as estima- ted ori- ginally.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Khadro- Nawab- shah	Jodhpur	Metre	30.7	20.11.1939	2,55,813	13.27 15.76	0.87(a)

(a) This is the figure arrived at in the 'final, location survey'. The earlier estimates produced before the Standing Finance Committee showed a probable return of 0.5% only.

AMENDMENT TO BRITISH BALUCHISTAN MOTOR VEHICLES RULES

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of the Notification No. 185/21-44/PTC, dated the 15th February, 1945, relating to an amendment of the British Baluchistan Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, under sub-section (3) of section 133 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF BRITISH BALUCHISTAN NOTIFICATION

Quetta, the 15th February 1945

No. 185/21-44/PTC.—In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 70(1) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, (VI of 1939), the Chief Commissioner of British Baluchistan is pleased to direct that the following amendment shall be made to the British Baluchistan Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, published in Notification No. 347/M.V., dated the 1st April 1940, printed at pages 841 to 982 of the *Gazette of India*, Part II-A, dated the 27th April 1940:—

For rule 5/44 substitute the following:—

The body of every public service vehicle shall be so constructed and so fastened to the frame of the vehicle as to comply with such directions as may be issued by the Provincial Transport Authority from time to time.

By order,
B. M. BACON,

Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Baluchistan.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR FOOD DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Food during the financial year 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, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Food during the financial year 1945-46."

There is an amendment in the name of Mr. Hegde.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde (West Coast and Nilgiris: Non-Muhammadian Rural): I do not want to move it.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Sir, I want to say something. The position of the Food Advisory Committee is a very peculiar one. Besides this Food Advisory Committee which is appointed by this House, there is what is called the Food Conference, in which the members for the various Provinces and other interests concerned are consulted by the Department. I have not been able to understand why members of the Food Advisory Committee are not invited to the meetings of the Food Advisory Council where the policy and procedure to be followed are decided. I put this question at one of the meetings of the Food Advisory Committee and I was told that the Food Advisory Committee was too big a body to be invited to these meetings. My submission is that where policy is decided the presence of the members of the Food Advisory Committee is a necessity. I want to request the Honourable Member in charge of Food Department to see that the Food Advisory Committee should either be invited to such meetings where they should be able to give their views.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: What Advisory Committee?

Sardar Sant Singh: Food Advisory Committee. Or, in the alternative, the proceedings of the Food Advisory Council should be placed before the Food Advisory Committee. Otherwise these two bodies working separately may cause some confusion, and there will be no coordination between both the Committees.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): There are 3 Committees, not 2: there is the Food Conference, there is a Central Food Advisory Committee, and there is our own Standing Committee.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There is a fourth body also: the Price Tribunal.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What happened recently was this. The Central Food Advisory Committee had a meeting while this House was in Session. It would not have been possible for my Honourable friend to invite members of the Food Advisory Committee to be present at that meeting. But if this is made possible, members of this Committee can get into touch with the various people coming from the provinces and know their views, and they can also follow the proceedings and thus become wiser, abler and better counsellors for us in this House. Therefore, I suggest that the Honourable Member should keep in mind the advisability of calling their Conferences at least once while this House is in Session so that Members of this House elected to the Standing Committee may be able to get into touch with the people attending these conferences and also follow their proceedings, and in that way become abler assistants to this House as well as on the Standing Committee.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There is some confusion in the minds of the Honourable Members as regards the bodies which are associated with the Food Department. There is, firstly, the Standing Committee of the Legislature, which I regard as the topmost Committee. I consider them as my colleagues and advisers, and we keep nothing from them. In fact, at the last meeting of the Standing Committee some of the members, I think most of the members, agreed to establish a convention that they would support me here in regard to matters which they have accepted in the Standing Committee. Mr. Deshmukh was one of those very kind people who agreed.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): No.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Any way we have told the Standing Committee that they can ask for any information and that it will be supplied. We have supplied them with every possible information in the past. If they find they have not got any information they have only to ask for it. Then, there is a second body which consists of representatives of growers and producers, in whom my friend is keenly interested, commercial people, landlords, and others, and this is called the Food Advisory Council. It is a body of about 40 members who represent the different interests. I have just mentioned. They also represent the different parts of India. They have been very carefully chosen, and they are not Members of the Legislature except in one or two exceptional cases. We set up this body in order that the Food Depart-

ment might have the benefit of the views of many people who are not Members of the Legislature and who can give us valuable advice in regard to Food. Sir, then there is the third body. It is not a body with a definite composition, but it is a Conference which is convened generally once a year. This consists entirely of the official representatives of the Provincial Governments and the States with whom we have dealings. This Conference is called in order to straighten out matters over which there may be differences of opinion between ourselves and the Provinces, or between the Provinces themselves *inter se*. Now, that Conference does not necessarily reach conclusions. All these bodies discuss matters and make their recommendations to us. Then, Sir, lastly, there is the Price Fixation Tribunal. On that we have representatives of producers and trade and a certain number of officials. That body meets—I believe it is meeting now—in order to fix prices of food grains for the next season and make their recommendations to us. Thus, there are four bodies, and there can be no question that the Standing Committee of the Legislature stands supreme, and it would not do for it to be mixed up with the other bodies. I undertake, Sir, to keep the Standing Committee posted with the proceedings of those bodies, and I would ask the Standing Committee to favour me with their views on the matters discussed in the other bodies.

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, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Food during the financial year 1945-46."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, with your permission I would slightly amend the motion, in order that it may conform to the wishes of the House, by raising the number from six to eight. I move, Sir:

"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 to advise on subjects in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not know if that will satisfy.

Some Honourable Members: Yes, Sir.

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, eight non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election of Members to the Standing Committees for the Department of Food and the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations upto 12 Noon on Thursday, the 22nd March, and that the election, if necessary, will be held on Wednesday, the 28th March. The elections which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10-30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have also to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon of 15th March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Legislative Department seven nominations were received. Subsequently two members withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang and Sir F. E. James to be duly elected.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR POSTS AND AIR DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have further to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Friday, the 16th March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Posts and Air six nominations were received. Subsequently one member withdrew his candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Mr. A. Satyanarayana Moorty, Mr. H. G. Stokes, Bhai Parma Nand, Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon and Captain Thakur Singh to be duly elected.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have also to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Monday, the 19th March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Labour twelve nominations were received. Subsequently two members withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, Mr. A. C. Inskip, Mr. Piare Lal Kureel, Mr. Gauri Shankar Singh, Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan, Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde, Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani and Sardar Mangal Singh to be duly elected.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume discussion of the Finance Bill. I think Sir Vithal Chandavarkar was speaking when the House adjourned.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association; Indian Commerce): Sir, I congratulate the Honourable Finance Member in trying to follow the lead given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the matter of recognising the fact that the restoration and expansion of the machinery of production calls for some new form of assistance. The measure of relief, as in the case of the United Kingdom, will take the form of a grant of a special additional initial depreciation allowance amounting to 10 per cent. and 20 per cent. respectively in respect of new buildings and new machinery, erected after the 31st March next. But these allowances the Finance Member has told us, are not to be given for E. P. T. purposes. In other words, the effective concession will amount only to about 8 to 9 per cent. and not to 20 per cent. as put down on paper, so long as the Excess Profits Duty continues. While we industrialists appreciate what the retiring Finance Member has done, we feel that the existing plant and machinery which are, to use a colloquial term, worked to death for the purpose of meeting the war requirements of Government and also the civil needs of the country, should have received more consideration at the hands of the Government. The object of our request for some consideration was to create a strong replacement fund for worn out machinery, having regard to the fabulous prices which we feel we will have to pay for replacement of plant and machinery after the war.

The Government were good enough to appoint a special committee to determine the justification or otherwise of the claims of industry for some relief for higher replacement costs. Our representative met the committee which was known as the Sheehy Committee in December 1943; and although fifteen months have elapsed the attitude of the Central Government has not yet been made known to us, and the report of the committee, which we understand is before the Government has not been published. As my friend Sir Homi Mody who represented our case to the Sheehy Committee observed in another place, the Central Board of Revenue seem to believe in wearing out its opponents in the matter of the wear and tear allowance. Before leaving this subject, I would commend for the consideration of the Finance Member what his colleague the

Member in charge of Railways said the other day while introducing the Railway Budget—he said: that if he was to be called upon to replace assets at the level of prices likely to be in force for many years after the war, the depreciation fund should be much larger than it is, even disregarding the question of the adequacy of the existing fund on the existing basis.

I now come to a matter in which I feel I have some justification in taking a little personal pride. That is about the allowances which the Finance Member has announced for grants made for research to recognised institutions by industrial concerns. We in Bombay, I submit, were the pioneers, and my constituency made first to the University Department of Chemical Technology a grant of over Rs. 4½ lakhs and later when Sir John Sheehy came to Bombay we drew his attention to the concession made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in England for such grants made by industrial concerns to approved or recognised institutions. I must admit that Sir John Sheehy at once agreed to place our views before the Finance Member. Now that the Finance Member has come forward with a concession which we all appreciate and which is entirely, in the national interests, I do hope that he will use the administrative powers which the Board has got in giving the benefit of the concession to all members of my association whose contributions were paid during the previous year. May I suggest, now that this concession is made, that the Planning and Development Member should take advantage of it and put pressure upon the industrialists to come forward and make grants for institutions which are in need of funds; and if I may refer to my particular industry, I would suggest to him that it is time the Nizam State had been stored in a place for one year without distributing now for him to appoint a small committee to consider the foundation of a large scale and well planned Institute in India of the type of the Shirley Institute of Manchester. If he takes the initiative now I am sure that within a year or two, India will see the establishment of a Shirley Institute which has done so much good to the textile industry in the United Kingdom.

Now, I would like to support the plea made by my friend Sir Frederick James for the appointment of a Taxation Inquiry Committee. It must be confessed that in imposing taxes Sir Jeremy Raisman has tried to be scientific and has always worked on the basis of some principles; but since the war started our taxation has assumed new forms and varieties. I think the last Taxation Inquiry Committee was appointed in 1925—nearly twenty years back; and the Finance Member will be doing an additional service to the country if he would recommend to his successor to consider the desirability of appointing a taxation inquiry committee. I am particularly anxious that this committee should pay special attention to the revision of the Income-tax Act. The present Act was based on an inquiry made by three departmental experts; and since then we have had so many new features and new restrictions. The present Act is not so simple as it looks; and this has led to a lot of litigation and unnecessary waste of public time both before the income-tax officers, the appellate authority, the tribunal and the High Courts. So I would like him to consider whether it would not be possible for him to go into the question of placing the Income-tax Act on a more just and simple basis.

Sir, I would also like to support, strange as it may seem, the plea made by my friend Mr. Joshi for the appointment of a Ministry of Labour. We industrialists now have to look up to at least three Honourable Members of Government to keep our factories working. The new Department of Industries and Civil Supplies is supposed to be our immediate care taker. If we require some essential raw materials for production, we are directed to the Commerce Department and when the factories stop for want of coal, these two departments seem to have no responsibility and they direct us to the War Transport Department. These complaints have been pointed out times without number. Apart from the administrative difficulty and the difficulties inherent in the constitution I will now refer to a matter which requires in my opinion serious consideration. The Labour Department of the Government is concerned only with those workers who are employed in factories which come within the jurisdiction of the Factories Act. There is no other department of the Government of India to look after the interest of workers in other establishments and particularly those engaged in

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agriculture, which is by far the biggest industry of our country and which comes under the purview of the Department of Education, Health and Lands. That department does not seem to evince any interest in the welfare of agricultural labour. What I mean to say is that the State should look after all workers in India, not only those who are engaged in certain factories. I have already made my point both here and at the Tripartite Labour Conference that nobody seems to care to raise the standard of living of agricultural labour and if that is not done, we are going to have the phenomena which faced us from 1930-37 when agricultural prices went down with the result that the purchasing power of the agriculturist was considerably reduced. The manufacturers had to reduce wages, because they could not afford to sell cloth to their largest and their best purchaser, the agriculturist, even at cost, as his purchasing power had gone down. In this connection may I ask the Honourable the Labour Member, if he would care to tell me, what has happened in regard to a suggestion I made at the Tripartite Labour Conference that the scope of the terms of reference of Social Security Committee should also be extended to agricultural labour or that the Department of Education, Health and Lands should appoint a similar committee to enquire into the question of securing social security for agricultural labour.

Sir, before I conclude I would like to refer briefly to two or three miscellaneous points. I would not have touched on the question of requisitioning of flats in Bombay if the adjournment motion proposed by Sir Cowasjee Jehangir this morning had been found to be in order. I admit that in Bombay, in the past, several houses, not many, have been requisitioned. We were repeatedly told that the policy of the Government of India was not to disturb the existing tenants as far as possible and that they had their eyes on buildings which were occupied not by permanent residents of Bombay but only those buildings in the occupation of people who came and went and had kept establishments for residence during their short stay in Bombay. What do I find in Delhi? Many officers of Government have been accommodated in specially created hostels. The Kotah House, the Mandi House and many other houses have been taken over and converted into hostels. If Government were really anxious to avoid inconvenience to the citizens of Bombay, they could have tried such measures in the first instance before trying to disturb the ordinary civil population. The other day I was told by the Defence Secretary that the three Indian Gymkhanas were taken because they formed a compact area. I belong to a small gymkhana in Bombay the Bombay Bar Gymkhana which is in an isolated corner and this was also taken over in 1942. Now, I do not like the amenities which our people enjoy in clubs and other sporting institutions should be disturbed but if the alternative is to throw people on the streets then I submit that it is the duty of Government to take over these various gymkhanas and clubs like the Willingdon Sports Club and the Cricket Club which run excellent kitchens and convert them into hostels. The Cricket Club, the Willingdon Sports Club, the Yatch Club, the Orient Club, the Bombay Gymkhana and the Radio Club can accommodate a large number of people and can be run as hostels. I make no distinction between European and Indian gymkhanas. (An Honourable Member: "Does Sir Cowasjee Jehangir agree?") There is no question of personalities being affected. If the experiment has been tried in Delhi, I do not see why it cannot be tried in Bombay and if my suggestions are accepted, a large number of military personnel who are required for operational purposes, can be accommodated, without disturbing the citizens who have been born in Bombay, have built houses in Bombay and have lived there for a very long time, long before even the war started. That is my submission to Government in regard to the method of solving this problem of housing of operational personnel in Bombay.

Mr. E. L. O. Gwilt (Bombay: European): I do not want unduly to interrupt the Honourable Member, but I should like to know, if while making the statements which he has made, he bore in mind the amenities offered by the Clubs which have not yet been taken over by the military authorities. He mentioned the Willingdon Club. I am sure he has not forgotten the amenities which the Willingdon Club offers to troops and he may not be aware of the fact . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot make a speech.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: I am aware of the amenities offered. I am not sure whether the Hindu the Islam and Parsi Gymkhanas were asked whether they would be prepared to offer the same amenities to the troops before they were taken over. It is not a question of amenities. It is a question of accommodation first. Is my friend Mr. Gwilt prepared to admit the position that so many people are being thrown out without being offered alternative accommodation? There should be no difficulty in getting up new hutments for these people. I was told the other day at another place, in the Bombay University Senate, when the question of establishing new colleges in Sind was discussed, that there was plenty of building materials in Sind. Sind seems to be a paradise where you can get anything you want, which you cannot get in other provinces. If there is really plenty of building material available in Sind, it can certainly be sent to Bombay and the erection of new colleges in Sind can be postponed till the war is over. Government's first responsibility is to find alternative methods of housing the military personnel. I am not against housing military personnel but if it is a choice between restricting amenities and throwing people on the street, I would prefer to restrict amenities to throwing out people on the street. I have not suggested the Byculla Club and the Bombay Club which house permanent residents of Bombay, although some members had suggested to me that these clubs should also be requisitioned. But I am not in favour of that course.

Now, I come to another question. Recently the Earl of Munster came here to inquire into the provision of amenities for British troops and the Prime Minister has appointed a Personal Representative to look after the British Troops. May I submit that His Excellency the Viceroy should appoint a special officer to inquire into the amenities for Indian troops. There are two Indian officers who have, I am told, reached the rank of Brigadiers. One of these might be selected. I know, as far as the Southern Army Command is concerned, Sir Noel Beresford Pearse had made it more than clear (Sir Ardeshir Dalal was present when that declaration was made) that his policy was that no discrimination should be made between European and Indian soldiers. I am connected with an organisation which deals with the administration of these amenities. I am not prepared to say that there is any discrimination, but just as in the case of controls, there ought to be a supervisory organisation for seeing that the consumer gets the benefit of these controls, I submit that His Excellency the Viceroy should appoint a whole time officer whose business will be to go and see all the military stations and also to the various fighting fronts to ensure that the funds provided by the Red Cross or the Joint War Committee are properly administered and that Indian soldiers get the benefit of the funds which the Government gives out of taxpayers' money as well as out of funds collected for the Red Cross.

Sir, it is usual in debates on the Finance Bill to refer to the political situation. It has been a very gloomy past, but now, there is a silver lining. I refer to the formation of the Congress Ministry at Peshawar. Whatever my friends might say on the other side, I would ask the Government to look upon the acceptance of office by the Congress in the N. W. F. P., as a complete and unqualified withdrawal from the position taken up by the Congress in 1942 and respond to that gesture by a very magnanimous gesture by releasing all the political prisoners who have not been found guilty of sabotage or violence. Let them take that decision, as the Congress have taken the decision to form a Ministry in N. W. F. P. not worrying about what has happened in the past, not worrying about what might happen in the future, but let them respond to that gesture and see whether the situation will not be completely changed. Let them seize this opportunity, I make a special appeal to my Honourable friend the Home Member, whom I have known for the last 37 years, ever since we were together in Cambridge, I appeal to him not to stick to technicalities but to rise to the occasion and respond to the gesture made by the Congress by releasing all the political prisoners all over the country.

Sir, before I sit down, I should like to add my tribute to the tributes paid to my Honourable friend Sir Jeremy Raisman. I used to come in social contact

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education, it is time that it ought to be taken up as a major department and not tagged on to some other department of the Government of India.

I would like to draw attention to the Sargent Scheme. I am glad that the Delhi Province has accepted the scheme and I am also glad that the United Provinces Government has also accepted the scheme *in toto*. But there are three points which require consultation and detailed discussion:

(1) The method of selection at the age of 11 has created apprehensions in the minds of several persons, for example, the representative of the depressed classes in the House feared that his community might be left out. We have to devise methods by means of which a selection could be conveniently made.

(2) The scheme had made no provision for a religious education. In England we know that this has acquired a very important position. It is now included as one of the subjects for which State grants are given. Inspectors are required to examine the candidates in religion. This is becoming a very important subject even in the United Kingdom. In India it is very important too and at least a large number of Muslims consider that elementary education without religious instruction would not be acceptable to them. If we want to make elementary education compulsory for all, it seems desirable that serious attention should be paid to the question of religious instruction. I am glad that the Central Advisory Board of Education has already appointed a committee to consider this question.

(3) The transition period: that is, how are we to give effect to all the recommendations in the report. Though the opinions in the provinces may differ, it is desirable that this should be worked out in detail.

I take this opportunity to thank my Honourable friend who represents the Education Department for having invited two very distinguished academicians from Europe, Sir Walter Moberley and Sir Cyril Norwood. They visited Aligarh for two days and we had an opportunity to discuss with them all the important problems that we had to face, administrative and academic, and both of them are men of very great learning and experience and their advice has proved very valuable to us, and I am sure that it will be very valuable to the other universities also. I do not know whether these educationists will be able to write a report. I had an opportunity to discuss with them in detail the Bill which I am laying before the Assembly on the 5th April. I particularly discussed with them the details of the manner in which we should lay out our scheme of high school education. This I will discuss when this Bill is before us but at this moment I would just like to offer the thanks on behalf of all the persons interested in education for the trouble which these two persons have taken in touring the country and offering their very valuable advice to all the universities in this country.

There is, however, one point to which I would like to draw the attention of the House and that is the question of the Grants Committee. I am glad that the Government of India have accepted to appoint the Grants Committee, but they have mentioned nothing about the grants. There is no reference about the Finance Committee and there is no indication as to what would be the amount of the grant which will be available to the Grants Committee. The Finance Member has been very liberal to the Defence Department and I quite agree with him. He is very liberal to all researches in this country and I entirely agree with him. At least he has tried to be very liberal in dearness allowance and I entirely agree with him but one thing on which I do not agree with him is that he has not got a soft corner for education. The grant which he has given is very small and I would like to know how much money he has got up his sleeves for the Grants Committee which has just been appointed by the Government of India and I hope that it will have some money to distribute and thus save the three universities administered by the Central Government from starvation.

The other day my friend Mr. Kureel spoke very strongly about the separation of the depressed classes from the rest of the population. He said that there ought to be a separate medical college for the Depressed Classes; there ought to

be a separate engineering college for the Depressed Classes. There ought to be a separate university, separate high schools and even separate elementary schools for the Depressed Classes. I do not agree with him and if he is open to conviction I would convince him that a separation of this kind would not be in the interests of the Depressed Classes. I have got very great sympathy for the Depressed Classes, so much so that we give special scholarships from our own funds to the Depressed Classes. We give them special places in the engineering college. We admit them specially in our Geometry Department, where seats are very limited. We show them all courtesy, give them every assistance and I am sure that he will get more from us and also from the general institutions than he can get by means of separate institutions.

As regards admission in the medical college, I am in the same boat as he is. For the last five years I have not succeeded in getting a single student of the Aligarh University admitted in any medical college in India and nobody can say that they are not fit for medical education. But the conditions are such that they could not get admission into the medical college. The position here is very different but in other things my friend Mr. Kureel is not in a very bad position.

As regards the budget of the Delhi Province, as I said on the last occasion, it has been divided into three almost equal parts—one third given as scholarships to the Depressed Classes, one third to the Polytechnic and one third reserved for colleges and high schools. I do not have any quarrel if you give money to the high schools but the money is out of all proportion to the educational budget of the Government of India. One third of the total amount for the Polytechnic for the Delhi Province is too big but for the whole of India it is too small. Therefore you must make up your mind as to whether Polytechnic is a kind of technical school under the Sargent Scheme or whether it will be a kind of university for the whole of India. Therefore make up your mind as to what Polytechnic is intended to be and then you will be able to make your budget. The third thing is about colleges and high schools. I think they are very much starved in the Delhi Province. There ought to be more money provided, if you really want to give effect to the recommendations of the Sargent Committee.

The next thing to which I would like to draw attention—and this is very important not only from the point of view of planning but also from the point of view of education also—is the question of unemployment and how far the education side will be able to help them. Soon after the war we will have two very important problems and I would like to make an attempt to solve both of them simultaneously. One will be a very great demand for primary schools. People will demand that compulsory primary education should be introduced very rapidly. They would not like to wait for ten or fifteen years as is recommended by some Governments. Besides we will have a large number of retrenched clerks and demobilised soldiers for whom some provision will have to be made. I wrote down an article some time ago and it will be published. I suggested the method for the training of teachers. If we follow the traditional method which we have in this country, it will take very long to get the teachers. There are three different methods for training of teachers. In England the teachers are trained in the manner they are trained here. In France they admit the students in the first year and they have got a separate college for the teachers. They attend lectures, take degrees and simultaneously they receive their instruction in pedagogy and the result is that the best researchers in France are the persons who have been in Normal Schools. They get the very best intellect of the community for the training of teachers. In Germany they have not got any training colleges but the would-be teachers are distributed in all the high schools of the country—five, six or even eight—and they are trained under the supervision of a headmaster. All these systems have trained teachers, very efficient teachers, and you cannot say that one method is inferior compared with the other. Therefore we want a large number of teachers very quickly. I suggest therefore that we should adopt those methods of training a number of these would-be teachers, who come out from

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the army or from the offices, by sending them to various high schools to get the training there for a period of a few months after they have done a short term course in various institutions. When Sir Cyril Norwood visited Aligarh he had an opportunity of discussing this matter with the staff of the Training College at Aligarh and they said that they would be able to supply about 200 teachers every year fully trained and will also train partially 200 more at one training college. I think similar attempts can be made in the training colleges and also we should utilise all the high schools and intermediate colleges all over the country. Then we will be able to solve the problem of unemployment and we will be able to train the teachers for starting the high schools in the immediate future. That is the thing which the Planning Department ought to take into consideration.

The next thing in this connection which I discussed was that we should open polytechnics for the cottage industries. The cottage industries is a subject which is very important in itself and cannot be altogether overlooked and ignored. I hope that when this question of unemployment is discussed in the Planning Department one point of view will not be overlooked and that is the number of persons who will find employment in the cottage industries and the number of persons who will find employment in factories. We should not consider it from the point of capital of both, but we should consider it from the points of view of employment and utility it will give to the public, and then we will find that cottage industries give 10 to 20 per cent. more employment than organised industries. This point has to be considered in connection with demobilised soldiers. I am establishing a polytechnic in consultation with the Army Department for demobilised soldiers so that they can get some employment after some training.

Now, I will give up the Planning Department till Sir Ardeshir Dalal comes back. I will take meantime another Department, but just one word about the Delhi Province which was called a "distress province" by Sir Frederick James. Now, two years ago, in the year 1943, I drew the attention of the Assembly and the Law Member, particularly to the method of administration of Delhi Province and the method of enactment they have in Delhi Province. We have authorised the Chief Commissioner of Delhi to take away any section from any enactment of any province and tack it on to the Delhi Province Administrative Regulations. This peculiar way of enactment is not intelligible to me. As I said on that occasion, I understand democracy, I understand Hitlerism, but I do not understand democratic Hitlerism. That is not intelligible to me. This method of enactment which has been authorised in the Delhi Province requires very careful consideration. One individual should not be permitted to take away anything from any law.

Now, I come, to the Planning Department. I congratulate the Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal for the award of the big title to him by the Planning Department of Hyderabad of Nawab Badaz Jung Bahadur. Nawab and Bahadur are prefix and suffix to Jung just like 'Sir' which is a prefix for the title of Knight. Any one who has the title of Jung is called Nawab and Bahadur. I am glad that the Leader of the House and the Home Department have accepted that the title is a correct title. *Bad* (after) Jung Bahadur is a title which by virtue of office he is entitled to have, and nobody can dispute it. Nawab and Bahadur are the necessary prefix and suffix to this title. So this title is the most appropriate title which can be given to my Honourable friend Sir Ardeshir Dalal.

There is only one thing to which I want to draw his attention. He has a panel for employment. There are one or two suggestions which I have made, and I hope he will take them very prominently in doing his planning. All big industries we must have, we must have the key industries, but we should not overlook the fact that we require cottage industries also from the point of view of employment. There is one point to which I should like to draw attention. He has 29 panels, and this number is increasing, I do not know how he regulates

so many panels, I am sick with 20. On all his panels he has only 3 or 4 Muslims. I think it is very desirable that on the panels he forms there should be representatives of different interests, different provinces, not representatives of different industries alone.

Now, I will just say a few words to the Food Department. My friend has been dehydrated on account of the constant application of the scheme of dehydration to every form of food. They have dehydration factories. In one factory the cost of dehydrated meat was very high. Now the cost of production has come down, it is now Rs. 16. But in the Government factory the cost is double that in the private factory. That is, contractors supply the Food Department at a price which is 50 per cent. of the price at which Government prepare their own dehydrated meat. This point requires the careful consideration of the Food Member.

The other thing is this. I do not agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari's attack on the grant given to the U. P. Government. He was not aware of certain facts which happened in U. P., on account of which it became necessary. After the crops were cut, we had heavy rains in the months of April and May which really soaked the wheat which was lying in the fields with the result that U. P. which was supposed to be a surplus province became a deficit province. U. P. Government wanted to make up the loss by some method. Nature really keeps an equilibrium, if the rains were bad for wheat they were really good for *gur* crops. *Gur* became very cheap in U. P., it was only Rs. 5 per maund. The U. P. Government wanted to raise the price from Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 so that they would be able to make up the loss, but the Government of India did not agree, and on account of this prohibition gave them a small bounty of about Rs. 75 lakhs. They purchased *gur* at Rs. 5, which was sold in other provinces at as much as Rs. 20 a maund. Who made the profit we do not know, but at any rate the U. P. Government was not allowed to have this profit.

There is also the question of the duties of the Deputy Secretary of this Department, who, I think, interferes too much with the work of the Inspectors. I think it is desirable that the Anti-Corruption Department should be under the Finance Member or under the Home Department direct, because whenever reports are sent by the C.I.D. they are shelved by the Department. There is no chance of fair trial in cases of corruption.

The other thing is about rationing. I understand rationing, I understand non-rationing, but I do not understand partial rationing, that is 50 per cent. of the population are on ration, and the other 50 per cent. is not. The result is that whenever wheat comes inside the town Government purchase this wheat for those who are on ration, and those who are not on ration get no chance to buy food anywhere. In my opinion the system of rationing requires examination. Except in big towns like Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta, in smaller places it is not worth while to enforce rationing because there are so many methods of getting wheat from different places. What we really want are two things: first, we

should abolish hoarding altogether; and second, everybody who has got wheat ought to declare it; and there ought to be very heavy penalty for hoarding and there should be declaration of stocks. The Food Department should have statistics from which they will know where there is a shortage; and Government itself should be its own purchaser of wheat and send it from one province to another where it is needed. The present system of having so many barriers—there are about 284 barriers between provinces themselves and between Indian States—should go. You do not allow anything to move from one place to another—so much so that when you go some distance wheat is sold at Rs. 10 a maund, but if you go a mile or two still further, the price goes up to Rs. 20 a maund. Such abnormal changes have been created by this special method of administration which business people can alone understand. Leave this matter to the business men and keep a control on these three points which I have outlined and you will probably have better service to the people than you do by the present system.

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Now, I come to the War Department. When the war broke out the Government did not wake up to the need of the time and they did not realise that it would be a total war, for which they would have to make preparation. In the year 1941, for the first time, Lord Linlithgow issued an appeal to recruit one lakh of soldiers. My friend the Leader of the House was at Simla and I happened to be in the same hotel and he said that probably a zero was omitted and that the Viceroy meant a million and so; he spoke to the Viceroy that a zero was omitted. I also happened to see the Viceroy two days later and I told him that probably two zeros were omitted—it ought not to be 1 lakh but 10 millions. I knew that recruitment would grow up gradually and their system and method gradually developed as time proceeded and they had to change it from time to time. But in Aligarh we were somewhat in a fortunate position: we had designed a military college in the year 1937, before the war started: we had funds for that purpose. In 1940 we opened our own air field and we had a landing ground and as part of the university training, we had later on the University Training Corps. The University Training Corps was utilised for the training of the army. Later on in 1943, I was talking one day about the training for the Air Force with an Air Vice-Marshal Collier. We came to the conclusion that we ought to establish an institution—the academic part should be under the university, and the technical part should be under the Air Headquarters, and that school would be recognised as part of the university institutions. We decided this thing in February; later on the school was opened at Aligarh in July and we began to provide training for the air forces. The scheme was so successful that the Government of India adopted the scheme in all the universities; but there are one or two matters to which I wish to draw the serious attention of my friend the Army Secretary. In the university, we had appointed at our own expense two Englishmen who have now left. We have appointed Mr. Jones to teach colloquial English and general knowledge. We give instruction in physical education, swimming and everything else, providing everything ourselves; and in the case of the air training corps a selection is made by the air officers—staff deputed by the Air Headquarters for making the selection: then after three months training the Air Headquarters examined the candidates themselves and they say they are qualified so much. Out of about 40 candidates who joined the air training corps, 15 were selected as very competent by the Air Headquarters themselves. But out of these 15, when they went to G.H.Q. they selected only one. This is really very unfair. If all these 15 had gone for the first time to the G.H.Q. Board, they might have been selected. But once they have been trained and examined and interviewed by the Air Headquarters twice—at the time of admission and at the time of passing the examination—then to fail them wholesale by the G.H.Q. Board is not very desirable and is a great discouragement to the whole scheme of the Air Training Corps on account of this abnormal difference in the selection by the Air Headquarters themselves and by the G.H.Q. Board. There ought to be some kind of correlation between these two bodies; and the absence of that correlation is really a serious handicap to the training of these persons. I made a suggestion some time ago—they have got a psychiatrist—I do not believe in it myself and I cannot tell you the reasons in this short time—but suppose it is correct, then this psychiatrist should be able to judge at the time the students join the air training corps. It is rather unfair to these students and everybody and unfair even to themselves to allow everybody to join and give them instruction and afterwards when they go to the G.H.Q. Board to tell them they have failed. The psychiatrist test should be given at the time of admission and not finally: and if that is done, it will remove some of the very serious difficulties that I have in mind.

The other thing is about the Naval Training Corps I have been pressing very hard that there should be a naval training corps on the same lines as the air training corps; but our Indian admiralty have not got the same imagination and this scheme did not receive the assent of our Indian admiralty. My friend

Mr. Trivedi, according to the terminology of the United Kingdom, is the Civil Lord of the Indian Admiralty—or the First Lord of the Indian Admiralty. He is the channel between the civilian population and the admiralty. There are two points to which I would like to draw his attention in that capacity. The first is that they have now decided that all those who are serving in the navy under emergency commissions will not be eligible for permanent appointment. I enter a strong protest against that. These persons who are serving under emergency commissions at the risk of their lives should have the first chance, if they are otherwise eligible and if they prove themselves fit in every way. You are choosing for the permanent appointments persons who have never been in the navy and who may be in the third or fourth year class in college; you are recruiting such men for permanent service, while those who have served at the risk of their lives at the time of your necessity are turned out for permanent appointments after the war. This is an important point.

The next point is that we must remember, whatever we may say, that the best defence for India is to maintain a very efficient army, navy and air force even after the war. This thing should not end as soon as the war is over; we should have a very efficient body even after the war and that would be the biggest defence of the country.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Biggest defence is the will of the people.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Before I finish this thing, I have a personal difficulty to which I cannot find a solution. Perhaps our council as intermediary link between us and the Army Department will be able to help. We have got in Aligarh an Air Training Corps. We have got an Engineering College. We have sent 1,200 students in the emergency commissions. We have given 150 Engineers for the various services in the fighting forces and we have trained about 1,800 technicians for the army. We have not only got a pre-cadet school, but we have got military science as a subject of study for the university degree. We wanted to have an Auchinleck Institute where we co-ordinate all the efforts and bring them to one institution. H. E. the Commander-in-Chief has accepted that this institute may be called after his name. We collected funds from the public and not from my friend Mr. Trivedi or Mr. Tyson. They have not given us a penny. The one thing which we have not got is the material. When I went to the Master General of Ordnance about this, he asked us to see the Engineer-in-Chief and he said that the initiative for this must come from the Education Department. He also said that the question is connected with the Defence Secretary who may be called the First Lord of the Admiralty, as far as the Navy is concerned. I would request him on the floor of this House that he should take upon himself the task of having the Auchinleck Institute, supply the material and be present at the time when this institute is formally opened in a few months' time.

I now take up the control system. This concerns my Honourable friend Sir Azizul Huque representing the Commerce and Industries Departments. This department has brought in a new development which I do not understand. I am always a free trader myself and I never liked the speech of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain in the year 1902, when I was in Cambridge, when he first introduced the scheme of protection in the United Kingdom, because I think England always did better under free trade than under protection. I opposed the protection to the Iron and Steel industry in 1934 and I think the circumstances proved that my friend Sir Ardeshir Dalal was right and I was wrong at that time. Otherwise we would not have developed the steel industry and they would not have done so much as they have done now. But I always like free trade in the country and free trade will always be better in the end. We have now murdered, assassinated and tortured the whole of free trade. What is the free trade now? If you want to open a shop, you want a license or permit. If you want to buy a thing, you must go and obtain a license or a permit. If you want to sell a thing you must have a permit. There are permits required at every stage. (An Honourable Member: "If you want to die, you want an exit

(Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.) permit!") This system of permit is not desirable and these permits and licenses are not given free. They have to pay a fee and in order to pay the fee, they have to earn the money by means of backdoor methods and black markets. Black markets are a necessary consequence of the system which we have introduced into this country in the matter of trade. You can tolerate it during the war or one year after it but it must end and I think we ought to fall back upon freedom of trade as much as we possibly can in the circumstances. Therefore I really very strongly recommend that as soon as the war is over we should appoint a committee on the lines of the Fiscal Commission of 1921 to consider the entire economic problem of trade. This is a thing which is very important and we cannot wait very long for that and this thing may be done as early as possible after the war.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): When do you expect the war to end?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I have got my own views but persons who know better say that the war in Europe will be over in 1945 and it will take 18 months more to finish the war with Japan. That is the opinion of experts who know the position better than I do. (An Honourable Member: "Is it a mathematical calculation?") Mathematics does not come into this. It is calculated by backdoor methods. This is a thing which ought to be taken into consideration and we ought to restore the economic equilibrium of the country.

My time is coming to an end. I should like now to refer to the exhibition which the Railway Department are having at Delhi. It is a very good exhibition and I hope they will take the trouble to show it at other centres as well, such as Calcutta and Lahore. I saw some of their research work, especially by the engineer of the G. I. P. Railway, so much so I wrote to the Engineering students of Aligarh to come here for a day and see this exhibition here.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With or without tickets?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Students get concession tickets.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: They usually travel without tickets.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: My friend is repeating his own experiences and I am telling my experience. It is very desirable that these things should be shown in other towns as well.

I should like to make a reference to the question of the amalgamation of railways. I do not like to say much as the Honourable Member in charge said that he would give us an opportunity to discuss it at some other time but I should like to mention one point to the Honourable the Finance Member. Whenever we spend money on these big enterprises, the matter requires to be carefully examined. We must make it a rule that any scheme costing more than 15 lakhs should be examined carefully by experts and we should not be guided by the advice given by the General Manager or the Chief Mechanical Engineer or the Chief Engineer. The Railway Board at one time indulged in very extravagant expenditure, which I called the follies of the Railway Board. They undertook expenditure without careful examination and the time has now come when we should have a careful examination of all points before embarking on the expenditure. We must make it a rule that all expenditure costing more than 10 or 15 lakhs should be scrutinised by an expert and then the matter must be brought before the Standing Finance Committee. With these remarks, I resume my seat.

Mr. G. W. Tyson (Bengal: European): Sir, in rising to support the motion before the House I do not propose to go back to Mr. Joseph Chamberlain in 1902. I am only going back as far as the cut motion which we debated last week, when my party scored a Pyrrhic Victory on the subject of economy. I rather think that some Honourable Members were left in some doubt as to what I said on that occasion and what my meaning was. I may not have made it quite clear to my Honourable friends then that there is a very clear cut and substantial difference between economy and a sudden cessation of Government spending after the end of hostilities. In replying to the debate the Honourable the Finance Member was good enough to say that he would have appreciated

the views of the Mover of the cut motion and others on this particular aspect of war time finance. In the very brief contribution which I propose to make this afternoon, I shall devote myself almost entirely to that aspect of the present financial set up. Quite obviously anything in the nature of economy or savouring of retrenchment is quite different to deflation. Obviously, we shall, all the nations of the world must, have some measure of deflation after the war. That is inevitable and indeed desirable. But when I was speaking the other afternoon, it was far from my intention to advocate that the machine should be put into reverse and that anything in the nature of a precipitate deflationary movement should be initiated, because the effects of that would be highly deleterious to all sections of Indian economy and most of all to primary producers of agricultural products. The pangs of deflation are, I think, very succinctly summarised by a very great authority. Lord Keynes, in a book which he wrote more than 20 years ago—Tract on Monetary Reform—said:

"Deflation which causes falling prices means impoverishment of labour and to enterprise by leading *intrepreneurs* to restrict production"

Then he goes on to point out that one of the worst effects of deflation falls upon labour which is in a better position to protect itself from over-exertion in good times than from under employment in bad times. I think, Sir, that goes pretty clearly and thoroughly to the heart of the matter. Speaking two or three days ago, my Honourable friend and colleague, Sir Frederick James, made a very brief and passing reference to what is in fact the linchpin of the whole of this subject, and that is the question of prices. I think his reference was to post-war reconstruction. He made an oblique, very slight and passing reference to the price level. I suggest, Sir that is the clue to the situation which is likely to develop in this country during the course of the next two or three years. What Honourable Members will have, sooner or later, to enquire into and satisfy themselves is whether the Government are in a position to control the overall level of prices, if and when the war suddenly comes to an end. Economic and monetary forces are no respecters of persons and I may say that it will not matter in the least, what form of Government is sitting on the Treasury Benches, that Government will have to face up to precisely the same monetary problems, in so far as they hang upon the general question of the price level. After the last war, in the mid twenties, Honourable Members may recall that there was a precipitate drop in prices which brought about a world depression. It is perhaps not without some significance that proportionately India's general price level of today has probably risen as high as that of any other belligerent. It is therefore, in my view, a reasonable hypothesis that if and when a fall in prices commences from natural causes, unless it is checked and graduated to some extent, it will cause more harm to this country than is likely to accrue elsewhere. So far as I can see, no money magic by itself is likely to relieve the situation; for Allied expenditure in India, which has been the chief stimulus to price increases and which has been imposed in a steadily rising crescendo over a period of four or five years, cannot be so gradually withdrawn. It is much more probable, in my view, that the sheer circumstances of victory will lead to a sudden, possibly sharp, but certainly perceptible, diminution and ultimately final termination of allied expenditure which will confront the Government of India with new and pressing economic problems. The question, which is in my mind and I hope the Honourable the Finance Member when he comes to reply to this debate will find it possible to give an answer to it, is whether the Government of India have contemplated this contingency, and if so, what steps they may have in mind to meet it. Money management of course, as we know may provide part of the answer to this problem which the experience of the last 20 or 25 years has shown is not entirely as intractable as some people are inclined to think. The price level has two distinct significances for a country such as India, because in the first place, we are exporters of primary products on a large scale and now today, we are amongst the world's more important creditor nations. Internally, the course of the domestic price level, to put it briefly and in a rather textbook sort of fashion, determines social justice as between the various classes of the community; and externally, in my view, the parity of prices which is established

[Mr. G. W. Tyson.]

between India and the world prices will in a very real and substantial fashion determine the initial cost of planning and development and the real value which India is to get out of her new found creditor status. As I have said, I do not think that monetary management will wholly control the situation. To my mind it will have to be reinforced by a more deliberate, intelligent and realistic application of the physical controls, which are now exercised in the field of commodities. In this matter the Finance Member, now and in the future, will clearly require the willing and resourceful cooperation of a number of other departments of Government, some of whose price policies, I can say quite frankly, have hitherto not been wholly intelligible either to friend or foe. In this matter we cannot off-load entirely the responsibility on to the financial authority of the day; nor, may I say, as a firm believer in individual enterprise, can we expect private enterprise alone to provide the necessary checks and balances, and inspiration and the forces that are necessary to keep the post-war economic and monetary situation stable in India. Government must, in fact, exercise a progressive and beneficent supervisory interest and do their best to show private enterprise where it is most needed, where it can most usefully employ itself and in what directions. I am afraid, Sir, I have left this price problem rather in the air and not suggested any solution. I think at this stage if one can bring oneself to realise that there is a serious problem in this that is probably sufficient.

And that brings me to the field of industry and in particular to the department of Planning and Development. One asks oneself what they have so far done to show the way to private enterprise. So far as I know, they have produced two valuable planning reports; but it is I think a serious defect in both these reports that, as far as my studies have shown, there is no real consideration given to the part which the price level is likely to play in future planning. The omission of any full consideration of the influence of the general level of post-war prices on the cost of social services and the new industries which are protected for the postwar heaven, must be regarded as an important and serious gap in the planes which have been published by the Honourable Member's department. The Honourable Member has the assistance of a number of very able economists, and I suggest that the department might well go on with an inquiry at a high level into this particular aspect of the matter.

On the subject of industry I think there is a certain merit in putting first things first, and the second report on planning does mention on page 3 the conversion of industry from war to peace as one of the short-term objectives of the Planning and Development Department. That is a formal recognition of an important process that is to take place. But, if I may say so with great respect to the Honourable Member for Planning and Development, it is not planning and cannot be designated as such. I am quite sure that both British and Indian industry would welcome more positive information as to the rate at which the Planning and Development Department considers industry in this country is likely to be able to return to the pursuits of peace, if and when the war situation permits. For, let me remind Honourable Members, it is to existing industry that Government must look for the first instalments of the help, in the problems of demobilisation and resettlement, and for the various urban development plans which they have in mind. If I may say so, it is far more important than some of the other subjects to which consideration has quite rightly been given here, but whose priority must be regarded as coming after the position of existing industry.

Having said this, having said that there is in my view a case for preparing plans to gear existing industry to the peace needs when it can safely be done, I feel constrained to express my surprise at the attitude of such an experienced and eminent man of business as my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, who spoke yesterday afternoon on the general question of imports and referred to what he called the 'menace' of importing consumer goods. I saw a newspaper report the other day—whether it is true or not I do not know—that a mission which is at present in England had arranged for the importation in

a period of time of some sixty million pounds worth of consumer goods into this country. I am surprised at the fuss and the stir which this has created, because in India's present condition it seems to me she can, in fact with the greatest ease, take five times that amount of consumer goods with the very greatest possible benefit to her economy. There can be in my view no question of a menace in a deal of this kind. If, as is likely, we are now embarking upon a further phase of high protective tariffs—and I am not quarrelling with it; I will merely say this in a highly objective fashion and with this observation I will finish—the real menace will lie in the sacrifice which such a policy will involve on the part of the consumer, a sacrifice which he may or may not think worth while; and a further menace will be the menace which such a policy holds for the revenues of this country, which in ordinary times have for so long rested on a substantial contribution from customs duties.

Sardar Sant Singh: Sir, in reply to a short notice question this morning the Secretary for the External Affairs Department stated the brief that is to be given to the two delegates from India. In that brief we are told that the Governor General in Council will give them instructions to participate on behalf of the Government of India. The present position of the Government of India Act is well known to us all. It is no fault of the delegates, I must say, that they have been appointed to their present position by this Government of India. If there is a fault, the fault lies in the constitution which we are all anxious to get rid of as soon as we can. Anybody who is sent under the present Government of India Act will have to go by such instructions as the present constitution permits them to have. But the main question which I addressed to the Secretary, External Affairs Department, and which he declined to answer was whether the instructions given to the delegates by the Governor General in Council will not be interfered with by the Secretary of State and whether they will be permitted to follow the instructions given by the present Governor-General in Council—that is the point which we want to know because the proceedings of this conference are to considerably affect the future of the world. Therefore the people of India are naturally very anxious to know how the case of India will be represented in that conference. We know that the Government of India has not given this House an opportunity to express their views which the delegates might follow with advantage in that conference; the House has been deprived of this opportunity.

Sir, I will make a suggestion on this point and that is His Excellency the Governor General and the Members of his Executive Council would be well advised to take counsel with the leaders at the political parties in the country before they proceed to commit India to any policy which this conference may decide upon. I do not think they should stand on the theory of prestige in this matter. There are persons who are respected by the people of India and who have got definite opinion about the matters which are going to be discussed in the Conference at San Francisco. I hope, Sir, that this suggestion will find a response even with the present Government of India as it is constituted.

Next I come to the contributions that have been made by India towards the war during the last five years. Of course we have been hearing of the various contributions made by India in men, money and material towards this war. But there are certain invisible gifts that India has made to this war and which are being lost sight of in the discussions that are taking place in that connection.

The first of these gifts is the interest on sterling balances that are accumulated in England. I am not a student of finance, and therefore I will crave the indulgence of the Honourable the Finance Member and the House if I am not very exact in my expression. But the fact remains that India is paying something like 30 crores of rupees in interest charges on the debts that have risen on account of the war during the last five years. The accumulation of these sterling balances in England deprived India of that interest which India would have otherwise earned if these sterling balances had not been accumulated there. At 3 per cent. I think the interest would come to 3 million pounds a year.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: How do you calculate 3 million pounds?

Sardar Sant Singh: 3 per cent., which the Government of India pays if it borrows money in India, on one-thousand million pounds would come to...

An Honourable Member: Thirty-million pounds.

Sardar Sant Singh: Yes. I am sorry, it comes to 30 million pounds which is a gift to England on that account. It is not accounted for anywhere.

The second gift is the reverse lend-lease transactions. We do not know the exact amount of lend-lease transactions. The accounting is done by Great Britain. We are not in a position to give an arithmetical.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Financial Member): Did the Honourable Member say that the accounting is done by Great Britain?

Sardar Sant Singh: That is what I understood the Honourable Member to say.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No, I did not say that.

Sardar Sant Singh: Then, may I know how much money is invested by India in these reverse lend-lease accounts? We pay for the American troops and other American expenses, and the Government of India issues notes on that account. Who is keeping this account?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: We are keeping the account.

Sardar Sant Singh: What is the total amount?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is mentioned in my Budget speech.

Sardar Sant Singh: Again, the interest on this amount is a loss to India. If the money had been realized, we would have made some interest on that account. That is one way of looking at it.

The third gift made by India during this war is in the shape of the profits which the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation has made. They purchased goods in India at controlled rates and sold them in other countries at very high profits. The profits went to the capitalists of Great Britain, profits which legitimately belonged to India. Those profits we have lost and this is another contribution which we have made. I hope my Honourable friend will throw some light on this question. By giving a monopoly of purchase to the U. K. C. C., he has deprived India of the profits that India could have legitimately claimed by selling those goods in other countries.

The fourth gift that we have made is in respect of the sale of gold. Today the price of gold in India has gone very high. Foreign gold purchased by Great Britain has been sold in India and the profit has gone to England. The margin of profit between the purchase rate and sale rate of gold should have been kept in India if the Government of India had purchased the gold and sold it on their own behalf. It would have lightened the burden of taxation in this country.

The fifth gift is the payment that India makes to the British troops stationed in India. Every one of us knows that the cost of maintaining a British soldier is four times that of an Indian soldier. Speaking purely from the financial point of view and not taking the military considerations into account, what is it that compelled the British imperialism to maintain the British troops in India? I can safely say that within the ceiling limit fixed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to maintain the British troops in India, India has to pay for the British troops while the Indian soldiers overseas are paid by the British Exchequer. The cost of the former is much higher both on account of the British troops being in greater number in India than the Indian soldier outside as well as in the basic difference in the scales of pay of two kinds of troops. One cannot understand after all what the Indian soldier has done on the field of battle why he should be taken overseas and British soldiers kept in India and India is made to pay the defence charges which are much beyond her capacity. This is the fifth gift that India is made to make to Great Britain. Therefore, we are entitled to say that Indian finance has not been worked in the interests of India and these gifts which are invisible gifts made to Great Britain are very much more than the £100 millions contributed by the predecessor of this Assembly in the war of 1914—18.

From these financial matters, which are as a matter of fact not very congenial to my line of speech, I come now to those matters in which I take real interest. The one thing in which I have taken real interest is the constitution of India. I have strongly supported the establishment of the rule of law in this

country. I have been a staunch advocate of the rule of law. The rule of law in my opinion is the foundation stone on which the whole superstructure of democracy is built. Yet the rule of law as it has existed in this country has been only in form and not in substance. I have no time today to quote instances to support my contention. From the very beginning of British Rule in India, there has been racial discrimination in the statute book. There has been less of sticking to rules of law whenever there has been a political question involved in its administration. However, under the Defence of India Rules, this rule of law has reached vanishing point. Statutory enactments have been virtually repealed by framing rules under this Defence of India Act. Procedural law has been thrown to the background. Nay, even the fundamentals of criminal jurisprudence have been violated ruthlessly. Judicial independence has been curtailed to a degree undreamt of by the British jurists. The judgments of various High Courts bear ample testimony to the inroads made by the Executive over the domains of the independence of the High Courts and the Legislature; but thanks to the independence of the Judges of the High Courts the rigours of the Defence of India Rules have been to a little extent relaxed. I mention only one instance where the Executive declined to forward the petitions of the detenus to the High Court when they had a complaint to make against the inroads committed by the Executive. It was only when certain high Executive officers were committed for contempt of Court and summoned to answer in the High Court that the matters were brought on to right lines. It was interesting to read some of the strange explanations given by those Executive officers in justification of their conduct. The disappearance of the petitions on the plea that they have been mislaid was an unheard of situation in any competent administration. However, without casting any reflection or blame of perjury upon those big officials, they could not escape without having some doubt cast upon their integrity as Executive officers by the High Court.

These inroads in the domain of law by the Defence of India Rules was not confined to the Defence of India Act alone. As a matter of fact, the Legislatures were also overlooked. The Honourable the Law Member has allowed himself to be stampeded by another constitutional vagary found in the Government of India Act of 1935. No doubt the constitution of India as it exists today concedes co-ordinate power of legislation to the Governor General and the Governors. But every student of constitutional history knows that such power was granted not for the purpose of superseding the properly constituted Legislatures much less for the purpose of ignoring the Legislature, but for the purpose of emergencies alone. We know, Sir, at our cost that during the five years of war Statute books have been flooded with Governor General's ordinances. The issue of ordinances is the rule and enactment by properly constituted Legislature is an exception today. Whenever a statute or a part of a statute collapses by heart failure, this Legislature is utilised to perform its burial ceremony and to attend to its funeral. Even in this Session we have been asked to give a decent burial to several enactments by the passing of a Repealing Bill.

The country is being run by ordinances today. The flow of these ordinances continues unhampered even when the Central Legislature is in Session. I call it an insult to this House and we register a strong protest against this practice. Let the civilized world take note of the fact when assessing the value of the present constitution of India. Is there any civilized administration that can designate this system of government as one of its kind? What a barbarous system it is then! The same thing prevailed in the old days when the Ukases were issued by the Governors of those time under different names. I wish the Government of India would take note of it and realise that the people of this country strongly protest against the issue of ordinances by one man however high he may be.

Next, Sir, is the allied question of the abuse of the Defence of India Rules. When I deal with the abuse of the Defence of India Rules I deal with the blackest spot on the white face of this Government. The record of this Government has always been very ugly indeed. Breach of princely word, breach of faith, ruthless suppression of the people, both on the material and sentimental

[Sardar Sant Singh.]

side, magnifying the people's weaknesses—and of course, every people have their weaknesses—to their own advantage is too awful a record for any ruler who claims to be civilized. The administration of the Defence of India Rules has made the record of the Government uglier still, if it can be uglier at all. Granting that during the war the executive authority should be armed with extraordinary powers for the period of the war and that was the reason why the Defence of India Act was passed by this Legislature, none can deny the fact that the Legislature expected and so did the Indian nation that such powers would have been used only in most emergent cases, where the ordinary law of the land would have obstructed the war effort. The civilised canon of conduct has always been that the more the power given, the more sparingly it should be used. These powers are not intended as shortcuts to achieve the desired end. The House has been bringing to the notice of the Government the abuses of the Defence of India Rules. Instances have been numerous and varied, from the collection of land revenue to the use of coercion for restoration of a wife to her husband's relatives when her husband was in the war and sending her parents to jail; for the purpose of maintaining the Party in power in the Provinces. Opposition members of the Provincial Legislature have been detained in jail, for that very purpose when out they were restrained from attending their respective Assemblies. These are some of the instances in which the Defence of India Rules have been used. The instances can be multiplied. The Government of India have persistently declined to accept my suggestion to appoint a committee of this House to review the working of the Defence of India Rules and to advise the Department in its future working. A similar committee of the House of Commons was necessitated and the Parliament agreed to appoint such a committee. If it is necessary in a responsible Government like the Government of Great Britain, surely there is far greater need for such a committee in India, where the Government is irresponsible and irremovable. The Honourable the Home Member the other day gloated over his answer that only 50 persons are in detention under the orders of the Government of India and about 1,500 at the instance of the Provinces where Provincial Autonomy is functioning. I cry shame, utter shame to this attitude. The Government of India cannot escape so easily from the responsibility for their action and the acts of those Provincial Governments which are behaving in such a shameful manner. The fact of the matter is that all honest Provincial Governments are not functioning at all. They could not function and thus give a chance to the Honourable the Home Member to gloat over those acts which are, to say the least, unconstitutional in spirit if not in the letter of the law. To bring the comparison to bold relief, one honest Provincial Government that came to power the other day in the North-West Frontier Province celebrated their coming to power by releasing the Members of their own Assembly immediately from jail. This was the first act they did. If there is any self-respect left in the Provincial Governments that are functioning today they should immediately follow the healthy example set by the N.-W. F. P. Ministry.

My main object for referring to the detention of men without trial is a different one. After all what is the fault of these persons? Take for instance the members of the Congress Working Committee. Their worst fault is that they held different opinions on political questions, different from those which the Government of the country held. The country belongs to them. They feel more strongly for the interests of the people of this country than a foreign ruler can. The British are of a different opinion and the Indians are of a different opinion. Why not argue it out. The best argument should prevail. That is the law of civilisation. Force should have no place in the discussion of political problems that face us. Here in India the conditions are otherwise. The fact of the matter is that the Britisher tried to argue the constitutional problem with the Indian patriots but came out second best—so the bureaucrat in India used the last weapon and sent their opponents behind the bars. The best argument is always with the Government and the best argument lies in this that whenever they cannot argue with the patriots on equal footing for the moves on this

chess-board, they throw the chess-board away. They fall back upon their one argument which Indians do not possess and that argument is to send a policeman, catch hold of them and put them behind the bars to end the argument. (Interruption by Major Nawab Sir Ahmad Nawaz Khan.) I will wait and see what is the best argument. Nawab Sir Ahmad Nawaz Khan will enlighten us and thus increase our knowledge of constitutional problems. When the Government of India are unable to argue they send their military and police to put an end to the argument by shutting the patriots behind the bars. This is what I call throwing away the chess-board, while the game is on. Mahatma Gandhi gave non-violence and Ahimsa. Obviously it is no match for the Honourable the Home Member's bayonet. Self-mortification may succeed ultimately but that is a long range policy. May I ask the Honourable the Home Member and his Master, Mr. Amery, how will he ever justify the detention of such eminent personages without trial before his ancestors like Austin, Dicey and other jurists?

An Honourable Member: He does not know them.

Sardar Sant Singh: I expected the reply that he does not know them. The copies of their works are in the Library of this House.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): Better circulate a copy.

Sardar Sant Singh: I think the Members should make a fund and present him with a copy of the jurists' books for his study, so that he may not have the trouble to fish out a copy from the Library of the House. I hope, Sir, he will study once more the fundamental principles of criminal jurisprudence in order to learn what I call civilised methods of administration against barbarous methods which are being adopted today in this country. I am only referring him to the jurists of his own country, his own ancestors, who have left a large number of books on that subject. The volumes are there. An educationist is not expected to know them, but the Honourable the Home Member is expected to know them. The Law Member is master of criminal jurisprudence, he knows the rules of law, but the Home Member knows the rule of the executive.

Next, I come to the point, which I consider a vital necessity, of consulting the Legislature more often than is done. The present Government regard this House as possessing nothing more than what is called nuisance value. The Government of India seem to think that Members come here to vilify the administration, and that the net result of their speeches is that the Government of India is brought into more contempt and hatred. Akbar, not the ruler, but the poet, said—I want you Dr. Zia Uddin to hear it—

*Isne hai hokumat-i-Inglishia ko behtar samjha;
Jis ne keh hai gore ko Laftant Governor samjha.*

Every Britisher in India is a potential Governor. This system has brought an end to this feeling. The Indian National Congress has spoiled the whole scheme. My Honourable friend seems to say that we shall not have any contests with them. This line of reasoning has been adopted to curtail the Sessions of the Legislature to as few days as they possibly can. In 1931 when I first came here till the last Assembly, the Session used to begin on 8th or 4th January and end in the first week of April. Now it begins in the middle of February and ends by the end of March. Now I remember we used to pass the Finance Bill after a night sitting, because the Finance Bill must be disposed of by the 31st March. Today all that is gone, and we are here, as I said in the earlier part of my speech, simply to perform the funeral ceremonies of those statutes in the Government of India Statute book which have collapsed by heart failure.

Government of India seem to think that these titular personages like Dr. Sir Zia Uddin, Sir Yamin Khan, and others who represent the Muslim League, have rebelled against Government and inflicted something like a dozen defeats in the course of this Session. They cannot tolerate it, and they refuse to consult the Legislature on that account. But this line of reasoning is not a correct one. I hope my reading is not correct, but if it is correct, I want to tell you that this line of reasoning is not a sound one.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[20TH MAR. 1945]

[Sardar Sant Singh.]

If the Government of India seriously study the matter they will find that rule by democratic method differs from rule by autocratic method in this that the vote replaces the assassin's knife. In an autocratic and despotic country Government is removed by the assassin's knife, but in a democracy Government is brought to its sense by the adverse vote of the legislature. This is a healthy change. This change is the only reason why a democratic system of Government has become so popular in the world today. Consultation of the houses of legislature and popular vote enable people to voice their grievances and make even irresponsible Governments wiser in their policies. If the constitution does not in India yield place to popular vote, the fault is not of democracy, but it lies with those who have tinkered with democracy and made this a shadowy part of the constitution of this country. The demand of the Congress, Muslim League, and all other sensible men, is for a flexible constitution and not a rigid one. Change the constitution, and no Government will survive more than one defeat. We will not then have to inflict series of defeats nor will bring the Government into contempt and ridicule as after one defeat it will have to cross the floor of the House from this side to the other side. That will be the advantage of a responsible Government. Therefore, Sir, even under the present constitution, when I ask for more Sessions of the Assembly, I ask more for the good of this Government than for the good of the Members of the Assembly or of the country. In this connection, Sir, I express the hope that the present Government of India will soon yield place to a more responsible Executive even under the present Government of India Act. I wish, Sir, the period between the present Government and the change should be much shorter than what we fear it will take. Now the constitution will have to be taken very soon in hand. I may, with your permission, Sir, refer to the Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, which is doing the spade work. I hope the report of that Committee, when it is issued a few weeks hence, will set people thinking on right lines to solve the present political deadlock in the country.

Next, Sir, I come to the grievances of some of the workers under the Government of India. My friend, the Honourable Mr. N. M. Joshi, has already dealt with two of the questions—scales of pay and adequacy of dearness allowance. I will not repeat the arguments which are there. I simply want today to associate myself with the desire of these poor workers to get a sufficient living wage for their work.

I now come to a problem which has formed the subject of my questions in the last Session and in this Session, in which Sardar Mangal Singh has joined me, to put forward the claims of the Sikhs to be represented in the higher services of the Government of India. I do not want to tire the patience of the House by quoting from the various answers given here. The one common factor which I will bring to the notice of this House is the total absence of the Sikhs in the higher posts in the Government of India. By their Resolution of July 1934, the Government of India has given us 8.3 per cent representation along with other minorities,—Christians, Anglo-Indians, Parsis and others. I only want them to understand that linking us with all these minorities, some of whom have got separate weightage in some departments, as Anglo-Indians have got in the Telegraph Department and the Railways—this formula has worked quite unfairly towards the Sikhs. I wish that this 8.3 per cent should be divided according to the population of the minorities, and the percentages out of this 8.3 per cent should be divided according to the numbers of the population. I understand that the Sikh population will in that case get 4.5 out of this 8.3 per cent. If the formula, which has been advocated by the Honourable Mr. Chatterjee for the Christian community the other day, is adopted, I think it will give some satisfaction; but I want to strike a note of warning along with that. We do not want that the percentages should be filled by the appointment of various peons and *chaprassis* in the various offices. We want higher posts. I am flooded with complaints.

Sir Gowastee Jehangir: Where do you want this? In the Punjab or in the Government of India or in different provinces?

Sardar Sant Singh: In the Government of India. The circular is by the Government of India—it has nothing to do with the provinces. In the Punjab we have got something like 25 per cent. I am talking about the services under the Government of India. And I am talking for the Parsis as well. My submission is that I am flooded with complaints in the various departments of the Government of India where the legitimate rights of qualified persons have been either ignored or simply set aside. I have got cases in which, on merits, a Sikh stood very high and yet was not given the job and a man of lower qualifications has been imported from outside. I do not want to mention the departments, because none of them is free from this sin against the Sikh community. Therefore I will say that I associate myself with the reasons given by the Reverend Mr. Chatterjee for separating this 8.3 per cent into several compartments according to the population of the minorities and allotting seats to each minority in a more definite way and not this rotation business where the turn of the Sikhs never seems to come.

I have not much more to say; I will only end by making a request, and that request is this, that the Government of India as it is working today under the Defence of India Rules should now begin to consider the advisability of relaxing those rules and releasing all the detenus. It is a great shock to the country to see them shut up behind the bars for such a long time, for practically no fault which can be called a crime in any legislature. Sir, I have finished.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I ask for the indulgence of the House, as my health does not permit me to raise my voice. I will explain myself slowly. We are thinking of post-war reconstruction and post-war planning. Industrial development and agricultural development, and development of trade and commerce—all this is not possible unless there is development of a proper banking system. As the Honourable the Finance Member has told us the other day, the banks serve as financing agents of trade and industry, and play a vital part in the economic and financial life of the country. There cannot be any doubt about the truth of this proposition. The question therefore arises whether our banking system as it exists today is such as to serve that function of being the financing agents of trade and commerce.

We have been crying ourselves hoarse for over half a century now for the organisation of a proper banking system. We have been demanding two things for over half a century in this connection. In the first place, a proper investigation of the question of banking; and in second place, when as a result of that investigation the banking problems are determined, then the next thing is to attempt solution of those problems.

I think I am absolutely correct when I say that it is more than half a century that the country has been demanding an inquiry into the question of the banking system. I think it was as early as 1890 that the first Industrial Conference gave consideration to this question and demanded an immediate inquiry into the banking system, with pointed reference to the indigenous bankers and the needs of trade and commerce. Next came the Royal Commission on Indian Finance and Currency in 1914—a quarter of a century after. They also very strongly recommended the immediate appointment of a committee. Then came the Industrial Commission of 1918. They reiterated the same demand. Then came the External Capital Committee in 1924, emphasizing the importance of a co-ordinated survey of the whole field of banking in India. I stress those words "the whole field of banking in India" because banking in this country does not mean a few joint stock banks which have been established in recent times. Joint stock banks do not do even a small fraction of the whole banking business of this country. It has been found by all the committees that the vast bulk of the banking business of the country is carried on by the indigenous bankers. After that there was the Royal Commission on Agriculture which also reported in 1928 and recommended the organisation of a proper banking system. Then later on the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in 1927 and 1928 made a special contribution in this matter. They attached special

[Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta.].

importance to the system of indigenous banking with a view to develop and foster the same. In spite of all this, from 1890 to 1928, the Government remained supremely indifferent to these very important matters. At long last, a Banking Inquiry Committee was constituted in 1929. — Their terms of reference emphasised the development of a national system of banking with special reference to the needs of agriculture, commerce and industry. I think the expression 'national system of banking' will not frighten anybody. This is not an expression of my own. Those are the words used by the Government in their terms of reference. This inquiry terminated in 1931, and the Committee made their recommendations in 1931, but I am sorry to say that none of the recommendations of the Banking Inquiry Committee was implemented. After 40 years agitation, the banking inquiry was instituted but when that committee submitted their voluminous report after an elaborate and prolonged enquiry their recommendations, it is no exaggeration to say, were thrown into the waste paper basket. The Committee said:

"Our first proposal therefore is that as soon as the Reserve Bank is established the indigenous banker should along with joint stock and co-operative banks be brought into direct relations with the Reserve Bank and thereby provided with re-discount facilities from that institution."

That was a recommendation made in 1931. Thirteen years have elapsed since then and it is matter for profound disappointment that that recommendation has not yet been given effect to. Later on this recommendation was reinforced by no other than Sir George Schuster who at the time of the Reserve Bank of India Act said this:

"It is impossible to over estimate the importance that the indigenous bankers play in the whole of the banking credit machinery of India. I think it would be no exaggeration to say that this part of the organisation represents, if anything, more than 90 per cent. of the whole and it is unfortunately true, that the links between the whole of this system and the modern banking system of India are still rudimentary and incomplete."

What follows is very important: He adds:

"I want to make it quite clear that we recognise that until the vast portion of India's banking and credit machinery, which is represented by indigenous bankers is put into gear with the relatively small machine of the modernised money market, with the Reserve Bank at its central control, it will be impossible for the Reserve Bank to exercise that full control of currency and credit of India which is understood as the function of a central bank in Western countries; and it will be equally impossible for the masses of the people who populate the country sides of India to get the full benefits of credit and banking facilities on reasonable terms which a well organised system of banking ought to give. That, I believe, is one of the greatest problems of the future of India."

Now, Sir, the regret is that this greatest of problems still remains unsolved and no attempt has been up to now seriously made to solve this greatest problem of Sir George Schuster. That was not merely the personal opinion and recommendation of Sir George Schuster. That recommendation was converted into a statutory obligation, for section 55 of the Reserve Bank of India Act lays down:

"The Bank (meaning the Reserve Bank) shall, at the earliest practicable date and in any case within three years from the date on which this Chapter comes into force, make to the Governor General in Council a report, with proposals . . . for legislation on the following matters, namely:—

- (a) the extension of the provisions of this Act relating to scheduled banks to persons and firms, not being scheduled banks, engaged in British India in the business of banking, and
- (b) the improvement of the machinery for dealing with agricultural finance and methods for effecting a closer connection between agricultural enterprise and the operations of the Bank."

Now, Sir, this Act was passed in 1934. Up to now that statutory obligation has not been discharged either by the Government or by the Reserve Bank. There is still another obligation imposed by section 54 of that Act on a very vital matter, that is that—

"the Bank shall create a special Agricultural credit department, the functions of which shall be (a) . . . (b) to co-ordinate the operations of the Bank in connection with agricultural credit and its relations with provincial co-operative banks and any other banks or organisations engaged in the business of agricultural credit."

Now, Sir, that is another statutory obligation which still remains undischarged. We know that the Banking Enquiry Committee wanted that the indigenous bankers should be linked up with the Reserve Bank and a comprehensive banking legislation should be made covering the entire field of banking in India, not merely joint stock banks, not merely co-operative credit societies, but including indigenous banking institutions. In view of that, I have a few questions to ask about the Reserve Bank. The Honourable the Finance Member is not here, I expect him, to answer these questions categorically:

1. Whether the Reserve Bank has performed or is performing the functions of a Central Bank?

2. Whether it has discharged the statutory obligation imposed upon it by sections 54 and 55 of the Reserve Bank of India Act. Has it loyally and earnestly directed its effort to overhaul the existing banking system and to build up one entire banking credit machinery of the whole of India, including rural India and to give full benefits of credit and banking facilities to the whole population of India; whether it has discharged all the functions in this behalf as contemplated by the Banking Enquiry Committee and the Reserve Bank of India Act?

3. What has been its contribution during its career of ten years towards the development of trade, industry and agriculture? Has it provided cheaper facilities to industry and agriculture than they had before 1934? Has it served as the financing agent of trade and industry and played its due part in the economic and financial life of the country?

4. What has been its actual relationship with joint stock banks? Has it been their friend, philosopher and guide or only exercised the school master's rod or policeman's baton?

5. Has it published a manual of instructions for their guidance? What has it done to educate them as to how to conduct sound banking business on sound lines?

6. Has it enunciated and explained the problems and principles of banking to them, explained to them their goal and method, given directions to them what forms of investment should be adapted and what should be avoided?

7. Has it any machinery and experienced staff and personnel to teach them how to conduct banking business on sound lines and how to avoid all possible pit-falls or it has a machinery only to punish erring banks after mistakes have been committed?

8. If defects and mistakes are disclosed by inspection, does it give a copy of inspection report to the Bank concerned to enable them to avoid those mistakes in future? Is a copy of the Inspection Report given to them or is it withheld and treated as a confidential document?

9. Has it taken any steps to protect the infant Indian Institutions from competition with the giants of foreign banks?

10. What has been the extent of its service to all Banking Institutions either in the shape of financing accommodation or in facilities of other kinds?

11. Has it taken any steps to strengthen and foster the old institution of indigenous banks?

12. What has been its special service to the Scheduled Banks and non-Scheduled Banks?

13. Has it directed its policy from the time of its inception to gain the confidence and willing support of the existing banks or is it looked upon in the words of the central Banking Enquiry Report, as an "enemy or a parasite which is only to survive at the cost of the existing institutions"?

Well, Sir, these are questions of vital importance for the development of trade and commerce in the country. I hope they will receive proper attention at the hands of Government, more especially now as we are thinking of reconstruction and planning.

[Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta.]

Now, Sir, talking of the Finance Bill, allow me to make a few observations about the present position in the country. Speaking of India as a whole and particularly of my own Province, I think the following description is no exaggeration. No food, people are still dying in Calcutta of starvation. According to official figures in 1944, in the City of Calcutta alone, in ten months more than 7,000 sick destitutes were admitted into the hospitals and more than 2,000 of them died. That is about food. There is no cloth. Another famine in quick succession of its predecessor, *viz.*, famine in food. And we are told by the Textile Commissioner that there is no solution possible in war time. There is no coal, there is no fuel, there is no kerosene and there is no petrol. The price level is 200 or 300 per cent. higher than even in the famine year of 1943.

As regards health I am reminded of the words which were uttered by our late lamented friend Mr. Gupta, "No doctors, no medicines". Those were the closing words of his speech, those were the last words of his life. When I think of that tragic incident which took place the other day on the floor of this House, I do not think it was a mere accident. I see the finger of God in it; I think it was a serious warning given by God to our people, to ourselves, to Government, and particularly to the Honourable Member in charge of health. And I wonder whether the terrible significance of those words are realised by Government.

Sir, we are passing through a very bad time and I do not know whether Government have even now fully realised the seriousness of the position. Sir, I feel tired and should not like to strain myself any more.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor; Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, encomium after encomium has been heaped upon the Honourable the Finance Member. Though I have been listening to every one of them I have not been able to persuade myself to follow that line. It is true that from one point of view he deserves all the encomiums that have been heaped upon him. He has really represented the people of the United Kingdom in this country. He has ruled for their benefit. He has ruled well but has served us ill. He has ruled this country properly irrespective of the dangers to the people of this country,—in the face of starvation and death. He ruled this country but did not serve it. He may be a good man but so far as we in this country are concerned his efforts have gone for nothing. I do not want to use strong language but I cannot help using it. This House has been asked to vote this Finance Bill through. For what purpose? To carry on the war outside and to carry it on inside against us. Let me first deal with the war outside. Were we consulted? It might be said that that is an old tale. But still it continues. We made a protest against this five years ago and the Congress ministries came out of office as a protest. But has anything been done to appease and consult the people? Would these similar steps be taken in their own country? They kept quiet, and ultimately incarcerated our leaders and they are still rotting in jail. Under one pretext or another they continue to be kept in detention. The war is coming to an end in the west, but so far as the war inside and against us and our leaders are concerned, the war will never end; the end is not in sight. For this war enormous sums of money are being spent. This year nearly 400 odd crores are being spent. On the war the total expenditure for this year is nearly 700 crores. During this period of the war our national debt has increased from 1,100 to 2,000 crores. Our income has also increased though year after year there is a deficit, and the deficit is being met by loans. Taxation has been imposed to the last limit. I do not know whether the same procedure can be followed in the years to come. Our country had its boom period on account of war production but soon there will be a lull and a lapse into old times. We do not know how to support this top-heavy administration that has been created in this period. Our people protested and we were the first in the world to ask for a declaration of war aims. The Prime Minister of England said that the war aim is to win the war. Could he say that to other countries? Thereafter came the Atlantic Charter. But the

Atlantic Charter was drowned in the Atlantic Ocean. President Roosevelt said that the Atlantic Charter was only a guide and could not apply to all people. Mr. Churchill said that the Charter was not to be applied to this country though in actual terms effect was given to it. Recently addressing a Tory Party conference Mr. Churchill said that he stands for three flags,—the flag of victory, the flag of the empire and the flag of free enterprise. So far as the empire is concerned, he wants to hold this country permanently under his thumb; and it is for this purpose that we are asked to vote for this expenditure both for the war outside and the war inside.

So far as free enterprise is concerned, it means killing our industries and dumping his articles on us. Already we have a foretaste of that. Sixty million pounds worth of articles are being sent to this country as consumer goods, so that gradually our sterling balances may scuttle down. The sterling balances are scuttling day by day; they are not really sterling balances but guttling balances. It is only for the purpose of reducing the sterling balances that consumer goods are sent to this country and effectively the future of this country may be smashed and our industries may go to the wall.

Sir, it is for that purpose that for this year also we have been asked to vote for this Finance Bill. Last year the war was within our own borders. But who asked these people to go to war? I am sure Japan would not have invaded this country but for the fact that these people started imperial aggression long ago. They were the first in the field and so Japan also wanted to come to this country and take hold of this country after taking Burma and the eastern portions of Asia. It is also said that Hitler and other persons are thinking of creating empires in the world but it is the Britishers who have been the aggressors, they have created trouble, they have not learnt from experience. The war of 1914 sowed the seed for another war, and I am sure that this war, according to Mr. Churchill's own statement, will lead to another war. I think in 15 years another war will come. Has he changed his policy? He wants to destroy other nationalities who are following the example set by England herself. If with that attitude they want to go to the San Francisco Conference I would say that there they will sow a seed which will raise its head and involve the whole world, leading to a much greater war than we have seen. The same drama is being enacted at San Francisco. Two persons are being sent, one is Noon and the other is the Knight. Noon and Knight will neutralise each other. What are their antecedents? One of them was defeated by a Member of this Assembly, Mr. Satyamurti. He came to this Assembly by the back door; he has no reputation in his own province as a representative of the people. I am not going to deal with his personal qualities. Is he a man whom we should send as our representative? Are there no other persons? Can we not say that he is a Quisling? So far as Noon is concerned, he was in the War Cabinet; he said a few words as to what the position of India ought to be, and he was unceremoniously dismissed. Why did he come away? Why was no one there for three months after Noon came away? Now he has been taught a lesson and now he is expected to be a good boy. These two gentlemen will go and will have their lessons and rehearsals in England and thereafter they will be sent to San Francisco. What are they going to do there? Repeat the covenant of the League of Nations. Is the covenant going to undergo a change that every nation in the world will within a short time be free in its own country? Is that going to be the covenant? On the other hand I am sure that their covenant will be a reiteration of the old covenant, the territorial integrity of each nation will be safeguarded by the collective security of nations. Which means that India also goes there to help England, to keep India down for long. And not only that, but the big States of the world for the purpose of security of the big nations will keep down the smaller nations of the world. Am I to subscribe to the continuance of this Government? I will go down with all the effort and with all the strength rather than agree to this. I cannot be a party to this.

[Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.]

Let me come back again to San Francisco. Will these gentlemen have the courage to say 'No, we want independence declared for India'? Sir Zafarulla Khan, all honour to him, had the courage to say the other day that if the political parties in this country do not come to any settlement and are not able to put forward any agreed constitution for India, then the British Government should take the matter in its hands—they have done it a number of times; now they don't want any settlement and therefore they are not prepared to do it—and one year after the war make this country independent. Let them carry out what by lips Cripps has offered to us.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can resume his speech tomorrow. The House is now adjourned.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 21st March, 1945.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 21st 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. Henry Carlos Prior C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., M.L.A. (Secretary, Labour Department.)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

LICENCES FOR IMPORTS FROM BRITAIN AND OTHER COUNTRIES

1173. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the Honourable the Commerce Member noticed in the *Times of India* dated 13th February, 1945, a statement that Government invites people to apply for import permits from the United Kingdom of all goods, which they are able to negotiate with exporters from U. K.?

(b) Is it a fact that such application now involves no reference to the system of import quota?

(c) What is the Government's policy in regard to import licences generally from countries other than the United Kingdom and do Government intend to give permission to import goods, which exporters may be ready to send to India from other countries?

(d) What are the special circumstances which have led to the relaxation in the case of the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes, but the statement refers only to imports from the United Kingdom of certain consumable engineer stores which fall under the Panel Scheme and not to all goods as stated by the Honourable Member.

(b) The system which has been followed in granting import licences for these goods in the past is explained in section VI of the Hand Book on Import Trade Control, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. I place on the table a copy of the Press Note issued by Government on the 12th February, 1945, indicating the manner in which it has now been decided to relax the Panel Scheme.

(c) In view of the improved supply position Government are adopting a more liberal policy in regard to import licences for all countries in the sterling area. In the case of non-sterling area countries, the fact that goods are available for export to India is taken into consideration but each case is considered on its merits and due regard is paid to the necessity of conserving difficult currency.

(d) The decision stated above was taken in view of the improved supply position in the United Kingdom and the necessity of satisfying the needs of the country and combating inflationary tendencies as far as possible.

Copy of the Press Note issued by Government on the 12th February, 1945

Welcome news has been received from the U. K. that the supply position of certain engineer stores which are imported under the Panel Scheme is much easier, and that India may hope to receive considerably larger quantities than in the past, which should be sufficient to meet demands not hitherto acceptable under the Panel Scheme because they could not qualify as being for war purposes or for essential civil needs. The items in which greater supplies are immediately available include motors, generators, and starters, static condensers and transformers switch and fuse gear, welding rods and electrodes, pneumatic and portable electric tools, cutting tools, gauges and measuring instruments, hand tools, abrasives, crucibles and certain industrial pneumatic equipment. In view of this information the Government of India have decided to relax the restriction hitherto imposed on those who may receive import licenses under the Panel Scheme; and also to raise on a generous scale the quantitative limits hitherto imposed. In particular, industrial consumers who used to import their own requirements before the introduction of the

Panel Scheme will now be granted import licenses for their requirements and the list of importers eligible for the grant of import licenses will not be confined, as at present, to those importing houses which were able to prove that they had made imports over a specific period. Within the limits of quantity to which it is considered that imports should be made, licenses will be issued generously to importers who obtain firm offers of supply from exporters in the U. K. There need therefore, be no hesitation in applying for licenses up to the full extent of their requirements either on the part of existing importers or of those who have not hitherto participated in import under the Panel Scheme, although of course the actual grant of licenses must still be considered by Government in the light of conditions prevailing from time to time.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Do we understand that as regards non-sterling areas the position is definitely improving, and Government are inclined to give more licenses?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Do they propose to allow importation of consumer goods into this country without regard to the effect on the local industries and merely to relieve the inflationary tendencies.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: This question does not arise out of this because it only refers to articles like motors, generators and starters, static condensers and transformers, switch and fuse gear, and other engineer materials.

PRODUCTION AND PRICES OF BRASS AND ALUMINIUM UTENSILS

1174. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) What steps has the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies taken to increase the production and to bring down the prices of brass and aluminium utensils for the civil population?

(b) By what stages and in what manner have the prices come down?

(c) What steps have been taken to release more metal for civil use since October last?

(d) What was the total pre-war consumption of (i) brass, and (ii) aluminium by the civil population?

(e) How does the position during the war years compare with the pre-war years?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (c). Arrangements have been made for the supply of about 400 tons brass sheets per month out of indigenous production since June, 1944, and these have been distributed amongst manufacturers of utensils in various parts of the country. Arrangements have also been made for importing a substantial quantity of brass and aluminium sheets and ingots during the current year.

In order to ensure proper distribution of the utensils thus manufactured at the controlled prices two control Orders, viz., the Brass Utensils (Control) Order, 1944, and the Aluminium Utensils (Control) Order, 1945, have been issued.

(b) The ceiling prices as originally fixed in June, 1944, for brass utensils made out of brass sheets released by Government ranged from Rs. 2 to Rs. 2-4-0 per lb. Subsequently in August, 1944, the ceiling price of all other utensils was fixed at Rs. 2-9-0 per lb. In October, 1944, a uniform reduction of three annas was made in these prices. A further reduction in these prices has been made with effect from the 10th February, 1945, with the result that the ceiling prices of utensils made out of brass sheets released by Government now range from Rs. 1-10 to Rs. 2 per lb., and of all other brass utensils is Rs. 2-5-0 per lb.

As regards aluminium utensils the ceiling prices have been fixed with effect from the 15th March, 1945, and prices range from Rs. 2-14-0 to Rs. 3-8-0 per lb. as against the previous ruling prices of Rs. 5 and over.

(d) The average annual imports of brass and aluminium during the 5 years preceding the war were 20,000 tons and 3,000 tons respectively. It is not possible to say what the total pre-war consumption of these metals was, as scrap formed a considerable part of the consumption during the pre-war period.

(e) Upto June, 1944, only negligible quantities of virgin metal, brass or aluminium were available for civil consumption, and even of scrap metal, the supplies were very limited.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that brass metal industry is a cottage industry, may I know whether Government have taken steps to distribute for the needs of this industry?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: When it was first distributed our idea was to supply cheap utensils because utensils were very much in demand and were selling at very high prices. So at the beginning we only gave it to those who could manufacture sheets for distribution among workers. But later on Provincial Governments made representations to us, and wherever there have been representations we have been trying to give from this quota for the purpose of helping cottage workers.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know the proportion of division between cottage and mill industry?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: There is no division fixed as yet. As I said, we are now trying to help cottage workers as much as possible, but until the situation improves we will not be able to do anything better.

DEPUTATION ON BEHALF OF INDIAN FEDERATION OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

1175. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state if it is a fact that the deputation on behalf of the Indian Federation of Commerce and Industry waited on Government during the second week of February?

(b) What was the main point of their representation with regard to the effect of the import and sale of consumer goods in India on established productive industries of the country?

(c) What was the assurance given by Mr. Ram Chandra to them on behalf of Government?

(d) Did Government consult the Import Advisory Committee with regard to these consumer goods and, if so, at which meeting and what was the advice tendered by them?

(e) On what principles are prices of consumer goods brought to India fixed?

(f) Are they on the basis of the American price, or is any account taken of the prevailing price in India?

(g) Have Government ascertained that some of these sale prices are not below the cost price of Indian manufactured goods?

(h) Have Government ascertained that the costs of many articles in India are inflated on account of heavy transport charges, heavy import duties, heavy rates of freight and insurance for raw materials imported, high prices of stores of every description and many other factors including high taxes?

(i) Have Government any definite policy with regard to the effect on existing industries through Government action in getting consumer goods in India, and are they in a position to give any assurance on this subject?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) It is presumed that the Honourable Member refers to the meeting held on the 12th February between the representatives of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the representatives of the various Departments of the Government of India. If so, the answer is in the affirmative.

(b) and (c). The meeting was convened for the purpose of discussing with the representatives of the Federation a Memorandum submitted by the Federation which covered several questions relating to the import policy of Government. It was felt that a personal discussion would be more convenient than entering into long correspondence. At the meeting the policy of Government was explained. No assurance of any kind was given by the Commerce Secretary.

(d) Government have not set up an Import Advisory Committee, and the question of consulting them did not therefore, arise.

(e) and (f). If the reference is to "consumer goods" which are not the subject of specific Control Orders, the general principles are indicated in Section 6 of the Anti-Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, to which the attention of the Honourable Member is invited.

(g) It is possible that the sale prices of some of the imported articles, determined in accordance with the principles laid down in section 6 of the Anti-Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance do come to a figure which is below the cost of production of similar goods manufactured in India, just as the reverse is also true in respect of certain articles.

(h) Charges incurred on account of these factors do enter into the final ceiling prices, but they are not peculiar to articles made in India only.

(i) The policy is to import such goods as are available and necessary to meet the requirements of the country with due regard to the position of indigenous industries and to their ability to meet that demand.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What precautions have Government taken to ensure that imports of consumer goods will not affect industries which have come into existence during the war?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The fact that we are controlling the quantum is itself sufficient to show that they will not affect industries in any way. We are keeping a very careful watch over the situation.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: With regard to his reply to (b) and (c), may I ask whether the Honourable Member is examining the memorandum submitted by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry? The reply to (b) and (c) that no assurance was given—was it based on enlightened knowledge of actual conditions, or was it merely a matter of policy?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am afraid my friend should get a better impression of Government. All I can say is that this question has been very carefully examined in its effect on Indian industries, and the fact that there have been repeated representations outside as well as inside this House, should make the Honourable Member realise that we have been keeping a careful watch on the situation.

DEFICIT DISTRICTS IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY

1176. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

- (a) the deficit districts in the Madras Presidency;
- (b) the deficit in the Madras Presidency taken as a whole; and
- (c) whether the deficit is of rice or millets or both, and how he has attempted to make up this deficit?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) On the basis of estimated production and consumption, the following districts were considered deficit in rice, Cholum (Jowar) and Cumbu (Bajra) during 1944-45:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Vizagapatam. | 7. Madura. |
| 2. Anantapur. | 8. Ramnudi. |
| 3. Madras. | 9. Tinnevely. |
| 4. Chingleput. | 10. Malabar. |
| 5. Salem. | 11. S. Kanara. |
| 6. Coimbatore. | 12. The Nilgiris. |

(b) The total deficit declared by the Madras Government is about 210,000 tons.

(c) The deficit is in rice, wheat and millets and to enable the Madras Government to meet the situation, a total quota of 192,400 tons of wheat, millets and rice has been allotted to them.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know for what year this calculation is? Is he aware that in the current year, even in Tanjore, a good rice producing area, there has been a failure of crops?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: This estimate relates to 1944-45: we have not got all the figures for the current year yet.

REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT PRICES OF FOODGRAINS

1177. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) whether he has received representations to the effect that the prices fixed for foodgrains at present are not economical to the producers of these foodgrains; and

(b) whether he has considered these representations; if so, with what effect?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). Two such representations were received, one from the Andhra Foodgrains Producers Council and the Andhra Provincial Ryots Association, and the other from the Coorg Provincial Co-operative Marketing Federation.

The ceiling prices for rice in force in Madras during 1943-44 were examined with reference to the present costs of cultivation and the cost of living index, and it was decided that there was no justification for raising them, except in the case of first sort rice the price of which was raised by 6 annas a maund.

Coorg prices were raised from Rs. 115 per cart load to Rs. 125 (from Rs. 5-4-1 to Rs. 5-11-0 per maund), as a result of the second representation.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether these calculations are based on the presumption that these agriculturists get their implements for agriculture and other things at controlled prices?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No; we take all the current factors into account.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know if this question was put before the Price Advisory Committee and is there any one on that committee representing these districts?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not know whether it was placed before the Price Advisory Committee—I have not got the information here with me.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Member not in a position to say whether it was or was not put before the Price Advisory Committee? Evidently he must be presiding over that body.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not preside over the Price Advisory Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that while in several districts freezing operations are resorted to, in many districts of the Madras Presidency there is no demand at all for paddy or rice because the rice mill owners had purchased paddy at too cheap prices at the harvest times and they are not purchasing anything now?

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

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the present prices prevailing actually in the market are 25 per cent. lower than the ceiling prices that they have fixed?

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

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

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not open to the Honourable Member to make inquiries, Sir?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Well, I have taken a note.

IRREGULARITIES IN PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES TO INDIAN SEAMEN'S DEPENDENTS

1178. ***Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether he is aware:

(i) that majority of Indian seamen (above 75 per cent.) are from the District of Sylhet in Assam;

(ii) that irregularities prevail in the payment of allowances to the dependents of seamen who are away on duty?

(iii) that dependents of the seamen have been put to hardships and inconveniences on account of the stoppage of their allowances without any previous notice;

(iv) that the relations of the seamen who are out on the sea do not get proper replies from the authorities concerned either regarding the whereabouts of the seamen or the reasons for the discontinuance of the allowances;

(v) that the dependents of seamen reported to be missing do not get any allowance whatsoever;

(vi) that the rate of allowances paid to the dependents of deceased seamen are insufficient; and

(vii) that the allowances are not paid to the dependents of the seamen on account of slight mistakes in the spelling of names on records?

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether the Honourable Member proposes to consider the desirability of removing the grievances of the seamen? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) (i) No information relating to the number of seamen belonging to Sylhet is available but in all likelihood their number is much below 75 per cent. of the total number of Indian seamen.

(ii) and (iii). I take it that the Honourable Member is referring to allotment of wages made by seamen. The allotments are collected from the Shipping Companies by the Shipping Office and remitted by money order to the person named by the seaman concerned in the allotment note. Government are not aware of any specific irregularity in the payment of these allotments. In the event of desertion, death, or imprisonment of seamen, wages cease and consequently also the allotments, but such cases are few.

(iv) It is not possible for security reasons to disclose information about the whereabouts of seamen serving afloat but where allotment of wages is stopped, reasons for such stoppage are furnished to the relatives on request.

(v) Allowances are awarded in all cases of missing seamen as soon as their dependents are traced and their identity established. Pending final awards help is given to the dependents from His Excellency the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund.

(vi) The War Pensions (Indian Seamen) Scheme was recently revised and the revised Scheme came into force retrospectively from the 1st May 1944. As a result of this revision the rates of pensions to widows were doubled and other allowances enhanced by 50 per cent.

(vii) Treasury Officers have to satisfy themselves that payments are made to the correct dependents and some delay occasionally takes place in establishing the identity of dependents if there is any discrepancy in the particulars contained in the sanctioning order and the descriptive roll furnished by local authorities but every effort is made to reduce such delays as far as possible.

(b) All possible steps have been taken to ensure the disposal without delay of all compensation claims and this matter is given special attention by all Government Authorities concerned.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: With reference to part (iv), it is a fact that allowances are suddenly stopped and the relations are not told why, and for a long time the relations are left without any succour or help. Will the Honourable Member look into that and do something for them?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If there is any occasion for any Honourable Member knowing any such case or if there is anybody who brings it to my notice, I shall personally see that that matter is immediately rectified.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: May I state that it is not one but hundreds of cases; generally that is the complaint; and I would suggest that the Honourable Member issues a circular to his subordinates.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I may say that when I was in Assam last I specially looked into this question and discussed it with some leading members, including some ministers; and I requested them to go into this question thoroughly. I have been expecting a memorandum which I have so far not received.

Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: I am in possession of informations of about a thousand cases with me and I can tell the Honourable Member that I can give him thousand cases of such delay and irregularities.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The very day he gives me the thousand cases, the very next day I will take up those cases.

Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: Then I will give those cases.

INDIAN SEAMEN'S WELFARE OFFICERS

1179. ***Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state the number of posts of Indian Seamen's Welfare

Officer that have been created both in India and abroad during the last three years, and the places where they are now posted?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Six; two at Calcutta, one at Bombay, one at New York, one at Liverpool and one at Sydney.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: How many of them are non-Muslims?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Out of six, four are Muslims.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are they all Indians?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes.

CLOTH QUOTAS FOR MADRAS

1180. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) the latest quotas of cloth fixed for Madras and at what rate per individual;

(b) the basis on which these quotas are fixed, and what the *per capita* rate for other Provinces is;

(c) whether hand-spun and hand-woven cloth is taken into account in these calculations; and

(d) in view of the fact that the quantity of cloth produced is less than the demand, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of encouraging hand-spinning and handloom weaving?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (b) of Mr. Neogy's question No. 175 asked on 13th February 1945. These quotas are fixed on the estimated pre-war consumption of the various provinces

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes. Government have already constituted an All-India Handloom Board and taken various other steps to improve the distribution of yarn, dyes, etc.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I am afraid he has not understood the question; what I asked was whether *khadi*, that is, handspun and hand-woven cloth, is also taken into consideration and is also controlled.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Which control?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In their scheme of distribution.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes; every production of handloom in India, whether it goes by the name of *khadi* or otherwise is taken into consideration.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I am afraid he has not understood. The difference between *khadi* and handloom cloth is that handloom cloth is woven out of mill yarn, while *khadi* is woven out of handspun yarn.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I know that.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I am glad you know; but has that been taken into account?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I would like to know which account he wants me to put it in.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In calculations for distribution?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps are Government taking to increase the total quantity of *khadi* yarn available in this country?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is one of the points which I want to put first before the next meeting of the All India Handloom Board.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I understand that the Honourable Member wishes not to ask question No. 1181; but that will not in any way help him to obtain oral answer to his sixth question. The answer to it will be laid on the table.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Then I will ask the question.

INDUSTRIAL PLANTS IMPORTED

1181. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) whether any industrial plants were imported during this year; if so, what those plants were and to whom they were distributed; and

(b) whether these plants were got on the request of the merchants concerned or under their own initiative?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Presumably the Honourable Member refers to importation of industrial plants by Government. If so, the answer is Yes. Four Contact Sulphuric Acid Plants. They have been allotted to:

1. Messrs. Kasturbhai Lalbhai & Co., Ahmedabad.
2. Messrs. Delhi Cloth & General Mills Co., Ltd., Delhi
3. Messrs. H. Mumtaz & Co., Calcutta; and
4. Messrs. Bararee Coke Co., Ltd., Calcutta.

(b) By Government on their own initiative.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Were they got at their request or were they ordered by Government and then distributed to any agencies?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: These are plants which were imported at the instance of Government and they have been distributed as I have stated.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know what are these plants for sulphuric acid?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I cannot explain what is the meaning of Contract Sulphuric Acid Plants if my Honourable friend does not know it.

SCARCITY OF YARN FOR MYMENSINGH WEAVERS

1182. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) whether twenty thousand weavers in Mymensingh have been thrown out of work because of the scarcity of yarn;

(b) the total quantity of yarn allotted to the district in December, 1944, and January and February, 1945;

(c) how much was actually given to the district during the three months mentioned above, i.e., received by the weavers; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to meet the situation?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to my answer given on 13th March, 1945, to starred question No. 969.

(b) 1,404 bales of yarn were allotted to this district in December 1944 and January, February, 1945.

(c) Most of these have reached the district and have been distributed or are in process of being distributed by the Sub-Divisional Officers concerned and other bales are on their way.

(d) Mymensingh's normal quota of consumption of yarn was 353 bales per month. The district has received in December, January and February last 468 bales per month. Therefore it is expected that there should be no acute shortage. However, the new scheme for distribution of yarn is expected to start from 1st April and it will do away with maldistribution and scarcity of yarn.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the Honourable Member aware that the Weavers' Co-operative Society, Mymensingh actually received only 17 bales, whereas their monthly consumption is 100 bales?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am aware of the difficulties of the yarn situation throughout Bengal and I have been constantly with it. All I can say is that the Government of Bengal and their officers have been trying their level best to improve the distribution system and the province will take some little time before it can actually give effect to it.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the fact that the distribution system organised by the Provincial Government is not satisfactory, will the Government of India put on its own men to see that the distribution system works more smoothly?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have been working the scheme with the assistance and co-operation of the Provincial Government. All I can say is that whenever the question has become acute, the Provincial Government have been taking steps. The question is purely problematical today. If there is maldistribution which requires urgent action, we shall take the necessary steps to rectify it.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Does the Honourable Member mean that there is no unemployment among the weavers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not mean that.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: What is the percentage of unemployment?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I cannot say.

ABOLISHING IMPORT QUOTA SYSTEM ABOUT CLOTH FROM BRITAIN

1183. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether, in view of the shipping space available, Government propose to abolish the quota system with reference to import of foreign cloth from Great Britain;

(b) if so, the reaction it will have on the local textile industry; and

(c) the quantity of textiles imported into this country in this financial year as opposed to the last year?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) In respect of cotton textiles it is not proposed to abolish the quota system. But quotas, in respect of a few items such as rayon and woollen fabrics, have automatically been abolished with the issue of Open General Licence No. VII published in a *Gazette Extraordinary*, dated the 2nd March, 1945.

(b) In respect of the varieties covered by the Open General Licence, the quantities expected to be imported are so small and the shortage of indigenous supplies, as compared to the total demand, so great, that the quantities likely to be imported will have no appreciable effect on the local industry. As for other items the question does not arise.

(c) In respect of the current financial year figures of imports for the first ten months only, ending January, 1945, are available. These figures as well as those for the last financial year are set out in the statement which I lay on the table.

Statement

Description	Units	1943-44	1944-45
		(April-March)	(April-January)
Cotton Piecegoods	Yards	2,500,000	4,900,000
Fents	Ibs.	45,000	120,000
Silk Piecegoods	Yards	6,000	59
Woollen Piecegoods	Do.	480,000	780,000
Artificial Silk Piecegoods	Do.	21,000	180,000

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if the Textile Board was consulted before textile imports are made?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The Textile Board has not been formally consulted. We have tried to keep the Chairman of the Textile Board informed. There was a reply to it and I am again looking into the question as to how he was informed and how it can be informed properly in future.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The answer to the next question by Mr. Chettiar will be laid on the table.

PROTECTION OF RIGHTS IN BURMA OF INDIAN EVACUEES

1184. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) whether he has received any representations from Indians now returned from Burma about the protection of their rights of property and trade in Burma after the war;

(b) whether Government have considered the matter; and

(c) the steps Government have taken in this direction?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The matter is engaging the attention of the Government of India.

NOT KEEPING CALCUTTA PORT OPEN FOR HAJ SAILINGS

1185. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state whether an article which appeared in the *Dawn*, dated the 17th February, under the caption 'Haj Pilgrims' Plight at Karachi', has come to his notice?

(b) Is it a fact, as stated therein, that the Calcutta port was not made available for Haj Pilgrims to sail for Hejaz last year? If so, what were the reasons for the said port not having been thrown open for Haj sailings?

(c) Are Government aware that the Central Khadimul Hujjaz Society sent a contingent of volunteer workers to Karachi to assist the pilgrims and especially those who hailed from Bengal and Assam and to make an investigation regarding any allegation of a serious character as to the grievances of the intending pilgrims?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Yes.

(b) It is with the utmost difficulty that Government could organise the pilgrimage on a very limited scale and that also very late in the season. For reasons of security it was quite impracticable to arrange sailings from any port other than Karachi.

(c) Three volunteers of the Society were seen in the Pilgrims Camp assisting pilgrims from Bengal and Assam; Government have no information about the objects of their presence.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Did the Society as such report to Government? Did they get the permission of Government and was the society given any help?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have no information.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if it will be possible to use the Calcutta port in future for pilgrims to Hedjaz?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: That depends on circumstances.

UNSATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS AT KARACHI PILGRIMS CAMP

1186. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state if it is a fact that the accommodation for pilgrims in the Pilgrim Camp at Karachi is insufficient and the sanitary condition of the camp is appalling? How many pilgrims can be accommodated in the buildings in these camps?

(b) What were the medical arrangements made during the last pilgrimage season in the Karachi Pilgrims Camp?

(c) Did any death take place among the intending pilgrims who stayed in the Pilgrims Camp at Karachi last year, and what were the causes assigned for these deaths?

(d) Who is responsible for matters referred to in parts (a) to (c) above and what is particularly the responsibility of the Haj Officer and other officers of the Central Government who worked at Karachi during the last Haj Season?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) There is accommodation for about 2000 pilgrims. This is not sufficient when there is a great rush of pilgrims

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

but the Port Haj Committee pitches tents and *shamianas* to accommodate any surplus number. The sanitary condition of the camp is not unsatisfactory.

(b) A dispensary was opened at the camp. Serious cases of illness were transferred to the Karachi Civil Hospital.

(c) Four deaths took place at the camp from natural causes, such as old age, dysentery and fever.

(d) Port Haj Committee, Karachi, is responsible for (a) and (b) and no one for (c).

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the serious complaints about the hardships of the Haj pilgrims, will the Honourable Member depute some senior officer of the Government of India to go and inquire into the matter?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: All the complaints are very much exaggerated.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Was any inquiry made?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: We have made certain inquiries.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Are the accommodation in the camp and the medical arrangements the sole concern of the Haj Committee of Karachi?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: That is the information I have.

Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: Is it a fact that a report has been sent by the Secretary Khadimul Hujjaz, Calcutta, on return from Karachi, bringing to the notice of Government that there were irregularities in the supply of medicine and the pilgrims were not provided with sufficient accommodation? Is the Honourable Member aware of it?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: If I get all the facts, I will make inquiries.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: I have a supplementary question with regard to part (d). The Honourable Member stated in effect that the officers of the Central Government were not responsible for the matters raised in (a) and (b). Will he tell us whether there are letters received by him appreciating the work done by the Haj officers?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: There are.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SALE OF SOVEREIGNS, ETC., TO HAJIS IN KARACHI PILGRIMS CAMP

1187. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state whether Government are aware of any arrangements that were officially made for the sale of sovereigns and *Ahram* cloth to the Hajis in the Karachi Pilgrims Camp? Were the rates and prices which the Hajis had to pay for them fixed by Government?

(b) Did the Haj Officer and other officers of the Central Government deputed to Karachi in connection with the last Haj pilgrimage actually take any part in arranging for the sale of sovereigns, *Ahram* cloth, etc., or were they bound as a matter of official duty to make any such arrangements?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) and (b). Arrangements for the sale of cloth for *Ahram* to pilgrims in the Pilgrims Camp were made by the Executive Officer of the Port Haj Committee, Karachi. Cloth was sold at controlled rates. The Haj Officer arranged, in consultation with the Executive Officer of the Port Haj Committee, for the sale of sovereigns at market rates in the pilgrims camp. All this was done for the convenience of the pilgrims who were, of course, at liberty to buy them in the market if they so chose. While the officers of the Central Government are expected to do all they can for the convenience of pilgrims they are unable to undertake to do everything for every pilgrim.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Is there any truth in the fact that this *Ahram* cloth and also the sovereigns were sold at black market rates and that the Haj officer is responsible for it?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I am not aware of that. As far as I know, they were not.

GIVING HOPES OF GETTING SHIPPING ACCOMMODATION TO INTENDING HAJ PILGRIMS

1188. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state whether the Haj Officer or any other officer of the Central Government gave any intending pilgrims any hopes of getting accommodation in the ships and induced them to deposit money with the local Banks in that hope?

(b) Who was responsible for refunding any money so deposited by the pilgrims and for escorting the disappointed pilgrims to the Railway station and buy tickets for them?

(c) Have Government taken any steps to ascertain the truth or otherwise of many allegations made in the article referred to in (a) of starred question No. 1185 of date and to apportion the responsibility for any suffering or hardship to the Hajis proved by the investigation between the Karachi Port Haj Committee and the officers of the Central Government on duty at Karachi during the last Haj season? What steps, if any, do Government propose to take to prevent the recurrence of such complaints in future?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) No. A number of intending pilgrims who were not entitled to passages but had come to Karachi in the vague hope of securing them, if some vacancies occurred, had themselves deposited money in a local bank.

(b) Haj Booking Officer and the Karachi Haj Committee respectively.

(c) Such specific complaints as have been brought to my notice have been investigated, or are being investigated. Suitable action will be taken wherever considered necessary. Government are however unable to take any action on general allegations of the kind mentioned. Enquiries made do not substantiate these allegations and Government are satisfied that both the Port Haj Committee and the Government Haj staff did their best, in the difficult circumstances of the year, to ensure the convenience and comfort of pilgrims. Government will also do their best to prevent the recurrence of such complaints in future.

UNSATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS AT KARACHI PILGRIMS CAMP

1189. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: In view of the unsatisfactory nature of accommodation available for pilgrims in the Karachi Pilgrims Camp and especially of the highly insanitary and unhealthy condition of the said camp, and the extremely dirty and untidy look of the buildings and the compound which constitute the admitted features of the Karachi Pilgrims Camp, does the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations propose to sanction a sufficient grant for removing the existing defects and bringing the Karachi Pilgrims Camp up to the mark?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: The question of improving the facilities available in the camp is under consideration.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Is it a fact that certain plans have been drawn up for improving this camp and rebuilding it, but that these plans are held up because of want of material?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have no information.

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Is it a fact that for the last three or four years, a sum of money was provided in the Budget for the construction of the pilgrim camp at Karachi but that the amount was not spent?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: It may have been.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Is the Honourable Member aware that a letter was written on his behalf to me in reply to my letter which was delivered to me only yesterday in which it is mentioned that money is available, that the estimate has been made, but that the building cannot be erected on account of the unavailability of the materials. This is a letter written on his behalf.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Possibly it is so.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Has the Honourable Member got no information about it?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: It may have escaped my memory.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: What is the report received by the Honourable Member himself about the conditions of the pilgrims camp at Karachi, whether the building is suitable enough to accommodate these pilgrims?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: That it is not ideal and satisfactory, I know.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is the report to the effect that it is very unsatisfactory?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I do not think so.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Will the Honourable Member ask his Secretary Mr. Banerjee or somebody else in his office and get a copy of the letter which he wrote to me on his behalf?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Thank you for the suggestion.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: In view of the fact that a large number of pilgrims have to be accommodated and in view of the fact that the conditions of the camp were not at all satisfactory, will the Honourable Member take personal interest and see that the conditions are bettered. The usual excuse that materials are not available is not valid enough, because in Karachi itself, materials are available in great quantities as was disclosed in the speech the other day of my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar. I do not know why the Honourable Member's Department should not insist upon getting materials urgently for the construction of this camp?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I will consider that suggestion.

INCREASE IN ALLOWANCES FOR GOVERNORS

1190. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) whether he has read the news item in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 25th February, 1945, under the heading "More Allowances for Governors";

(b) whether the above increase has been sanctioned; if so, when and by whom; and

(c) what will be the financial effect of the above order and how much it will cost the Indian Treasury?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes.

(b) I have no information of a later date than the Reuter message to which the Honourable Member has referred.

(c) The financial effect will depend on the orders that may be passed by the Secretary of State. No part of the cost will fall on Central Revenues.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the Government of India have made any recommendation in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No, Sir, I am not aware.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know what is the increase suggested in the Governors' allowances?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Different Governors have suggested different figures.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is it a fact that the figure is as high as 25 per cent.?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am not quite sure.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it left to the Governors themselves to suggest as to how much allowance they should get?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is the Governor General's allowance also increased?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have no information.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: If this sum will not be a charge on Central Revenues, then who is going to foot the bill?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Provincial Governments.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will it affect the Chief Commissioners of Centrally Administered Areas also?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The Chief Commissioners are not Governors.

CONCESSIONS TO COLLIERY WORKERS

1191. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the concessions altogether given to the colliery workers in wages, dearness allowances and prices of foodgrains? Have all colliery owners given the same concessions in their respective collieries?

(b) In case where such concessions were not granted, what steps did Government take against such employers?

(c) Is it a fact that earnings of mine labour-males and females have not increased during the period between December, 1943, and 1944? If it is not a fact, what is the increase?

(d) Is it a fact that constructional jobs tempt miners to give up mine labour? If so, what are the reasons therefor? Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the difference in wages of mine labour and that of constructional jobs?

(e) Is it a fact that there is a difference between the time-rate of men and women workers in the coal fields both on the surface and underground works? Does the Honourable Member propose to take steps to equalise the rate?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (a) Wages have been increased by 50 per cent. above pre-war rates and in addition a bonus of 2, 3, or 5 annas is paid according to whether a worker is single, married or married with dependents. Half a seer of rice is given free for each daily attendance.

Besides the above, basic standard ration is available weekly at controlled rates.

Prior to the introduction of the above scheme, workers were given 6 seers of rice per rupee.

Ration Inspectors have been appointed to see that labourers get the rations to which they are entitled.

All mine owners in the Jharia area are reported to be giving the concessions; some owners in the Raniganj area have preferred to give the concessions existing prior to the revised rationing plan.

(b) There is no statutory compulsion, but it is found that owners do not deprive the workers of their legitimate rations.

(c) No increases have been given since those given in December, 1943.

(d) Constructional jobs on the surface attracted mine labour because the work was of a more congenial nature and the workers were given transport facilities.

The rates of wages at mines and on constructional works are at present about the same.

(e) Women working on the surface do not generally get same rates as men. Women working underground get same rates as men doing same work. It is not proposed to take any steps to equalise the rates for surface work.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask why there is this differentiation in the wages of men and women working on the surface?

Mr. H. C. Prior: Because, I think, the outturn is less.

EMPLOYMENT OF UNDERAGE CHILDREN IN COAL MINES

1192. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is a fact that children below fifteen are employed in coal mines in contravention of the Factory Act and the Mines Act? If so, what steps have been taken to stop it and punish those employers of children in mines and factories?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement regarding medical arrangements in mines and factories? Are qualified doctors, compounders and well equipped dispensaries provided and maintained in each mine and factory owned by Government? Is it a fact that quinine and quinine substitutes were in acute shortage in these mines and factories?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (a) The Factories Act does not apply to coal mines. Children below 15 years of age are not employed in mines. If mine owners are found employing children suitable action is taken against those responsible.

(b) As regards the first part of the question attention is invited to the last part of the reply given to starred question No. 937, on the 13th March, 1945. It will involve a considerable amount of time and labour to collect information about voluntary services rendered in all mines and factories throughout India. The question of making it obligatory on the part of mine-owners to maintain doctors on a prescribed scale is under consideration.

Government have provided doctors, compounders and well-equipped dispensaries in their mines and some factories; and labour employed in factories have also the benefits of Government staff and institutions generally.

There was a shortage of quinine in 1944 at all mines, but quinine substitutes were available. The information with regard to factories is not available, but adequate supplies were placed at the disposal of the Provincial Governments for distribution within their areas.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Were any children below ten years of age discovered working in mines? If so, how many?

Mr. H. C. Prior: I have no information as to numbers discovered. But my information is that they do not work in mines.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Sir, since no record of births and age of children is kept in mining area how do the Government and employers find out the ages of children?

Mr. H. C. Prior: There are certifying surgeons, I think.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What machinery do the Government of India have in these mines in order to see that children below the age of ten years are not stealthily employed by mine owners?

Mr. H. C. Prior: We have Labour Welfare staff who are looking into these things in mines?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do you have Labour Welfare officer in each mine?

Mr. H. C. Prior: Not in each mine, but they tour round the various mines.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How often do they visit mines in a year?

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

HOUSING ARRANGEMENT FOR GOVERNMENT FACTORY WORKERS

1193. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state what housing arrangement has been made by Government for the workers in their factories and depots spread over the country? Have they constructed barracks to accommodate all the workers employed up till the end of January, 1945? If not, what sort of accommodation have they been given? Does the Honourable Member propose to arrange for a visit to these factories and depots by the members of the Standing Labour Committee immediately after the session of this Legislature is over?

(b) Is it a fact that cooked food supply canteens have been set up by Government for supplying meals to the workers in the Government owned factories and depots? If so, how many are they in number and are the prices charged for meals commensurate with the wages the workers get? Are these canteens run departmentally or by contractors?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that private factories are running canteens at a loss on account of supplying cheap meals to workers? Do Government propose to subsidise the contractor to enable him to supply cheap meals to workers in Government factories?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (a) The question of housing of workers is always given due consideration before deciding on the location of a Government factory or depot and the need for such consideration has recently been brought prominently to the notice of the authorities immediately concerned. As a rule, accommodation, whether of a temporary or permanent nature, is provided wherever necessary, particularly in the case of labour recruited from distant places. It is regretted that comprehensive details are not readily available.

By the Standing Labour Committee the Honourable Member is presumably referring to the Standing Committee of the Legislature attached to the Department of Labour. I do not think it is practicable for all the members of the Committee to visit the various factories in a body.

(b) Yes; in some factories and depots. There were 82 canteens supplying cooked food towards the close of 1944. No definite information is available in regard to prices but the rates are generally less than the market rates.

Some are run departmentally, some by Welfare Committees and others by Contractors or by the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board.

(c) Yes; canteens in a few private factories supply cheap meals to the workers. Government consider that it is better to run cooked food canteens departmentally rather than through contractors. It has been decided in respect of canteens in Government undertakings run departmentally or by the workers, to provide rent-free accommodation and bear the capital charges on cooking utensils and furniture.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member give details of the housing arrangements made by Government for workers in their factories anywhere in India, because in Bombay we find that Government have made no arrangements?

Mr. H. C. Prior: I look through the list before I came in and I think at Kamaria accommodation was available for 75 p.c. of the workers. That is one instance.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that workers in Government factories are encroaching on the accommodation available for the civilian population and making difficulties for them?

Mr. H. C. Prior: Workers in Government factories are part of the civilian population.

GOVERNMENT FACTORIES, ETC., AND WORKERS' UNIONS

1194. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the number of Government factories and depots under various Departments employing skilled and unskilled labour? Are the Workers' Unions recognised by Government in those undertakings for ventilating the grievances of workers? If so, what is the number of such Unions?

(b) Is it a fact that Government themselves are setting up nominal Unions or Workers' Welfare Committees as rivals to real Workers' Unions? If so, how many such Welfare Committees are functioning and where?

(c) Are these Welfare Committees formed by workers themselves or are nominated by Government? How often they meet and who generally preside over their meetings? Have action been taken on the grievances of the workers voiced in these meetings?

(d) What objections are there against allowing workers to form their own Unions? If there be no objections, do Government propose to lay down conditions limiting their number of membership and allowing them to be guided by outsiders from Trade Unions Bodies?

(e) Is it a fact that workers in the Government factories and depots are not allowed to get affiliation with Trade Unions Bodies? Does the Honourable Member propose to consider the question of recognition of these Unions affiliation with Trade Union Institutions which look after the welfare of the workers?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (a) There are about 375 Government factories and Depots excluding minor establishments like military farms and depots attached to them, salvage undertakings, canteen undertakings, etc. Government has recognised 69 unions of its employees.

(b) No.

(c) This question does not arise in view of the answer to (b). But I may make it clear that there are a number of welfare Committees consisting of elected representatives of workers and in some cases even presided by a workers' representative. The functions of these Committees do not encroach on the field of trade unions. These committees generally devote themselves to welfare matters and minor adjustments in working conditions, etc., at the departmental or factory level.

(d) There are no objections. On the other hand it is the policy of Government to encourage growth of trade unions. The Indian Trade Union Act, 1926 permits outsiders on the union-executive upto a maximum of half its strength.

(e) No; but Government servants who are subject to the provisions of the Government Servants Conduct Rules are precluded by those rules from participating in political activities or contributing to political funds. The latter part of the question does not arise.

LABOUR WELFARE OFFICERS

1195. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if the Government of India have been appointing Labour Welfare Officers or Labour Officers in all their factories and depots? If so, how many such officers under the two different designations have been appointed?

(b) What are their functions and qualifications required for those posts?

(c) Do local management accept the recommendation of the Labour Officers or Labour Welfare Officers regarding wages of workers when they consider their wages incommensurate with prices of essential foodstuff and consumers goods or lower in comparison with the wages of the workers in factories and depots owned by private industries?

(d) Are these appointments of Labour Officers or Labour Welfare Officers in Government factories and private company factories compulsory under the Defence of India Rules? If so, what is the criterion for such appointment?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (a) Yes, as far as possible, wherever they consider necessary.

There are 78 Civilian Labour Officers and 26 Labour Welfare Officers. Besides, there are some employment or establishment officers in some Railway workshops.

(b) I would invite attention to the Honourable Dr. Ambedkar's reply to Honourable Member's starred question No. 938 on 13th March 1945. The functions of the Civilian Labour Officers and Labour Welfare Officers in the factories and depots are the same as those in the mills and mines referred to in the said reply.

(c) Although the local authorities are not bound to accept all the recommendations of the Labour Officers in this regard, such recommendations are duly considered.

Compensation for increase in prices of essential commodities is afforded by the payment of dearness allowance and by way of supply of foodstuffs at concessional rates.

(d) The reply is in the negative.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Do these labour officers receive any special training or pass any special test before they are appointed?

Mr. H. C. Prior: So far they have not done so, but we are now taking steps to see that they will.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam-Chettiar: The Honourable Member mentioned civilian welfare officers. Are there any military welfare officers also for labour?

Mr. H. C. Prior: I feel sure there are.

DISMISSALS OF TECHNICAL WORKERS AND NATIONAL SERVICE TRIBUNAL

1196. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is a fact that employers dismiss technical workers of their own accord without referring the matter to the National Service Tribunal before dismissal and that the victim of such dismissal is not allowed to submit any explanation?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the function of the National Service Tribunal in these matters?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (a) The relevant provisions are sub-section (3) and (3A) of Section 18 of the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance, 1940, a copy of which will be found in the Library of the House. The proviso to sub-section (3) mentions instances in which the employer need not obtain permission

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

of the National Service Labour Tribunal before dismissing or discharging technical personnel, but in all such cases the manager or owner is required to give notice in writing to the Tribunal of the discharge or dismissal and the reasons therefor within 24 hours of the discharge or dismissal. Sub-section (3A) lays down the principle to guide the Tribunal in considering applications for discharge, dismissal, or release.

(b) The powers and functions of the Tribunal are given in Section 13 of the Ordinance.

EXAMINATION HELD IN LAHORE FOR LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE STUDENTS

1197. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) If it is a fact that until 1943 the students of the Lady Hardinge Medical College answered the examination papers of the Punjab University in Delhi and that since 1943 they have had to go to Lahore to do so;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, the reasons for the change;

(c) if it is a fact that the students who live a sheltered life in their hostels have to make their own arrangements for journey to Lahore and for boarding, lodging and conveyance during their stay there; and

(d) whether Government are aware of the great hardship caused to these students by this system, especially to the vast number of them who are complete strangers to Lahore and have no friends there; and, if so, whether they propose to give their immediate attention to this matter?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) This is not quite correct. I understand that until after the January examination of 1943, the students of the Lady Hardinge Medical College had to go to Lahore for the examination of the Punjab University. The other examinations in 1943 and those of 1944 were held in Delhi. In 1945 (January) the examination was however again held in Lahore.

(b) Information has been called for and will be furnished to the House in due course.

(c) Prior to the change of place of the examination in 1943, the students made their own arrangements for the journey to Lahore and for boarding, lodging and conveyance during their stay there; but it is understood that for the examination held in January 1945, hostel accommodation was provided for the students by the authorities of the Punjab University.

(d) The Principal of the College has already taken up with the authorities of the Punjab University the question of holding the examination in Delhi instead of in Lahore in future.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask, Sir, if the report in the press is true that the students of this college are on strike or contemplate to go on strike? If so, what are the reasons for it?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I have not seen the report and I have no information.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Who paid for their journey to Lahore in 1945?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I shall require notice of that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of reinforcing the efforts that are being made by the Principal of this college to see that the Punjab University agrees to hold these examinations in Delhi?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not think we have any *locus standi* to take action officially, but anything that can be done unofficially we will certainly do. We are very much in sympathy with the lady students of the college in this matter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: So will the Honourable Member convey this question and his answer and also the supplementary questions and answers to the Punjab University?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, Sir, we will do that.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: In view of the fact, Sir, that there is urgent need for women doctors, to which even Lady Louis Mountbatten has drawn attention, will Government ensure that all the hardships under which

the students are labouring in this college are removed, so that girls are not discouraged from joining this college?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It is not a Government college; it has its own separate governing body; but anything that we can do we will do.

COORDINATION OF MEDICAL EDUCATION

1198. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if Government have any organization for the co-ordination of medical education according to the Alopactic system throughout India;

(b) if there is no such organization for similar co-ordination of education in Ayurveda and Unani systems of medicine;

(c) if it is a fact that there is no uniformity in the systems of education in Ayurveda and Unani in the various Provinces; and

(d) if Government propose to consider the desirability of establishing a central council of indigenous systems of medicine and a central institute of research for indigenous drugs?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Indian Medical Council prescribes minimum standards for higher qualifications in the modern scientific system of medicine in British India.

(b) There is no such organisation.

(c) The Government of India have no information.

(d) Research into the therapeutic value of indigenous drugs has been in progress for some years under the direction of Colonel Sir Ram Nath Chopra. Government do not consider it necessary to establish a uniform minimum standard of education in the indigenous systems of medicine as the question of reciprocal recognition of qualifications has not arisen.

I should like to add that a committee has been set up to draft an Indian supplement to the British Pharmacopoeia, and this committee will consider the inclusion of drugs used in the indigenous systems, in the light of the researches made under the direction of Sir Ram Nath Chopra.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government any panel for post-war planning to study how far they can co-ordinate the efforts of researchers in Ayurvedic and Unani in the provinces, and to what extent an all-India Council for Ayurveda and another for Unani can come to be established under the auspices of Government?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not think we have examined that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government keep that under consideration?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We will look into the possibility of that.

Lala Sham Lal: Are Government aware that the graduates of the Board of Indian Medicine in the U. P. who are eligible to be registered as medical practitioners in the U. P. are not allowed to be registered in other provinces?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I expect they can be registered in Bombay where there is a similar Act, but I think only three provinces have Acts of that kind.

LACK OF UNIFORMITY OF AWARDS FOR SANSKRIT TEACHING

1199. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if it is a fact that no uniform standards are maintained at various educational institutions in India for the teaching of Sanskrit;

(b) if the certificates of the various institutions teaching Sanskrit are not recognized by each other for purposes of admission of students in various classes; and

(c) if Government propose to consider the desirability of establishing some central organisation for the co-ordination of Sanskrit education?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). The Government of India have no information.

(c) No. The Central Government however will be prepared to consider any recommendation that the Central Advisory Board of Education may make in this behalf.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Do Government exercise any control over Sanskrit education in the country?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Central Government does not, at all.

REPRESENTATION TO SOULBARY COMMISSION

†1200. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state whether Government of India contemplate sending their representation to Ceylon before Soulbury Commission, which is now sitting in Colombo with regard to the position of Indians in Ceylon in the new Constitutional Scheme for Ceylon?

(b) Are Government aware that the Board of Ministers for Ceylon Government are of the opinion that the Indo-Ceylon question must be decided by the Soulbury Commission and not by Ceylon or Indian Governments by negotiations?

(c) What is the attitude of the Government of India as regards this settlement by the Commission?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

NEXT SESSION OF U.N.R.R.A. CONFERENCE

1201. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) if and when there will be a session of the U.N.R.R.A. conference or council during this year and if so, whether and by whom the Government of India will be represented;

(b) if the Government of India will consult the Legislative Assembly before appointing their delegation;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Council of the U.N.R.R.A. appointed five Standing Technical Committees, one of which is for welfare, and that it is composed mostly of women delegates;

(d) whether the Government of India are represented on any of these and other Standing Committees, and, if so, by whom; and, if not, why not; and

(e) by what methods the Government of India propose to fulfil their share of responsibility in determining the policy of the U.N.R.R.A., considering the large contribution of 8 crores of rupees the Government intend to make to that organisation?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). No definite date has been fixed for the next meeting of UNRRA Council. In the normal course, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, Agent General for India in U. S. A., who is India's representative on the UNRRA Council, would attend.

(c) Yes, but it is not composed of a majority of women delegates.

(d) India is represented by Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai on the Standing Technical Committee for Displaced Persons. No nomination has been made on other Committees as experts could not be spared.

(e) India is represented on the UNRRA Council which decides matters of policy.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the answer of the Honourable Member to part (b) of the question—whether Government will consult the Legislative Assembly before appointing their delegation?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It has already been appointed and I took the House into fullest confidence on the question of the various committees which are proposed and whether it will be possible for us to send representatives.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are they permanent delegates on behalf of this Government, or is there any time limit for them?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: There is no time limit. The U. N. R. R. A. itself has no time limit in this matter.

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

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I know if the Honourable Member has seen a letter about the U. N. R. R. A. which appeared in this morning's *Statesman*, and if so the reasons for that action and what the Government propose to do in the future?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I try to read the details of all the morning papers in the evening.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any time limit for these delegates, or are they life members?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No. If any such situation arises, Government will consider that question.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Sir, may I read a few lines out of this letter?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member puts a question based on this letter, there can be no objection.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: "I am puzzled about U. N. R. R. A. On February 15th, the Commerce Secretary stated in the Council of State that India did not want cash or food from UNRRA and would ask only for medical supplies, if required."

What is the Government's reply to that?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That does not arise out of this question. I was looking into the question of India's representation on the Standing Committees. But so far as that point is concerned, I fully explained that if such a situation arises in which it is necessary for us to get medical supplies, we will certainly do so.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Has the Government not approached the U.N.R.R.A. for supplementing the need of food and medicine which is acutely felt in many parts of India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I shall require notice of that question. I shall have to consult the Food Department.

TERMS FOR WOMEN DOCTORS IN CENTRAL MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

1202. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if men and women doctors are recruited on equal terms to the Central Medical and Health services; and, if not, why not; and what is the difference in the terms; if any;

(b) if there are women doctors on the staff of all Government General Hospitals in centrally administered areas;

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the negative, whether Government propose to appoint them in future in order to enable women doctors to have wider experience and to be of assistance to women patients in the General Hospitals; and

(d) whether any official or non-official organisations have sent recommendations to Government on the subjects referred to in this question, and, if so, what is the response of Government to them?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Complete information regarding the terms of service of lady doctors employed in centrally administered areas is not readily available. A reply will be laid on the table of the House when information has been collected.

(b) There are women doctors on the staff of the hospitals at Ajmer and at Mercara and Virajpet in Coorg. In Delhi an Honorary Clinical Assistant attends the outpatient department at the Irwin Hospital and a lady doctor is employed as house surgeon. In Baluchistan there are four female hospitals in charge of lady doctors.

(c) The question of employing additional lady doctors will be considered.

(d) I am not aware of any such recommendation.

WOMEN DOCTORS IN CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN WELFARE WORK

1203. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if there are women doctors in the Central Public Health Department to help to plan, organise and co-ordinate work for the welfare of women and children in the country;

(b) if any Department in the office of the D. G., I. M. S., is specifically charged with the welfare of women and children, and, if a medical woman is connected with it; and

(c) if any Department in the office of the D. G., I. M. S., or of the Public Health Commissioner is entrusted with the work of promoting and co-ordinating research in diseases of women and children?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No. There is, however, a maternity and child welfare section at the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health which is concerned with education and research work in the field of maternity and child welfare. The Director General of the Indian Medical Service is the Vice-Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Bureau of the Indian Red Cross Society which organises welfare work for women and children.

(b) No.

(c) No. The Indian Research Fund Association promotes research in diseases of women and children.

HYDARI MISSION

1204. *Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state with what specific object in view the Hydari Mission has been sent to England?

(b) What definite instruction, if any, has been given for the achievement of that purpose?

(c) Did Government in formulating the policy of Hydari Mission take into account the fact that any sudden withdrawal of war orders from the industry in India is bound to prejudicially affect the production of consumer goods in India?

(d) Does the Honourable Member propose to place before the House a full statement on the activities and achievements of the Hydari Mission?

(e) What specific commitments has the Mission made in England?

(f) How will the commitments affect internal production in India?

(g) Are they calculated to facilitate the import of consumers goods rather than the import of capital goods?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to part (a) of Mr. Neogy's starred question No. 303 on the 6th February 1945.

(c) As already stated in reply to other questions regarding Hydari Mission, in the House, it is not a "Policy Mission". The withdrawal of war orders from industry in India is not likely prejudicially to affect the indigenous production. It will only result in more indigenous capacity being released to meet the civil requirements.

(d) No, Sir. After receipt of the report of the Mission, however, Government will consider the question of acquainting the House with the broad results achieved.

(e) to (g). Do not arise in view of reply to part (d).

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Is it a fact that Government will only try to import second-hand goods and war-residue goods from England?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not aware of 'war-residue' goods, but so far as second-hand clothings are concerned, the Gazette Notification of the 2nd of March, published on the 3rd, will show that anybody can import them.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government considered the statement of my Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson, yesterday in this House that India can absorb five times sixty-millions which Hydari Mission is bringing out.

(No reply was given.)

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Have any instructions been given to the Mission for importing capital goods?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As far as I am aware, this Mission has nothing to do with the capital goods. The question of capital goods is being examined in another department and we in the Commerce Department have issued a circular asking for the registration of all those capital goods which are required, and the Honourable Member for Planning and Development will take that into consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any time limit?

(No reply was given.)

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Are we to understand that the Mission has been sent for the purpose of importing consumer goods only?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The main purpose of this Mission was to secure relief in India's war production.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any time limit?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: There is certainly some limit.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have the Government acquainted this Mission about that limit?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not a question of Government laying down any limit. It is of an exploratory character—we will try to find out what goods we have and what goods we need.

PRESCRIBING SET FORM OF RECEIPT FOR RENT UNDER DELHI RENT CONTROL ORDINANCE

1205. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal: Will the Honourable Member for Labour be pleased to state:

(a) with reference to the answer to my starred question No. 625 of 20th November, 1944, regarding the form of receipt to be compulsorily granted by the landlords to the tenants under the Delhi Rent Control Ordinance, 1944, if the matter has been examined by Government since then and, if so, what the result is;

(b) if Government are aware that a considerable number of landlords in Delhi does not grant any receipt to their tenants simply to avoid detection of the illegal exaction of the excessive amount far above the standard rent;

(c) if it is a fact that there is a controller of House Rent for New Delhi who looks to the question of house rent, whereas there is no such arrangement for old Delhi;

(d) if Government have any means of ascertaining in how many ways the landlords harass their tenants by asking them to vacate the holdings or increase the rents;

(e) if it is a fact that the landlords generally resort to the practice of stopping necessary repairs, whitewashing, cutting off water and electric connections and other objectionable treatment; and

(f) if it is a fact that the Delhi police have been instructed not to interfere in or record report about any dispute between the landlords and the tenants?

Mr. H. O. Prior: (a) Yes. Government consider that no useful purpose would be served by prescribing a standard form of receipt to be granted by landlords to the tenants.

(b) and (c). The reply is in the affirmative.

(d) No.

(e) Yes. But where water and electric connections are cut off by landlords, the tenants can be granted separate connections.

(f) A copy of the instructions issued to the Police on the subject is laid on the table of the House.

Instructions

Since the housing problem is very acute in Delhi and as rents have risen, house owners are anxious to turn out their old tenants who are not willing to pay enhanced rents. On the other hand as the tenants are unable to find other accommodation they refuse to vacate the premises occupied by them. The ejection of tenants through the Civil Courts, involves lengthy procedure and entails heavy expenses. To save themselves from these troubles owners try to use the criminal law in order to circumvent Civil claims and more or less resort to black mail. In such cases—

(a) If the complaint clearly shows the commission of an alleged cognizable offence, the case must be registered before any enquiry is made, and if the complaint is found to be false the complainant shall be prosecuted under section 182 or 211 I. P. C.

(b) If no cognizable offence appears to have been committed the complainant will be referred to the Magistrate.

(c) If the behaviour of the complainant or opponent shows the likelihood of imminent breach of peace, action under sections 151/107 Cr. P. C. shall be taken and arrested persons be produced immediately before the Ilaka Magistrate. When the complaint merely shows a dispute between the two contending parties, which is likely to occasion a breach of the peace, the police have no power to investigate any such complaints under section 107 Cr. P. C. In such cases the written complaint or a copy of the relevant Daily Dairy Entry must be forwarded to Ilaka Magistrate and the complaint shall be referred to the courts for suitable action.

The attention of the officers is drawn to Police Rule 23-32 by which complaints under section 107 Cr. P. C. are not to be endorsed for inquiry by the officer in charge of a police station unless it is anticipated that action under section 151 will be required.

W. D. ROBINSON,

Senior Superintendent of Police, Delhi.

9th June 1944.

INFORMATION RE CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYEES IN PRINTING PRESSES

1206. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state with reference to the answer to my starred question No. 600, asked on the 20th November, 1944, if the Labour Investigation Committee has finished collecting general information regarding the terms and conditions of employees in printing presses and if they have taken into consideration the points suggested in that question?

Mr. H. C. Prior: The Labour Investigation Committee is still collecting information regarding the terms and conditions of employees in printing presses. The Committee will doubtless furnish all relevant information relating to printing press employees.

SUSPENSIONS IN DEPUTED STAFF BY CONTROLLER OF RATIONING DELHI

1207. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state;

(a) how many of the deputed staff were suspended from service by the Controller of Rationing, Delhi, so far, and for what reasons;

(b) whether it is a fact that one of the suspended staff was prohibited from leaving the Municipal Limits of Delhi; if so, under what authority;

(c) whether it is a fact that the suspensions of the deputed officials are being inflicted in spite of the protest of the parent offices that the Controller of Rationing, Delhi, is not authorised to impose such punishments; and

(d) whether it is a fact that even subsistence allowance was not paid to the suspended officials for months together?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Eleven for neglect of duty or misconduct.

(b) Yes. Officials under suspension are subject to the usual rules under which Government servants are not allowed to leave the station without permission.

(c) The local administration is the controlling authority for purposes of discipline in the case of all the Controller of Rationing's staff. The rest of the Honourable Member's question does not arise.

(d) No. Subsistence allowance was given under the rules in all cases of suspension.

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

PHYSICAL PUNISHMENT IN DELHI RATIONING ORGANISATION

1208. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state (a) the number of persons given physical punishment in the Delhi Rationing Organisation;

(b) how many of the deputed staff were given promotion, and what the difference in their pay before and after promotion in each case is;

(c) how many outsiders were recruited for the higher appointments over the heads of qualified and experienced deputed staff who came under the three per cent scheme; and

(d) how many of those who were taken from outside as officers in the Rationing Organisation are Matriculates, Non-Matriculates and Graduates?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No one.

(b) Eighty-one have been promoted. I cannot undertake to give the details of every case of promotion but I can say that the increase in pay amounted to Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 or even more in some cases.

(c) I am not sure what the Honourable Member means by the term "higher appointments". The claims of all deputed officials who show ability receive due attention when superior appointments in the Delhi Rationing Organisation are made.

(d) All except two of the Gazetted Officers of the Organization are matriculates or have some superior educational qualification.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the meaning of 'physical punishment' referred to in part (a) of the question?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not know myself, but nobody has received this physical punishment.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know if the Honourable Member is aware that a case is pending in the Court against the Rationing officer for assaulting a deputed official?

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

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member please enquire into it?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: All right, I will make further enquiries into the matter.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: With regard to part (c) of the question, may I know what is the number of deputed officials who have been given promotion?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have answered this question—81 have been promoted.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Are they all deputed officials?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes. This is in answer to part (b) of his question where he has said 'How many of the deputed staff were given promotion' and I have said 'Eighty-one have been promoted'.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

REVERTING DEPUTED STAFF IN DELHI RATIONING OFFICE

1209. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Does the Honourable the Food Member propose to consider the case of the reversion of the officials deputed to the Delhi Rationing Office who are willing to go back to their parent office?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, Sir. I regret that I cannot relieve them at present.

RESIGNATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, DELHI RATIONING AND CIVIL SUPPLIES

1210. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the present Administrative Officer, Delhi Rationing and Civil Supplies, has submitted his resignation? If so, do Government propose to consider the appointment of experienced and capable

officers of the Government of India Secretariat having special knowledge of administration?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes. The Officer concerned, who belongs to the Punjab Civil Service has applied for permission to resign from Government Service but so long as his resignation is not accepted, the question of finding a substitute does not arise.

NON-OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGH GRADE TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

1211. *Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which non-official representatives have been selected by the Government of India to serve on the committee to consider the establishment of high grade technological institute in India;

(b) whether a representation was received from the Institution of Engineers (India) for a seat on the committee, and, if so, why no representative from this Institution has been nominated on the Committee;

(c) whether the Government of India now propose to consider calling for a representative from the Institution of Engineers (India); and

(d) whether no Principals of University Engineering Colleges in India have been selected to serve on the committee?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Non-official members of the Committee have been appointed in their personal capacity and not as representatives of any bodies or organisations. The desirability of seeing that the main interests concerned, viz., Business, Technical Institutions and Applied Scientists, are represented has been kept in view.

(b) and (c). Yes. In view of (a) it is not possible to nominate a representative of the Institution of Engineers (India) Mr. C. E. Preston, Vice-Chairman of the Institution, is, however, a member.

(d) No, but there are three members who are or have been Principals of Technical Institutions of College Status; The Principal, Delhi polytechnic; the Principal, Bengal Engineering College, Shibpur (at present on deputation with Director General, Munitions Production Calcutta); and the Principal, Osmania Technical College, Hyderabad (Dn.). The Head of the University Department of Chemical Technology at the Bombay University is also a member.

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY, ETC.

1212. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) whether (i) the Indian Red Cross Society, (ii) the Countess of Dufferin Fund, (iii) the Lady Chelmsford League, and (iv) the Victoria Memorial Scholarship Fund receive financial aid in any form from the Government of India; if so, the amount each of them receive annually;

(b) whether there are any other organisations doing similar work receiving financial aid; if so, which they are, and how much each of them receive annually from the Government of India;

(c) if and how Government exercise any control or supervision over the policy and work of these organisations;

(d) whether Government are aware that the organisations enumerated in (a) above are showing racial discrimination in their activities; if so, what steps are being taken to prevent racial discrimination;

(e) the percentage of Indians among the office-bearers of the respective organisations enumerated in (a) above; and

(f) which of the officers in those organisations are retired Government servants drawing pensions?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Indian Red Cross Society and the Victoria Memorial Scholarship Fund receive no financial aid from the Government of India. The Red Cross Society's Maternity and Child Welfare Bureau, which administers the Lady Chelmsford League Fund, receives an annual grant-in-aid of Rs. 6,000 from the Government for the Lady Reading Health School, Delhi, which trains

Health Visitors for Maternity and Child Welfare Services. The Countess of Dufferin's Fund receives a grant of Rs. 3,79,000 per year from the Government of India for maintaining the Woman's Medical Service.

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

(c) The Indian Red Cross Society with which are associated the Victoria Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Lady Chelmsford League Fund is a nonofficial organisation and not under Government control. The Public Health Commissioner is, however, the Chairman of the Committee of the Lady Reading Health School for which a grant-in-aid is made by Government. As regards the Countess of Dufferin's Fund the Government exercises no direct control but the executive committee includes a number of Government officials.

(d) Government are not aware of any accusation of racial discrimination in the activities of these Associations.

CROP FAILURE IN BIJAPUR DISTRICT

1213. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that in Bijapur District (Bombay Presidency) the crop has failed owing to the failure of rain and other seasonal factors this year;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure distribution of foodgrains in urban and rural areas;

(c) whether the procurement policy in this district is depleting the little grain stocks which the cultivators keep for their consumption; and

(d) whether the Bombay Government have been asked not to procure the stocks from cultivators in case they are short of their own requirements?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The crop has not failed.

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

(c) No, Sir.

AUTHORISED FIRMS DEALING IN SALT IN BIHAR

1214. *Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the authorised firms dealing in salt in the districts of Bihar;

(b) the quantity of salt supplied to each district of Bihar;

(c) if he is aware that the old and established salt dealers have not been given preference over one who never dealt in the said commodity in some of the districts;

(d) if he is aware that monopolies in salt trading have been given in some of the districts causing harassment and difficulty to the consumers and giving an impetus to the black marketing; and

(e) keeping in view the interest of the consumers, whether he proposes to abolish the monopoly; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e). Information has been called for from the Bihar Government and their reply is still awaited.

BRIBERY COMPLAINTS AGAINST BOMBAY INSPECTORS OF CIVIL SUPPLIES

1215. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) whether any complaint of bribery against the Inspectors of Civil Supplies was received by the Controller of Civil Supplies in the City of Bombay;

(b) whether a departmental enquiry was made and the case was proved against one;

(c) whether it is a fact that the said Inspector has subsequently resigned; and

(d) whether any action was taken against him, if not, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) There was no specific complaint of bribery against any of the Inspectors of Civil Supplies of the Central Government in the city of Bombay, but the Controller General of Civil Supplies came to know that one of the Inspectors was not quite straight.

(b) No Departmental enquiry was made as there was no specific complaint.

(c) Yes.

(d) As the Inspector resigned there was no case for taking any action against him. There was no charge which could be proved against him so as to justify the institution of criminal proceedings.

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS IN CIVIL PIONEER FORCE

1216. *Mr. Piare Lall Kureel: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of commissioned officers with rank in the Civil Pioneer Force of each Province; and

(b) how many of these commissioned officers are Hindus, Muslims, Scheduled Castes, Sikhs, Christians, Anglo-Indians, etc.?

Mr. H. C. Prior: I lay on the table of the House two statements giving: (a) the total number by ranks and Provinces of commissioned officers on the strength of the Civil Pioneer Force, and (b) the distribution by communities of commissioned officers of the Civil Pioneer Force.

Statement I.

Statement showing (a) the total number by ranks and Provinces of commissioned officers on the strength of the Civil Pioneer Force, and (b) the month and year they were appointed to commissioned rank.

	Bengal.	Bihar.	Bombay.	C. P. & Berar.	Madras.	N. W. F. P.	Orissa.	Punjab.	U. P.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
(a) Rank:									
Commandant									
Grade I	2				1				
Grade II	9	2	1	2	4	1	2		2
Captain	11	3	2	2	6	2	3	3	3
Lieutenant	51	9	6	9	26	7	6	8	10
2nd Lieutenant	48	11	6	14	25	10	15	14	14
Total appointed	121	25	15	27	62	20	26	25	29

(b) Appointed to Commissioned Rank:

1942—									
May	7	1			7				
June	1			2				1	1
July	3	6	5	4		4		4	3
August	3	1			4				4
September	5				2		1		
October	1					4	9		
November	5		6		2				1
December	8				1				
1943—									
January	3		1		2		2		1
February					1	1		2	
March	7			1	2	1		4	
April	4				2	4	2	3	
May	2		1						5
June	7	3			4				2
July	6	1			3			1	1
August	10	3			2	2		3	
September	8		1		2	3		3	1
October	6					7	3	1	
November	1	1			1	1			3
December	8				3	3			

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1821

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1944—									
January				2	1				3
February									
March	2	2			3		1		
April					3	1			1
May					1				
June		1			1				
July	22	4		1					
August	1	1		3			1		3
September					5	1			
October					1	1			
November		1			1				
December					4			1	
1945—									
January	1								
February			1	1	4			1	
Total	121	25	15	27	62	20	26	25	29

Statement II.

Statement showing distribution by communities of commissioned officers of the Civil Pioneer Force.

Province.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Scheduled Castes.	Sikhs.	Christians.	Anglo-Indians.	Others.	Total.
Bengal			62	18			41	121
Bihar	17	4	3		1			25
Bombay	8	1	3		1		1	15
C. P. and Berar	14	5	4	1	2	1		27
Madras	32	5	11		11	2	1	62
N. W. F. P.			19	1				20
Orissa	20	2			3	1		26
Punjab	4	12	2	6	1			25
U. P.	14	5	5		3	1	1	29

CANDIDATES RECRUITED FROM CERTAIN TECHNICAL RECRUITING CENTRES

1217. *Mr. Piare Lall Kureel: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of candidates so far recruited for technical training from the Technical Recruiting Centres of Allahabad, Lucknow and Meerut and how many of them are Hindus, Muslims and Scheduled Castes; and

(b) whether Government are aware that in the matter of selection the candidates of higher castes are always given preference to Scheduled Castes candidates?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (a) The information is not readily available as recruitment is through different agencies and statistics are not kept on the basis of community.

(b) No. On the contrary, every effort is made to encourage the recruitment of Scheduled Caste trainees under the Technical Training Scheme. Every British subject or subject of an Indian State, irrespective of caste, creed or community, can join provided he fulfills the prescribed qualifications for admission.

SEPARATE SURAHIES FOR SCHEDULED CASTE CLERKS IN CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

1218. *Mr. Piare Lall Kureel: (a) Is the Honourable the Labour Member aware of the fact that in the Central Public Works Department scheduled caste clerks are not allowed to take drinking water from the surahies provided by Government for this purpose?

(b) If so, will Government also provide separate surahies for the scheduled caste clerks?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (a) and (b). Scheduled Caste Clerks in the Central Public Works Department are not prevented from taking water from the *surahies* provided by Government for the purpose. Steps are however being taken to provide separate *surahies* for these clerks.

NEXT SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

1219. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if the Indian Delegations reported to the International Labour Conference at Philadelphia in 1944, that the Government of India had made a unilateral abrogation of an International convention by withdrawing ban on the employment of women for underground work in mines; and, if so, what the result was;

(b) if Government have arrived at any conclusions on the declarations of that Conference with or without consulting the representatives of labour;

(c) whether Government propose to place their conclusions before the Legislative Assembly before they come to final decisions; and, if not, why not;

(d) when and where the next session of the International Labour Conference will be held, and if Government propose to send a full delegation of three sections to it;

(e) if Government have received the agenda for that session; and, if so, what the items are; and

(f) if according to the constitution of the International Labour Organisation there will be women on the delegations from India?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (a) No, but the matter was separately reported to the International Labour Office giving reasons (already known to the House) for the temporary abrogation of the prohibition of the employment of women underground in coal mines.

(b) Not yet. They will be prepared to consider any suggestions made by representatives of labour.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

(d) and (e). No formal intimation has been received in the matter. The question of delegation will be considered at a later stage.

(f) That is a matter for the Labour Organizations to consider.

LIENS OF GOVERNMENT QUARTER TENANTS CHANGING FROM ORTHODOX TO UN-ORTHODOX STYLE AND VICE VERSA

1220. *Bhai Parma Nand: With reference to replies to starred questions Nos. 662 and 663, asked on the 5th March, 1945, regarding the abolition of the distinction between orthodox and unorthodox quarters will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if he is aware that under the existing rules of allotment of quarters, if a Government servant living in an orthodox quarter applies for an unorthodox quarter, he is ousted from his orthodox quarter and remains without any quarter for a number of years till he is allotted an unorthodox quarter;

(b) if the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, whether on the abolition of the distinction between orthodox and unorthodox quarters, such a Government servant will continue to retain his orthodox quarter till he is allotted an unorthodox quarter; if not, why not; and

(c) whether a Government servant living in an orthodox quarter who has become out of class and applies for an unorthodox quarter of a higher type, will be allotted an orthodox quarter of a higher type or allowed to retain his present orthodox quarter till an unorthodox quarter of the higher type to which he is entitled is allotted to him; if not, why not?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (a) It is understood that the Honourable Member refers to the pre-existing rules. Under those rules a Government servant if he elected to apply for an Unorthodox quarter, became by such election ineligible for an orthodox quarter.

(b) A Government servant in such circumstances can retain his orthodox quarter but he will not be allotted an unorthodox quarter in the same class as a change of accommodation is not permitted till he becomes eligible for a higher class.

(c) The Government servant in such circumstances will retain his 'Orthodox' or 'Unorthodox' quarter till he is allotted a higher class of 'Orthodox' or 'Unorthodox' quarter whichever is available.

POSITION RE RATIONING, ETC., IN VIZAGAPATAM DISTRICT

1221. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position in Vizagapatam District in regard to, (i) daily rations granted per adult in towns and rural areas, (ii) the date from which rural people are also granted 40 tolas (one lb.) per adult as in the case of urban people, and (iii) the prevalence and incidence of diseases, especially the new disease of boils and akin affliction;

(b) the provision of additional medical assistance;

(c) the importation of rice from Central Provinces and other areas into this deficit area;

(d) whether any efforts are being made to introduce compulsory rural rationing; if so, when it is expected to be achieved; and

(e) whether there are any non-official medical agencies—Allopathy or Ayurvedic—serving the local sufferers and what assistance is being given to them by Government?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) (i) The size of the ration in the towns is just over 1 lb. Rationing has not yet been introduced in the rural areas.

(ii) Does not arise.

(iii) I am informed that there is no marked increase in the incidence of any disease and mortality from June 1944 to date is only slightly above average.

(b) Additional medical assistance has been provided in the shape of medical relief centres mobile units, additional doctors, free kitchens and free distribution of clothing to destitutes.

(c) In the last 4½ months, 51,000 tons of rice have been imported into the district.

(d) Informal rationing in rural areas in four taluks will be introduced shortly and extended to all other taluks within 2 or 3 months.

(e) Yes. The information regarding the assistance given to them by the Government is being obtained.

CONDITIONS OF PEASANTS UNDER *Istimrardars* OF AJMER-MERWARA

1222. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that an enquiry was made in 1932 about the conditions of peasants under the *Istimrardars* of Ajmer-Merwara and that Mr. Irwin retired I.C.S., was also asked to make further enquiries;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, whether those reports were published; if not, whether Government will publish at least their recommendations, and what action was taken by Government thereon;

(c) why the settlement operations were stopped;

(d) if it is not a fact that the condition of peasants has grown worse during this war; and

(e) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of completing the settlement operations in the *Istimrardar* area in the same way as is going on in the Khalsa area?

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

(b) No; it is not proposed to publish the report.

(c) Settlement operations were stopped in the *Istimarari* Area at a stage where they could go no further without legislation. Owing to War conditions it was decided not to undertake at present the lengthy legislation required.

(d) No.

(e) Government will introduce legislation when conditions permit.

REPRESENTATION RE RELEASING CLOTH FOR TURBAN OF SIKHS

1223. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state if Sat Sang Committee Gurdwara Bangla Sahib, New Delhi, approached the Textiles Commissioner for the release of 10,000 yards of muslin cloth for distribution of turbans to Sikhs?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that the Textiles Commissioner in his letter No. CBX-III-S/82, dated the 20th July, 1944, directed the Sat Sang Committee to approach the Director of Civil Supplies, Delhi, for procuring it from the existing stock holders?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that the Director of Civil Supplies did not acknowledge any of the representations from the above Committee since August, 1944?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware that Sikhs are experiencing a lot of trouble in getting fine counts of muslin necessary for turbans which forms an essential part of their dress?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) No. We have had no recent representations.

MERGING OF VICEREGAL ESTATE OFFICE INTO CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

1224. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the date on which the establishment of the office of the Viceregal Estates has merged into the establishment of the Central Public Works Department and the staff has become inter-transferable?

(b) How many officials of the Viceregal Estate Office have so far been transferred to the Central Public Works Department and what pay and allowances were given to each of them on this transfer to the Central Public Works Department in lieu of the privilege of free use of house, electricity and water while working in the Viceregal Estate?

(c) Has there been any case or cases where an official has been deprived of the concessions and no compensation has been paid to him? If so, what is their number?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (a) 14th July 1936.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the table.

Statement

The number of officials so far transferred from the Viceregal Estates to the Central Public Works Department is seven, their names are :—

1. Mr. Hussain Ali—Sanitary Overseer.
2. Mr. Shiv Saran Das—Building Supervisor.
3. Mr. Bans Gopal Mathur—Building Supervisor.
4. Mr. B. C. Banerjee—Building Supervisor.
5. Mr. Mohan Lal—Draftsman.
6. Madho Narain—Estimator.
7. Mr. P. N. Chatterjee—Subordinate.

On transfer from the Viceregal Estates, these officials had to forego the special concessions which they previously enjoyed and no compensation for the loss of those concessions was paid to them. They were however, allowed to continue on the rates of pay that were admissible to them while employed in the Viceregal Estates.

ALLOWANCES TO CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT STAFF IN SIMLA

1225. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether any winter allowance, kit allowance and house rent allowance are admissible and granted to the staff of the Central Public Works Department employed permanently or on deputation at Simla? If not, what is the exact procedure for the grant of these allowances to the staff?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (1) Winter allowance is being drawn by—(a) new entrants on the superior and inferior establishment of the Simla Central (C. P. W. D.) Division; and (b) by the staff of the Central Public Works Department employed on Rent Control work in Simla.

(2) All inferior servants of the Central Public Works Department in Simla (other than sweepers and *bhistis*), who are not allotted rent-free quarters, draw house rent allowance.

(3) The ministerial and inferior servants of the Viceregal Estates Division in Simla are entitled to kit allowance and also to house rent, compensatory and winter allowances in accordance with the provisions of the Simla Allowances Code.

(4) The only persons on deputation to the Central Public Works Department are Divisional Accountants who are borne on the cadre of the Accountant General, Central Revenues. When posted at Simla they are entitled to a compensatory allowance of 30 per cent. of pay, subject to a minimum of Rs. 25 and a maximum of Rs. 75 p. m.

(5) The latter part of the question does not arise.

REPAIRS TO NEW DELHI ROADS

1226. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if there is any staff of the Central Public Works Department to look after the repairs to the Roads in New Delhi particularly the service roads? If so, is he aware that most of the newly constructed roads and service roads though recently constructed and annually repaired, are in a hopelessly bad condition and it is difficult to pass through these?

(b) What steps does he propose to take to ensure proper upkeep of all the roads in the Imperial town?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (a) The reply to the first half of the question is in the affirmative. The reply to the second half is in the negative but I am aware of the fact that on account of the great increase in traffic under war conditions and shortage of materials the condition of the New Delhi Municipal Roads has deteriorated considerably.

(b) With the recent improvement in the supply position a programme of repairs and repainting of the municipal roads in New Delhi has been taken in hand this year. It is proposed to continue this programme in future years so that the Municipal Roads may be restored to their normal condition.

LIENS OF GOVERNMENT QUARTER TENANTS CHANGING FROM ORTHODOX TO UNORTHODOX STYLE AND VICE VERSA

1227. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 663 on the 5th March, 1945, will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if under the new revised rules a tenant of orthodox quarter would be ousted from his quarter in case he declares and applies for an unorthodox type of quarter whether by having become out of class or while within the class? If so, why does he propose to see the abolition of the distinction between orthodox and unorthodox quarters does not operate harshly in their case by allowing them to continue in their orthodox quarters?

Mr. H. C. Prior: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given to parts (b) and (c) of Bhai Parma Nand's Question No. 1220

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO DELHI SCHOOL TEACHERS

1228. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Superintendent of Education, Delhi, has issued instructions to the various schools of Delhi, laying down that teachers should be granted dearness allowance at the rates admissible to Central Government servants; and

(b) whether it is a fact that in spite of this, various schools have not granted such dearness allowance to teachers; if so, the reasons therefor?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

APPOINTMENTS IN THE IMPERIAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

1229. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Secretary for Education Health and Lands please state the number of temporary and permanent appointments, community-wise, made during the year ending 1st January, 1945, in the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi?

(b) Does he propose to consider the desirability of appointing some Sikhs permanently so as to make up the deficiency of their representation? If not, why not?

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

(b) Nine posts out of 225 gazetted and superior, non-gazetted posts are held by Sikhs.

Statement showing the number of appointments made during the year ending the 31st December 1944 at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

GAZETTED POSTS.	
Number of appointments made—	(B) Class II.
(A) Class I.	
Permanent—Nil.	Permanent—1 Muslim.
Temporary—1 Hindu.	Temporary—1 Hindu and 3 Muslims
Total—1.	Total 5.
NON-GAZETTED POSTS.	
Permanent—	26 Muslims.
1 Hindu.	10 Sikhs.
1 Muslim.	5 Indian Christians.
1 Sikh.	2 Scheduled Castes.
Total 3	
Temporary—	
70 Hindus.	Total 113.

NON-REGISTRATION OF NEW FIRMS FOR SUPPLY OF POWDER CONDIMENT

1230. *Mr. Muhammad Ahsan: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if it is a fact that the Chief Director of Purchase ordered in August, 1943, that no new firms shall be registered for the supply of powder condiment? If so, why?

(b) How many firms which applied were refused registration as a result of the above order?

(c) How many new applications were received for registration of the above item, after the order? How many of them were refused consideration and which of them were considered, inspected and registered?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No such orders were issued by the Chief Director of Purchase who was at that time designated as Deputy Director General (Purchase).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

NASARPUR FRUIT PRESERVING FACTORY

1231. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state when the Nasarpur Fruit Preserving Factory came into existence and when it began to function?

(b) What was the cost of the factory and what is the annual expenditure incurred in running the factory including all kinds of establishment?

(c) How much of the goods were prepared since the factory began to work, how much of them were declared fit for military consumption, how much of them were declared unfit and what is the market value of the goods declared unfit?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The Nasarpur Factory was completed and started to work in September, 1944.

(b) The cost of the factory was Rs. 9,34,617 which was borne by Government. The running costs are not known, as they are borne by the contractor who operates the factory on a fixed price contract for the final product.

(c) 82 tons and 820 lbs. were produced, of which 10 tons and 100 lbs. were accepted for military consumption, and the balance valued at Rs. 1,62,000 was rejected.

NASARPUR FRUIT PRESERVING FACTORY

1232. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if the Nasarpur Factory is being proposed to be transferred to the civil authorities? If so, when, and on what terms?

(b) Are the goods declared unfit for military use being sold in the market for the use of the civil public? If so, are the goods unfit for the use of the military personnel considered fit for human consumption? If so, how?

(c) Who is responsible for the loss sustained by Government in preparing goods that are not suitable for human consumption? Will an enquiry be made? If so, when, and if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The matter is under consideration. No definite terms have so far been settled.

(b) Yes. The canned fruit are sound and fit for consumption, but some did not satisfy the Army specifications which have regard to the special conditions for which they are required.

(c) The contractor is responsible for the rejected goods and will bear the loss if any. No enquiry is therefore necessary and no question of fixing responsibility arises.

NEW DELHI GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS PRACTICE RE ALLOTMENT OF QUARTERS TO EMPLOYEES

1233. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that for purposes of allotment of Government quarters, the employees of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, have been classified into two categories and that quarters are allotted to the men belonging to one particular category irrespective of the fact that some men belonging to the other category may be senior to some men included in the former category?

(b) If the position is as stated above, is it a fact that the practice followed in allotting Government quarters to the employees of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, differs from the general rules of allotment of Government accommodation in New Delhi? If so, will Government please state the reasons for such difference?

(c) If the facts are as stated above in (a) and (b), do Government propose to see that the practice under which certain junior men in the Government of India Press are allotted Government quarters in preference to those who are senior, is discontinued and the general rules of allotment applied to all?

Mr. H. O. Prior: (a) No, except in the case of duftury class quarters.

(b) The differences in the rules for the allotment of Press quarters and the rules for the allotment of quarters in the general pool are (i) that the Duftury type Press quarters are apportioned into two categories, and (ii) that in the case of Press quarters seniority for allotment is determined by the amount of emoluments of the applicant in each class, while in the case of general pool quarters, it is based on the date of posting to New Delhi or Simla. Difference (i) is due to the fact that accommodation has to be provided separately for superior and inferior Press employees who are entitled to the same class of quarters but this is not the case in respect of general pool quarters which are allotted to inferior servants only, (ii) is due to the different conditions of service of the Press employees and of other Central Government servants.

(c) For the reasons stated in reply to part (b), Government do not propose to alter the existing procedure.

ELECTRIC CONNECTION APPLICATIONS FROM WESTERN EXTENSION AREA, KAROL BAGH, DELHI

1234. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please lay on the table of the House a statement showing:

(i) the number of applications received for electric connection in private houses in the Western Extension Area, Karol Bagh, Delhi, during the period from 1st March, 1941, to 1st March, 1945,

(ii) The number of applications which have been sanctioned during the same period and the grounds on which such sanctions were based;

(iii) the number of applications which have been rejected and the reasons for such rejection; and

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(iv) the number of applications still under consideration?

Mr. H. C. Prior: The information is being collected, and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

REFUSAL OF ELECTRIC CONNECTIONS IN DELHI

1235. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether it is a fact that electric connections have not been sanctioned in the case of many private houses in Delhi although they are fully equipped with internal electrical installations? If so, why?

(b) Are Government aware that due to the absence of electric connection and kerosene oil being in short supply, a considerable number of the residents of Delhi is being subjected to serious hardship in so far as their domestic, cultural, social and religious requirements are concerned? If so, do Government propose to take suitable steps to alleviate such hardship by authorizing electric connection in houses which are already fitted with electric installations?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of making suitable arrangements for the supply of sufficient quantity of kerosene oil for the benefit of persons residing in houses not provided with electric installations?

Mr. H. C. Prior: The matter is being looked into.

RATIONING OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY IN DELHI AND NEW DELHI

1236. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether it is a fact that the Madras Government have recently promulgated an ordinance restricting the supply of electric energy to public houses? If so, do Government propose to consider the desirability of introducing the system of rationing the supply of electricity in Delhi and New Delhi so that the energy saved may be utilized for sanctioning electric connections to private houses which are already fitted with electric installations?

(b) Are Government aware that a class of people in Delhi are in the habit of consuming electricity on a lavish scale? If so, do Government propose to take suitable steps to prevent such wastage?

Mr. H. C. Prior: (a) Government are not aware of this fact. The latter portion of this part of the question does not arise.

(b) Government have no such information but the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, has issued instructions prohibiting the use of electrical energy for non-essential purposes.

LACK OF STREET LIGHTING IN WESTERN EXTENSION AREA, KAROL BAGH, DELHI

1237. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is a fact that although all public roads in the Western Extension Area, Karol Bagh, Delhi, are provided with electric lamp posts and wiring, electric connection has not been given, with the result that serious hardship and inconvenience are being caused to the residents of the locality and those who have to use the roads either on foot or otherwise?

(b) Are Government aware that due to the absence of lighting arrangements on these roads there have been several cases of accidents in the past, causing bodily injuries?

(c) Are Government aware that due to the absence of lighting arrangements in the locality there have been numerous cases of thefts and burglaries in the past?

(d) Are Government aware that the two main arteries leading up to and passing through the locality, viz., the Karol Bagh Road and the main road leading to the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, commonly known as the Pusa Road, were not provided with lights, that only less than a dozen lamps were provided on the Karol Bagh Road two days before the Legislative Assembly was due to meet this season and that no light has yet been provided on the Pusa Road?

(e) Do Government propose to take steps with a view to ensuring that the local authority concerned provides electric connection and lamps for lighting the roads?

Mr. H. C. Prior: Government have no information but are enquiring into the matter.

PERMITS ISSUED IN DELHI TO CONSUMERS OF CLOTH, ETC.

1238. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing (i) the total number of permits issued in Delhi to consumers of cloth, bicycles and watches, and (ii) the number of permits issued in favour of each dealer of these articles in Delhi in February, 1945?

(b) Is it a fact that the Assistant Director of Civil Supplies, 1, Rajpur Road, Delhi, has issued such permits to his favourite dealers whereas the rest of the dealers in these goods are going without any business?

(c) Do Government propose to see that such permits are issued in favour of all dealers and stockists of the same goods equally?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of reserving the right of the permit holder to purchase his requirements from any stockists or dealers? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) (i) 3,916 Permits were issued for imported woollen cloth, 371 for bicycles and 844 for watches. Permits are not necessary for any other type of cloth.

(ii) Information regarding the dealers in favour of whom these Permits were issued is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(b) No.

(c) No. Stocks with dealers vary both as to quantity and quality. Permits must necessarily be issued with reference to these considerations, and subject to that, no discrimination is shown as between dealers. Moreover, applicants are allowed, as far as possible, to select their own dealers.

(d) The question does not arise as the permit holder is already given the choice to purchase from any stockist or dealer subject to stocks being available with such stockist or dealer.

INADEQUACY OF FUEL SHOPS IN TIMARPUR DELHI

1239. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) if it is a fact that there are only two fuel shops, close to one another, at Government quarters, Timarpur, Delhi; one exclusively meant for supplying weekly quota of fuel to ration-card holders and the other partly for Government servants holding 'coupons on concessional rates';

(b) if it is a fact that Government servants residing in Timarpur locality with weekly ration cards have not the option of obtaining their quota of fuel from any of the shops at flat rates and that they are restricted to one particular shop;

(c) if so, why this option is denied to them and restrictions are imposed to obtain their quota from one particular shop;

(d) if Government are further aware of the fact that the former shop having monopoly is openly overcharging the price—as for example for charcoal it is charging annas -/2/- extra per maund, i.e., Rs. 4/6/6 per maund as compared with next-door shop which charges Rs. 4/4/6 per maund (3rd week of February);

(e) if it is a fact that the first named shop is periodically visited by officials of Rationing Department and no action has been taken against the proprietor for overcharging; and

(f) if the replies to (a) to (e) be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to break the monopoly of this shop and afford facilities to the residents of Timarpur Government quarters to obtain their quota of fuel from any of the shops and have the same rates fixed for both the shops? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) It is a fact that in Timarpur there are two fuel shops one of which is a shop meant exclusively for Central Government servants.

(b) Government servants other than Central Government servants have the option of registering their ration cards at any fuel shops but the Timarpur Shop is the only one in the immediate neighbourhood.

(c) The option of registering their cards is not denied to them and they can register at other shops. The transfer of cards is permitted by the Circle Rationing Officers.

(d) On account of the shortage and irregularity of arrival, supplies of fuel rations for shops (other than Central Government Servants' Shops) had to be issued on a weekly basis and as this involved extra cartage, the shop at Timarpur including three others situated at a great distance from the Depots (namely Jangpura, Kew Point, and Nizamuddin) was permitted to add an extra charge for cartage to the selling price. This permission, it is understood, is being withdrawn by the Delhi Administration as supplies can be made less frequently avoiding the extra cartage.

(e) and (f). Do not arise in view of the answers above.

DESIRABILITY OF MONTHLY RATIONING SYSTEM IN DELHI

1240. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the difficulty which he apprehends in permitting monthly ration supply system introduced in Delhi Province like Lahore where monthly ration system is in operation and is working satisfactorily?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The experiment has been tried in Lahore which is in a surplus area but has not proved popular. Delhi is a deficit area dependent on the movement of supplies from the Punjab. A monthly ration system in a deficit area requires the carrying of larger reserves and larger stocks by the retailers and wholesalers and this Delhi is not yet in a position to accept.

LOW PAY TO TRAINED GRADUATES IN HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN DELHI

1241. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if it is a fact that trained graduates in Higher Secondary Schools in Delhi cannot become Principals of Higher Secondary Schools in Delhi; and

(b) if it is a fact that the grade of a Principal rises up to Rs. 400 per mensem while that of an old trained graduate teacher rises only up to Rs. 200; if so, the reason for such a great disparity in pay?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: With your permission, Sir, I will answer starred questions Nos. 1241, 1242 and 1243 together.

Necessary information has been called for from the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

APPOINTMENT OF OUTSIDE TEACHERS IN DELHI SCHOOLS

1242. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Superintendent of Education, Delhi, had given an assurance that residents of Delhi have got a priority over others in being appointed as teachers in schools in Delhi; and

(b) if it is a fact that in spite of such an assurance people of other provinces have been appointed, if so, the reason therefor?

APPOINTMENT OF CERTAIN NON-TRAINED M.A.s IN DELHI HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS

1243. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if it is a fact that provision for recognizing untrained Masters of Arts with three years' teaching experience in a College as teacher for Higher Secondary Department in Higher Secondary Schools in Delhi Province was made to provide employment to the retrenched staff from constituent Colleges of Delhi University owing to the introduction of the three-year Degree course there; and

(b) if it is a fact that several other non-trained Masters of Arts have been taken in Higher Secondary Schools; if so, how many such teachers have been taken, and to which School they are attached?

FRESH INSTRUCTIONS RE MUSLIM RATIO TO OFFICERS UNDER EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS DEPARTMENT

1244. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state whether he has issued fresh instructions to officers under him to observe ratio of Muslims in all new services:

(i) under the Forest Department as mentioned on page 24 of the Budget for 1945-46;

(ii) under the Education, Health and Lands Department as shown on page 54 of the Budget for 1945-46;

(iii) under Survey of India as shown on page 98 of the Budget for 1945-46—say two Superintendents and one Assistant Superintendent, six other Gazetted Officers, twenty additional establishment;

(iv) in the Geological Survey of India as shown on page 105 of the Budget for 1945-46 as well as in services under the expansion scheme of the Department as approved by the Standing Finance Committee on the 2nd February, 1945;

(v) in the Medical Department as shown on page 119 of the Budget for 1945-46;

(vi) under Public Health as shown on page 124 of the Budget Estimate for 1945-46;

(vii) under Agriculture Department as shown on page 130 and also in the Locust Warning Organisation;

(viii) under Agricultural Marketing as shown on page 135;

(ix) in Civil Veterinary Services as shown on page 139 as well as in services for post-war planning and development at Izatnagar Institute; and

(x) under Imperial Dairy Department as shown on page 167 as well as in services for the expansion of Imperial Dairy Department in connection with post-war planning and development?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: So far as I have been able to trace, no fresh instructions have been issued other than those issued by the Home Department in their memorandum of the 4th July, 1934. The existing rules are well known to the various authorities concerned with the appointments to which reference has been made.

PRODUCTION OF MATCHES

1245. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state how the total production of matches in India compares with the production of matches in the year 1938-39?

(b) What steps have Government taken to increase the supply of matches?

(c) Have Government noticed the deterioration in the quality?

(d) How many more plants are now functioning with regard to match manufacture compared with pre-war?

(e) Are any supplies received from abroad? If so, from where and how much?

(f) Is it a fact that the price permitted by Government to be charged for matches is very liberal and leaves a very great profit to Wimco?

(g) What is the total number of factories, apart from Wimco factories, working in India, and what percentage of the total production is accounted for by them?

(h) By what stages and in what manner do Government propose to bring down the price of matches in this country?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The production of matches in India in 1938 was 21,100,000 gross boxes. In 1942 it was 14,800,000 and in 1943 17,000,000 gross boxes. Complete figures for 1944 are not yet available but production in the first nine months of last year was 13,200,000 gross boxes, which is 554,000 more than in the corresponding period of 1943 and two million more than in the first nine months of 1942.

*For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1241.

(b) Every possible assistance is being given by Government in the procurement of essential match chemicals and other raw materials. The manufacture of potassium chlorate, the most important match chemical, has been established in India, in sufficient quantity to meet the entire requirements of the country.

(c) There has been some deterioration in quality on account of the shortage of chemicals and the inferior quality of timber being available for match sticks.

(d) 117 match factories were licensed under the Central Excise Rules in 1944 and 112 in the financial year 1938-39.

(e) No imports are being allowed.

(f) The prices charged are uniform and no special concession has been given to Wimco's in this respect.

(g) 111 according to our latest information and about 20 per cent.

(h) The prices are continuously under review and will be reduced as soon as Government consider this can be done without either jeopardizing production or causing increased black market activity.

POSTPONED STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WRITTEN ANSWERS

(Postponed from March 5, 1945)

PURCHASE OF VEGETABLE GHEE

650. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state the quantity of vegetable ghee purchased during January, 1944 to September, 1944, and from 1st October to the 31st December, 1944, and at what rates and from what parties and ensuring what percentage of profits to them?

(b) Is it a fact that because the Food Department was not able to procure sufficient milk ghee, the Indian Army was given during 1943, vegetable ghee for two days in a week, and in 1944, for three days a week? If so, why? And what is expected to be the position in 1945?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that Military Authorities had often opined that vegetable ghee is no substitute for milk ghee? If so, what steps have been taken to procure more milk ghee?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) (i) The quantity of vegetable ghee purchased during January to September 1944 was 16,690 tons and during October to December 1944, 7,073 tons.

(ii) Payment for the supplies was made to each manufacturer according to cost of oil plus a uniform fixed processing charge of Rs. 355 per ton. This charge was inclusive of the cost of tins and an average profit of about Rs. 100 per ton.

(iii) The supplies were obtained from all the 16 factories manufacturing this product in 1944: the allocation to each factory was made by the Vanaspati Manufacturers' Association of India.

(b) Yes. Vegetable ghee had to be substituted in part for milk ghee in order to meet the demands of the Defence Forces without unduly taxing the supplies of milk ghee available for civilian population. It is regretted that information regarding ration scales for troops cannot be disclosed in the public interest.

(c) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. Food Department are taking all possible steps to procure as much milk ghee as possible for the Defence Services.

SCARCITY OF EDIBLE OILS AND VEGETABLE GHEE

651. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if he is aware that there is a great scarcity and an essential need for edible oils and vegetable ghee both for the army and civil consumption? If so, what steps have Government taken and are taking to meet this demand?

(b) Are any steps being taken to get machinery to produce oil and vegetable ghee?

(c) What is the time usually taken by the Food Department to consider and permit applications for the importation of plants for its production?

(d) How many applications were received by the Food Department, during January to June, 1944, and from July to December, 1944, and how many were permitted?

(e) How many applications are pending disposal, and for what period and for what reasons?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am fully aware of the increased demand for edible vegetable oils and vanaspati ghee. The Food Department has already assisted manufacturers to extend the capacity of existing plants by 12,000 tons per annum and has promoted the erection of new factories with an additional capacity of 39,000 tons per annum. The form, which assistance has taken, has been to accord manufacturers the priorities necessary to obtain machinery from abroad and steel and building materials in India itself. Apart from this assistance to vanaspati manufacturers, the Department has supported the issue of licences for the importation of more than 100 expellers for crushing edible oils. An experienced officer of the Department was instructed to prepare a comprehensive report on which a long-term plan could be based for the expansion of the industry. His report has been submitted and is under the active consideration of Government. In the meantime, 101 applications for assistance in starting or expanding factories have been received and have been kept pending until decisions have been reached on the report to which I have referred. Of these, 22 are more than 6 months old and 13, between 3 and 6 months; the remainder are less than 3 months old.

GHEE PURCHASING AGENTS

652. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state why, when recently they invited applications from well-known firms for acting as Ghee Purchasing Agents for the Central Provinces, Bérar, Bihar, Bombay, Kathiawar, Sind and Madras, did they not invite applications for the United Provinces, Gwalior and the Punjab area?

(b) Is it a fact that Messrs. Alopi Prasad and Sons had held a ghee purchasing agency for a number of years from Military Department, and because of that they now continue to hold it from the Supply and Food Departments? If so, for how many years had Messrs. Alopi Prasad been acting as Ghee Purchasing Agents for the Military Department, and for how many continuous years have they been employed as such by the Supply and Food Departments?

(c) Do Government propose to invite applications from other well-known firms for acting as Ghee Purchasing Agents for Government for the above area? If so, when?

(d) Are the terms and conditions on which Messrs. Alopi Prasad and Sons are acting as Ghee Purchasing Agents different from those of other Agents? If so, in what respects, and why?

(e) What are the areas allotted to Messrs. Alopi Prasad for the purchase of ghee?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) In July, 1944, applications were invited for the appointment of Ghee Purchasing Agents for the areas for which agreements were due to expire on 31st August, 1944; none were invited for the U. P., Gwalior and the Punjab areas, as the existing agreement for these areas was not due to expire.

(b) and (e). Messrs. Alopi Prasad and Sons were appointed as Ghee Purchasing Agents to Government for all Army requirements in 1929, when the requirements were small. They continued as such until 1942 since when their operations have been confined to the U. P., Gwalior and the Punjab areas.

(c) No; not at present.

(d) Yes. The principal difference is that Messrs. Alopi Prasad and Sons' agreement is the standing agency agreement terminable at nine months' notice. The remaining agreements are for a period of one year terminable at three months' notice.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SENDING OVERSEAS GRADUATES IN AGRICULTURE FOR POST GRADUATE TRAINING

97. **Raja Bahadur Kushal Pal Singh:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state whether the Government of India propose to depute overseas graduates in agriculture for post-graduate training in agriculture or in any of its branches in order to meet the requirements of the Post-war Reconstruction Schemes?

(b) If the answer be in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state (i) the method of the selection of candidates; and (ii) the subjects for their study?

(c) Will he be pleased to state whether for these deputations only those serving under the Government of India will be eligible or also those serving under the Provincial Governments?

(d) Will he be pleased to state whether for these deputations only those entitled to study leave will be eligible or also those who have put in less than 5 years' service?

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

(b) (i) and (c). Attention is invited to the reply given to part (d) of Unstarred question No. 58 asked by Khan Bahadur Fazl-i-Haq Piracha on the 5th March, 1945. I should add that in the case of Government servants deputed by the Government under which they are serving, the selection will be made primarily by the Central or Provincial Government concerned and the recommendations thus made will be scrutinised by the Central Selection Board from the point of view of the general distribution and placing of the persons sent abroad under this scheme.

(b) (ii) A provisional list of subjects for training in agriculture is laid on the table.

(d) Ordinarily Government servants with five years' service are eligible for study leave, but those with less than five years' service may also be granted such leave at the discretion of the authority competent to grant leave.

SUBJECT

Agriculture

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|---|---|
| 1. Agronomy. | 16. Toxicology. |
| 2. Agricultural Economy (Economics of farming). | 17. Plant Genetics. |
| 3. Agricultural Engineering (General). | 18. Entomology. |
| 3a. Agricultural Engineering (Implements). | 19. Termite Control (Entomology). |
| 4. Agricultural Systematics. | 20. Virus Entomology. |
| 5. Soil Physics. | 21. Quarantine Entomology. |
| 6. Agricultural Statistics. | 22. Mycology. |
| 7. Plant Bacteriology. | 23. Agrostology. |
| 8. Soil Bacteriology. | 24. Agrostology in reference to ensilage operations. |
| 9. Biochemistry. | 25. Training in the manufacture of Fungicides and Insecticides. |
| 10. Plant Physiology (Trace elements study). | 26. Plant Ecology. |
| 11. Soil Chemistry (General). | 27. Economy Botany. |
| 12. Soil Chemistry (Organic). | 28. Plant Physiology. |
| 13. Soil Chemistry (Inorganic). | 29. Directors of Commodity Stations. |
| 14. Plant Pathology. | 30. Professors Central Agricultural College. |
| 15. Virus Pathology. | |

Horticulture

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| 1. Horticulture (Fruits). | 4. Horticultural Entomology. |
| 2. Horticulture (Vegetables). | 5. Horticultural Pathology. |
| 3. Horticultural (Vegetables seed production). | 6. Technology (preservation and canning of fruits and vegetables). |

Veterinary

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| 1. Physiology (General). | 16. Blood Grouping. |
| 2. Physiology (Trace elements study). | 17. Sheep Husbandry. |
| 3. Physiology (Nutrition and Respiratory Calorimetry). | 18. Wool Technology. (Biological Research). |
| 4. Physiology (Endocrinology and Reproduction). | 19. Wool Technology (Textile Research). |
| 5. Physiological Hygiene. | 20. Hides and Skins (Biological Technology). |
| 6. Pathology (Nutrition). | 21. Hides and Skins (Processing). |
| 7. Pathology (Virus diseases). | 22. Poultry Husbandry. |
| 8. Bacteriology. | 23. Poultry Genetics. |
| 9. Protozoology. | 24. Poultry Technology (Egg canning and drying). |
| 10. Veterinary Entomology. | 25. Manufacture of food products of animal origin. |
| 11. Helminthology. | 26. Statistics of Genetics. |
| 12. Applied Genetics (Small Animals). | |
| 13. Applied Genetics (Large Animals). | |
| 14. Animal Husbandry Physics. | |
| 15. Artificial insemination. | |

Dairying

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| 1. Dairy Organization (field advisory service, etc.). | 6. Dairy Bacteriology (Milk and Milk Products). |
| 2. Dairy Organization— | 7. Dairy Technology— |
| (a) Procurement, marketing and control. | (a) Market milk and its handling. |
| (b) Specialization in milk supply of large dairying. | (b) Manufacture of major products of milk. |
| (c) Specialization in co-operative dairying. | (c) Manufacture of byproducts of milk. |
| (d) Specialization in field organization and procurement of milk. | 8. Dairy Engineering— |
| (e) Establishment and management. | (a) Dairy farm. |
| 3. Dairy Husbandry. | (b) Dairy factories and creameries. |
| 4. Dairy Chemistry. | (c) Dairy refrigeration and Cold stores. |
| 5. Dairy Biochemistry. | (d) Dairy machinery and equipment. |
| | (e) Designing and layout of farms creamery buildings and laboratories. |

Fisheries

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| 1. Biology—Freshwater. | 14. Meteorology. |
| 2. Biology—Estuarine. | 15. Fisheries Technology (Boats and Engines). |
| 3. Biology—Marine. | 16. Fisheries Technology (Nets and Gear). |
| 4. Ecology—Inland waters. | 17. Fisheries Technology (Processing). |
| 5. Ichthyology. | 18. Fisheries Technology (Canning). |
| 6. Ecology—Marine. | 19. Fisheries Technology (Harbours and cognate activities). |
| 7. Planktology. | 20. Fisheries Technology (preservation of boats and nets, etc.). |
| 8. Algology. | 21. Fisheries Technology (fish farm engineering). |
| 9. Carcinology. | 22. Navigation. |
| 10. Embryology of fish and crustaceans. | |
| 11. Protozoology. | |
| 12. Helminthology. | |
| 13. Fish Pathology and diseases. | |

Zoology (including Anthropology)

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| 1. Zoology (Systematics of various groups, vertebrates and invertebrates of the Animal Kingdom). | 2. Anthropology— |
| | (a) Physical. |
| | (b) Cultural. |

Botany

1. Botany (systematics of plants).

Soil Conservation

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| 1. Engineering. | 3. Forestry. |
| 2. Agronomy. | |

Propaganda

2. Films.

Co-operation

Marketing

MUSLIN CLOTH QUOTA FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS AT GOVERNMENT STORES,
NEW DELHI

98. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the quota of muslin cloth which can be purchased by Government servants at the Government Stores, New Delhi, on one date?

(b) Is the quota fixed alike for all communities?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that muslin is the only cloth which is suitable for turbans which forms an essential part of dress for Sikhs?

(d) Does he propose to consider the question of increasing this quota for Sikhs from the existing limit to 15 yards?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) 5 yards.

(b) Yes.

(c) Muslin is one of the types of cloth which are used for turbans.

(d) No. The present supply position of Muslin cloth to Government Shops is such that not every card-holder is able to purchase 5 yards now fixed. I am, however, prepared to examine the possibility of allowing a larger yardage to those who must wear turbans.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I wish to draw the attention of Honourable Members to the list of questions. There are 12 Noon. 75 questions and even if two minutes on the average are allowed for each question which is not too much, there will not be sufficient time to answer more than 30 questions. In order that Honourable Members may be in a position to give notice of their questions under different heads—starred and unstarred—they may refer to the notice board which shows the number of questions put down for a particular day. That should give them opportunity of finding out whether they ought to put further questions to be answered verbally on a particular date.

I may state also that many of the questions do not require any verbal answer. Not only the cost of printing but also much time of the House would be saved if Honourable Members observed more discrimination in marking questions starred or unstarred.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

ERECTION OF WALL ROUND A MOSQUE IN KAROL BAGH, DELHI

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received a notice from Mr. Ghani to adjourn the House in order to censure the action of Government in ordering the erection of a wall round a Mosque near the Government Quarters in Karolbagh area in Delhi so as to stop any access to it and thereby interfering with the religious right of the Mussalmans to offer prayers in the said Mosque.

Is this one of the ruined mosques that had been the subject of a Resolution?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): No.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Are people still saying their prayers there?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Yes.

Mr. H. C. Prior (Secretary, Labour Department): I must object to this. I understand that there has been some local dispute going on from July of last year in regard to the matter and it is essentially a local matter. Also, the Honourable the Labour Member had this incident brought to his notice only yesterday and he has issued orders that the erection of this wall should be stopped pending further enquiries. In the circumstances, I do not think it is a matter of urgency.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not quite follow.

Mr. H. C. Prior: The erection of the wall has been stopped for the moment.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I brought this to notice yesterday. In the afternoon we were told that it is the concern of the Chief Commissioner and the C. P. W. D. is only executing the work. Therefore, it becomes a matter of great importance, if a wall is erected all round the Mosque and there is no access.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I understand it has been stopped.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: If the erection of the wall has been stopped and nothing is done until an opportunity is given to this House to say something, we have no objection that the motion may remain pending.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): We must get some assurance from Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the attitude of the Government? If the Mosque is in use, it becomes a question of great public importance whether a wall can be erected all round it closing access to it.

Mr. H. C. Prior: I can give an assurance that before any further action is taken I will bring it to the notice of Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan and Mr. Abdul Ghani.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): No; to the notice of the House!

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House may not be sitting then.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Supposing the Government are able to give us the information while the Assembly is still in Session, and if we are dissatisfied with the attitude of Government, I hope you, Sir, will admit an adjournment motion and that it will not be stated against us that, as this matter happened so many days ago now it cannot be discussed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): When deciding whether a particular motion is in order or not, the Chair has to take into consideration the circumstances at the time.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE DEFENCE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that the following Members have been elected to the Defence Consultative Committee: Sir F. E. James, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad Shahban, Sardar Mangal Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh, Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh, Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume discussion on the Finance Bill.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I was on the San Francisco Conference yesterday.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): What happened?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It has been declared by all nations that it will be a momentous conference and that momentous decisions will be taken therein. It is intended for the future of world peace and in the words of some of the leaders to put an end to war. That is the importance of the conference. In that Conference therefore they might set up a police organisation to police all the countries of the world. That might involve India also contributing towards the expenses of maintaining a portion of that organisation. It means the Indian Army will have to be trebled over its pre-war level. Will we be in a position to bear all that? And for what purpose? To keep peace in Eastern Asia and under the command of a British Officer in all probability.

Let us assume that we are prepared to accept the liability of all this burden. What is our possible representation in this Assembly and in the Executive Council? In the Assembly which may consist of a number of big and small States, we may be given three representatives and in the Executive Council we won't be represented at all. We know what took place so far as the League of Nations was concerned. Though we were one of the first Members to sign the

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declaration and enter the League of Nations, we have not been given a permanent seat in the executive council. I am not aware of a single Indian sitting in the executive council at all. That will happen again. Therefore we will have to bear all the burden but we will not be given a voice in the voting. The same thing happened when the Honourable the Finance Member attended a conference recently in America. To this San Francisco Conference the biggest men are being sent from countries big and small. England will be represented by Eden, Africa will have General Smuts, Mackenzie King represent Canada, and there will be others from other places. You will understand the importance of this Conference from the words of General Smuts himself. The report is dated Cape Town, March 20, and it reads as follows:

"Field-Marshal Smuts, who will represent South Africa at the San Francisco Conference, told the South African Assembly today that he believed this may be the last world war.

"Knowing what is going on and the methods of destruction already in operation as well as far greater methods in contemplation, and of which scientists have already discovered the secrets, I feel confident that this opportunity at San Francisco is a vital moment in the history of the whole human race."—(And mark these words)—"Small nations cannot defend themselves any more. Even the greatest military power in the world is succumbing to these new methods of war. Unless some way out is found which renders war obsolete, which will eliminate it from the course of human progress, the future is dark beyond measure."

I heartily endorse this hope that war should be ended to the 3000th degree. There is one nation in the world which has been sticking to this attitude of not entering into an aggressive war and it is India, and the emblem of our peace is Mahatma Gandhi, the villager, who resides at Wardhaganj. Sir, he concludes the statement by saying:

"I therefore take the gravest view of the San Francisco Conference and what may emerge from it. I hope that not only the great powers but all the small countries will watch this Conference with the deepest interest and the most sincere wishes for its success."

This Assembly is called a Parliament and the street itself is called Parliament Street but this Assembly is not cared for by this Government. This Assembly is not taken into confidence by this Government and from South Africa General Smuts cries out to the entire world, to all the nations big and small that they should watch with keen interest what is going to happen at this conference. Are we not to be trusted by this Government?

As regards these two members who are chosen, I am afraid they will be back-benchers there. As back-benchers here we are not easily able to catch your eye except through the Marshal sometimes. They will be relegated to the back benches there. They may not have an opportunity to place our case before the Conference. Their leader will tell them that their turn has not yet come and even if they should stand up at the conference they may not be able to catch the eye of the President there. They will spend their time in the night clubs somewhere and when they come back here, they will say, "we pleaded and pleaded and did solid substantial work, in the committee rooms." That is what they are going to say. When anybody should ask them, "Why have you not taken any part in the proceedings", they would say "You do not know how much time we have spent in the committees". Do you think they in the conference will care for these two people there? I would therefore ask that the tallest among men in India should be sent. Are we wanting in tall men? Is not Mahatma Gandhi the greatest man living, fit to be even President of that Conference? So that peace may reign supreme in the world. He is the prophet of peace. Then there is Mr. Jinnah, the President of the Muslim League. Mahatma Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah they are our tallest men. Why are these people ignored? Declare India independent immediately today and I am sure both Mr. Jinnah and Mahatma Gandhi will go and adorn that peace and they will take the lead. Then we will, every man, woman and child here, enlist ourselves in any future war to defend this country and every other country in the world against any aggressive power. Let Germany increase her power by leaps and bounds, jump into the sky if she wants, we will in less than a year put her down, I am sure. Today we are 400 million strong. What is the strength of Russia? 160 millions. What is the strength of the United States? 120

millions. What is the strength of all the white races in the world including the British Commonwealth? 62 millions. England contains 42 millions and the rest of the Empire contains 20 millions. All the white races do not equal in population one single country, India. And therefore I can assure them that if we are armed to the teeth, we will be able to defend not only this country against aggression but every other country in the world. Why do you put us in the back benches, with these people who will not be able to assert themselves? If you are not prepared to do that, release Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and send him to the Conference. Can anybody say that he is not an international figure? I am sure in this Conference a personality like his, will command the confidence of all the nations of the world. Though we are a slave country Jawaharlal Nehru, I am sure, will command the respect and admiration of all the peoples of the world. He is a democrat among democrats. Long before England ever took the step of entering into the war against Germany against Fascism, Jawahar Lal was the first to run to Spain to support the cause of the Republicans there. When he was returning, in Italy, it is said that Mussolini offered his hand of fellowship. Mussolini invited him to meet him but Jawaharlal Nehru discarded him. Sir, it is not an ordinary matter. Mussolini was supreme at that time, when every country in the world was trying to dally with him, including England. A gentleman from our country goes there and even when he is invited he refuses to shake hands with Mussolini, whose hands, according to Jawaharlal Nehru, was stained with the blood of the Abyssinians. Can you find another man equal to him? If he is not to represent my country, let these two people withdraw from the San Francisco Conference. Let them admit their inability to represent us properly and squarely before the Conference. I am not attributing anything to these two gentlemen, but all men are not of the same rank. All cannot become Mahatmas. All cannot become Nehrus. There is unfortunately difference between man and man. Nehru has attained such a reputation in the world and why should we sacrifice our future? Therefore let not these people be sent for this purpose. I can only say that if Nehru cannot be sent, let his uterine sister be asked to represent India at the Conference. The expense on passage, etc. need not be given to her. She is already in America, and she is doing very well. Let her represent India at the Conference.

This is not the first time the Government have chosen wrong men. They have done the same thing in connection with other conferences also. They are sending one Singhanian, against whom there was a criminal case. He is going to be sent in a deputation of industrialists to England. He continues to be one of the members of the Textile Control Board. These are the persons they are choosing. Whomsoever the country discards, he is the best man for the Government. They make him a Sir, a Knight or C.I.E. Clothe him a saree or turban (I am sorry, Sir, I withdraw the word saree) and make him a big man. What do the other countries know about India? Any man from this country, to them, is a great man. Who is there to say that he is not our representative? We are not given passages but others can easily run up and down. That is the position in which we are.

Let me come to one other delegation, the Bhatnagar delegation. I am assured and I know that Sir S. Bhatnagar is a very important gentleman. He is a great scientist, a scientist of reputation. But why was not Sir C. V. Raman sent? Is not Sir C. V. Raman a scientist who is respected and was he not the recipient of the Nobel Prize? Is he not a man of international reputation? Merely because he has become big elsewhere, is he to be ignored by our Government? Government does not want to send our biggest men, lest we should become big too in others' eye. They want to keep us always under their thumb and make us look inferior in the eyes of the world.

Therefore, I appeal to those two gentlemen. Let them go if they like. I cannot prevent them. Let them by all means go but let them not commit themselves to any course of action. Let them take time to consider, whatever pressure may be brought upon them. Let them say "We are not masters of our soil. Let us go back and until the decisions are ratified by the Assembly we will not be parties to this". At least let them do that. It is not necessary for

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me to pursue this as many other persons of greater knowledge of the San Francisco Conference might talk on the subject. I refrain from pursuing this matter further.

I come back to the Finance Bill. Some portion of the money is said to be used for the purposes of fighting against Japan with respect to Burma. The Japanese have receded and gone back. My friend Sir F. E. James the other day eulogised the 14th Army. I am not behind him in giving a fitting eulogy for the services they have rendered. They have rendered yeoman service to our cause. I am proud of the Indians that took part. But I tell my friend Sir F. E. James—he is my neighbour, we belong to the same presidency—I have got the right to tell him that if mercenaries are able to fight the Japanese and the Germans, infuse patriotism into them and they would do better. I am not accusing them for want of patriotism, but it is hunger that is driving them. If they really can fight in a patriotic spirit, they would fight hundred times better. A single half-inch gun may develop immediately into a hundred-inch gun. That is exactly what I say. Let him not misunderstand me. Let him not go about saying that your representative in the Assembly has called you rice-eaters and so on. But we are rice-eaters, there is no harm in it, I am not ashamed of it. Men in Bengal, Malabar and other places were starved, otherwise would they have rushed to join the Army? In this country young men are prepared to sacrifice themselves for mere jobs. I would ask my Honourable friend, Sir Frederick James, if his Party did not bring forward a resolution asking for exemption from conscription of his class. Can he say that my people who have sold themselves are more patriotic than he? The planters in India wanted exemption, as the civilians in this country are exempted from conscription. I read a resolution from the Planter community in Nilgiris or Ootacamund where they said, 'Why do you apply conscription only to planters? The mercantile community here

Sir F. E. James (Madras: European): May I interrupt my Honourable friend? I think he is misinformed. Actually the European community is the only community in India to which conscription has been applied, and it was at their own request.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Am I assured that no member of the European community wanted exemption?

Sir F. E. James: None except those who had conscientious objection. I think he must do justice to the position, which is this. The community asked for and obtained the application of conscription to all males of military age, and the only exemptions from that were in respect of persons who were practising a religious profession, or those who had conscientious objection, and they had to establish their case before a tribunal. In this respect the position in this country is the same as in England.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: We should accept the *bona fide* of conscientious objectors, certainly, it is open to people not to take part in war. I am glad for the information my friend has given. I take it as correct. But what about all those evacuees from Burma? These gentlemen who have come from Burma have secured employment not only for themselves but also for their wives in W. A. C. (I.). Now their children may also be employed. I do not grudge them that. Poor evacuees have to be provided for, but I am surprised that many of them are not taking part in this war.

This is their war, but yet I ask if there was no conscription in their country, how many of their children would come? I have read a number of articles describing how mothers and fathers in England wept at children going to the front. It is a natural tendency, and without conscription their own children will not go to the front. But here without conscription you say 2½ millions have been enlisted. Is it out of love of war? Are their mothers so disgusted with them that they would sacrifice them to the lord of death? "What is this? instead of dying at home from starvation let them die hit by a bullet"—this is

what they say. This is the position today. You have reduced us to this position. It is a wonder I have come here, I am old, otherwise I would also have enlisted. We people are prepared to spill our blood, but we would have spilt much more for the cause of humanity which we love. We have love even for the smallest life, we believe every human being is an incarnation of God Himself. Government incarcerated us, and put our leaders in jail, but Europeans were going about freely; was a single European shot? Is it not because of the absolute non-violent spirit that has got into our marrow?

Why do you want once again to make our children shed their blood, if not in the continent of Europe, in the continent of Asia? You have committed a crime against your children, you are shedding your children's blood, why do you do so? Why do you not be peaceful?

I do not ask you not to be here. Let us share the gruel. You wear four dresses, I wear only a loin cloth; you want sugar for your tea, I want a little salt for my *conjee*. Let us share. I understand your standard of life is a little higher than ours, and we will give you a little more, but let us both live. I appeal to you in the name of humanity that this misrule should end. Give us our national Government to which we are entitled. Let us progress.

I have digressed too far from the economic and financial aspects of this Bill. As regards the economic aspect I will say a few words. I do not intend hurting any one, much less an Honourable colleague in this Assembly. I have heard with pleasure what Members on this side and on all sides have said: we have a good man, a gentleman in the person of the Honourable Finance Member. But I do not know if he has not miscalculated or if he has not been advised properly. War began in 1939. As regards food he has neither followed the policy of England nor initiated a new policy in this country. Even before the war, we were importing large quantities of rice from Burma and sometimes wheat from other countries. So far as cloth was concerned, our mills only produced 50 per cent. of the cloth required, 25 per cent. was produced by handlooms, and the rest 25 per cent. came either from Japan or from England. Thus, in the necessities of life we were deficient, and even after 150 years of your rule we have not been able to stand on our own legs. Finance Member is not a mere tax-gatherer, he must understand whether the country is in a position to bear the load he seeks to place on it, whether we are growing prosperous, and on what items he can impose taxes. Should he not have taken steps immediately to start rationing? should he not have taken steps to fix prices? should he not have taken steps to fix wages? He should have known that there would be war needs, production of munitions and profits. If 40 per cent. is the currency already and 60 per cent. more may have to be introduced for war purposes should he not have taken steps to withdraw this currency by fixing rations, by fixing prices? When did he introduce rationing? Even today there is only partial rationing. When the war is ending we are starting rationing, we are starting to fix prices, when war is normally coming to an end, we are starting war measures. In this country we copy other countries, but we copy the machinery which is rotten in other countries. Institutions which have even been forgotten in western countries—we start with those institutions in this country long afterwards.

I have to say one or two words with respect to the food problem. Even now it is not too late. I am so optimistic that it is never too late. Our men have not been taken away; the water in the rivers has not been taken away; the land is there and there is so much of labour; it is an annual crop and it is only a question of turning our labour into capital. Any day we can become prosperous; but I ask my Honourable friend whether he is here merely to gather taxes. In 200 B. C. Kalidasa, our greatest poet, wrote about the kings of that time and said:

"*Prajanam Vinayadhanat, rakshanat bharanadapi*

Sapita pitarastasam kivalam janma hetavah."

The king was the real parent, for what purpose? To educate the children, to protect them from foreign aggression and also to maintain them and give them food. But it may be asked what was the function of the parents? They merely had to adorn the bedroom and bring them into existence—their function.

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was to bring into existence beautiful children and the rest was taken care of by the state. Are you following that principle? I will not tire the House with more than one more *sloka*. Kalidasa again says:

*"Prajanameva bhootyartham satabhiyo balimagraheet,
Sahasra gunamutsrashtu madattehi rasam ravih."*

He refers to the Finance Member here and says that a Finance Member should act like this; he must collect taxes for the purpose, for the sole benefit of the people from whom the tax is gathered. How? *Prajanameva*—Does not the sun gather water in driblets from ponds and pools, for the purpose of showering it a thousand times more on areas where water is needed? Does my Honourable friend the Finance Member keep these considerations before him? How much has been contributed to the nation-building services of this country? If he can show me that he has done so, I shall be grateful to him. I am not fond of the Japanese. Jawahar Lal Nehru is not fond of the Japanese; he is not a fascist we assure you; we do not want to change this domination for another domination. We want freedom and we will thank you if that freedom comes with your help. After you go there, will you use your good offices for the purpose of getting freedom for this country? We will thank you doubly; if necessary we will erect a statue for you. It will be gross ingratitude if I do not require, if I do not acknowledge the services of beneficent Europeans who come into this country. I am conscious that the first Congress was started by a European in this country and we are always obliged to him. We thank him and therefore it is not as if all the Europeans are against us; there are many good men among them, well-meaning and really well disposed and doing their best; and if they are unable to do anything we are conscious of the limitations under which they labour.

I shall finish in five minutes more. What I am asking you to do is to devote some more money for food and raiment of the people. Any how you are taking and borrowing and spending so much: why do you not spend something for feeding and clothing the people? The Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies said there is so much of cloth but there is nobody to purchase. In Bengal men, women and children are going naked: girls sold themselves during the famine some time back for purchasing food: they sold all their belongings and all their jewels and whatever they had: how do you expect them now to have money both for food and clothing? Therefore they have no clothing. I know of a case where there were two sisters, both of them educated: a friend went to their house to see them both and saw one sister and asked where the other sister was: the other sister was naked and so the first sister had to go back into the house, exchange her cloth with the other sister so that she could present herself before this gentleman; and with this single cloth between both of them, the other sister came back and saw the guest. Should this calamity occur in a country where cotton is produced and cotton has been exported for over 30 crores a year? In 1300 A.D. cotton was unknown to England; the first man who came to this country said "There is some thing which grows on the tops of trees". In England it was said that there is a kind of wool growing in India on the tops of trees, instead of on the backs of goats and sheep. But now we have to depend on Manchester cloth. It is ridiculous. How has it come about? Owing to the good offices of you gentlemen sitting there. Let us now at least make *prayaschitta*, let us perform penance for our misdeeds. Open shops. Follow the institution of lend lease; lend freely to all men and women who have no cloth from the cloth you have in stock. I was surprised that the member from Bengal should say "I have provided cloth but I am unable to sell them". Why not? Charity is there: for the Muslim, *zakat* is there: do you follow that mandate? There is *danam* in Hinduism: if you are a Hindu, come along and give; if you are a Muslim give by way of *zakat*: in any other case, if you are an Englishman, and a merchant, lend. Do not therefore say 'it is too late'. Please clothe the naked humanity in Bengal: for heaven's sake please do it.

One other suggestion I would make—and this is in keeping with what the learned Finance Member said he was going to leave by way of suggestion to his successor: he said that for further increase of revenues in this country the industry have to be nationalised. There is already a flutter in the dovecotes of the European Members and they are rising up and asking the Finance Member to divert his attention to agriculture and say 'let that be nationalised'. I say, accept both the suggestions. I would like to nationalise both agriculture and industry. I am perfectly willing. Make a beginning. Take control of the mills. I know of a case where a mill in Bombay was not doing its business properly and the Government took over that mill. I say, take over all the mills in Ahmedabad and other places; fix the prices; but do not fix the prices on the peak prices—with a reduction from the peak of 1943. Reduce the prices. In the case of persons who are unable to pay any price, give them free or with a liability to return the money after a stipulated time. I want to remind you that in this matter of prices you are always proceeding in a vicious circle. You allow the industry to increase the prices and to charge anything they like and then you gather it back by way of excess profits; but it is the people who purchase who have to pay this excess profit: they have to purchase. Why do you not do it by way of subsidy? In the same way, you can also open grain shops: you can ask your deputy tahsildars and revenue inspectors to open Government grain shops. Lease-lend is now being used for major purposes in the matter of armaments. I say, use it for smaller purposes also.

I do not want to minimise the efforts of His Excellency the Viceroy. According to my and your information he removed the unseeable picture of the destitutes from Calcutta. But today's paper says that 17 persons died of starvation in Calcutta and 19 were removed to hospital. Therefore, it is not as if the starvation problem has gone. It has been removed from the slums of Calcutta—not by feeding these people who live there but by removing their carcasses and the lingering people into the countryside. Where are the statistics? Have you clothed or fed them? Where are the persons who have done this?

I believe you are all gentlemen—those that are sitting over there: I suppose all of you believe in a kind of place to which we are going and that you are aware also of the counterpart of it—hell. Why do you want to go downward and not upward? Now, therefore let us start that socialistic work immediately. It is also social work. Open grain depots; open cloth depots; take charge of all the cloth that is produced; take charge of all the grain that is available. Your ministers may help but they are not the persons who really help. I am not talking of the gentlemen sitting behind you; but they are not the real representatives of the country. I learnt that one Sind Minister said "I have got 4 crores of rupees by selling grain". I say it is a disgrace that a Sind Minister cannot live except on this distress money, making 4 crores by selling grain to the hungry mouths in Bengal, if he should chuckle over it and say "I have discharged the barrage debt".

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Hang him, if you can.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I do not want to hang him. I believe in *karma*.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): We are non-violent.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I do not believe anybody can hinder or harm anybody else: I believe in my own *karma*—my evil deeds will certainly follow me; I look only to God and the retribution he metes out; but I honestly believe that no retribution ought to come even of an enemy. Let us convert him. Therefore let us work as a body and let us open more grain shops.

Lastly, I have got one word to say about the financial aspect of the Bill. Unless I purge myself of it, I may not get sleep. I want to refer to this tax on betel nut. In taxing this commodity, you have not shown yourself as

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a friend of the poor.' There is a proverb in our side of the country which says: 'How much fire can you gather by burning the hair on your head? This is exactly what is happening about your tax on the betel nut. How much does this add to your revenues? Only one crore of rupees. (An Honourable Member: "Has the Honourable Member tried this proverb on himself?") I can tell my Honourable friend I have tried it and there is nothing there. You have not allowed sufficient hair to grow on my head. So far as the betel-nut is concerned, one crore is all the income that you get. In the coming year, I have not found that you get very much larger than this. So far as the tobacco is concerned, it is a luxury. Excessive use of tobacco wastes the lungs. So, that tax may continue. But so far as the betel-nut is concerned, before you go, I beg of you to remove the tax and create a precedent and prove that at least once in his life the Finance Member was amenable to the vote of the House and to the request of the House and I ask you to delete this one crore. I have worked out the percentage of this revenue to the total and it works out at only 1/4th or 1/5th per cent. Why don't you remove it.

Then take salt. The consumption per head works out to only 12 pounds per head. We are underfed in salt. In Norway and Sweden it works out to 17 pounds. In jails we get 16 pounds per head but outside the jail we get only 12 pounds. This is the poor man's salt. I would request you to do one thing. Don't remove it altogether. It is one of the principles of taxation to be found in text books that even on an essential commodity you can impose a tax, if the burden is light and it is distributed over a large number of persons and the amount it brings in is large. Hitherto the tax was Rs. 1/4 per maund with a surcharge of 25 per cent., which raised it to Rs. 1/9. I believe the tax itself was raised to Rs. 1/9 last year. I would be glad to be corrected if I am wrong. May I know if the surcharge continues or not.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): No, it does not.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: To that extent, you are conforming to old practice. Glad that there is no surcharge, but then would you lighten the burden by a small extent.

Now, I am going to make a personal request. I am the father of a number of children.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has spoken for over 50 minutes.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I shall finish soon. The Honourable Member wanted to copy western methods, in differentiating between earned income and unearned income. Why has he forgotten the difference between bachelors and married men? Let him introduce this wholesome principle also.

Lastly, Sir, however much I may persuade myself about the goodness of the Honourable the Finance Member and the goodness of my friends who are overflowing with milk and honey so far as I am concerned and the Members of this House are concerned, they are all wheels of a huge machine which is working from England. Therefore I am obliged to vote against this Bill, so that he can go and tell people in England 'We have been together for 30 long years. We know the people. These are their aspirations. We have had heart to heart conversation with them. Sir, however much we may like England, it should not be at our own cost. Let us work as equal partners. Instead of purchasing from some other country, we shall purchase from England. There are persons who have studied with me who say 'If British Government goes, what will happen to my Shakespeare'. They have forgotten Kalidasa, Raghuvarma and all Sanskrit literature. They have taken to English as a second language and particularly in my part of the country even children can speak English fluently and I am myself speaking at the extreme speed of 300 words a minute. I appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member, when he goes back to his country, to tell the people there the true state of affairs here. During the last few years I had not been here. Otherwise I would have known him more intimately. I really admire his patience. I would appeal to him

to go and tell the people in England about the strong desire for a national Government in this country. Let us be free men and work as equal partners. Let us pull together in a common endeavour. Let us not exploit one another, even if it be a child. Let not a worm be trodden. Sir, I have concluded. I oppose the Bill.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal (Member for Planning and Development): I propose to touch on one or two points only. The first is a misapprehension which seems to have been created by some remarks of my Honourable friend the Finance Member on the Budget in connection with the Planning and Development Department. To me those remarks appear to admit of no misapprehension. Nevertheless I have heard from many quarters and even seen in some papers that the intention was to throw cold water on the planning and development schemes. I am perfectly certain that it was far from being the case. What the Honourable the Finance Member pointed out was that when the war was going on and when the whole economy of the country was engaged in the prosecution of the war it would not be possible to spend large sums of money in executing important schemes of development but he added that money would be forthcoming for all the necessary preparatory measures.

That is exactly the position with which we are in agreement. In the first place even if the money was forthcoming it takes some time to prepare the schemes and in the meantime there is no particular necessity to spend large sums of money. The whole position has been made very clear by the Honourable the Finance Member in paragraph 37 of his speech. Over and above the one crore of rupees which have been allotted in the Budget for this department, additional sums are allotted to the various departments and the Finance Member has been careful to add:

"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."

That, I think, ought to set all these misapprehensions on this matter at rest. The provinces have also large surpluses, unlike the Central Government which has a heavy deficit, and important work in connection with the preparatory task of planning is going on in the provinces. They have enlarged their establishment, appointed special staff, they are expanding or have in many cases already expanded educational and technical institutions and their training personnel. Both in the Provinces, as well as in the Centre, the difficult point is the training of adequate personnel in proper time and it was in this context that I mentioned that it is not finance that is going to prove the bottle neck, but personnel. That did not imply as my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson seems to have understood that I paid no attention to the subject of finance or that we were in any way embarking upon a rake's progress. Mr. Tyson referred to the important question of conversion from war to peace. That subject has been very seriously engaging the attention of Government. In the Supply Department a special staff is going to be appointed to look into the matter of the conversion from war to peace of a number of industries with which that Department is dealing. The Disposal Board is also considering that subject together with various Provincial Governments. I agree with Mr. Tyson regarding the importance of maintaining a proper price level in the post-war period. It is not possible to maintain prices at the extraordinarily high level at which they stand at the present moment. The objective would be to maintain as high a price level as is possible, but greater emphasis would be laid on the stability of the price level than upon the actual height of it. Mr. Tyson complained that these matters had not been adequately dealt with in the second report on Reconstruction Planning, but the second report is after all a summary of various matters which were engaging the attention of the Government, and he cannot expect all these important financial and other matters to be dealt with in great detail in what is meant to be a summary for the information of the Government as well as of the public. Given a stable, fairly high price level, full production and taxation equal to the present level, although not the same in kind, I do not believe that money is going to prove any very serious handicap to planning and the whole essence of successful planning is

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that the wealth which will be created in one stage of planning would be employed for creating further wealth in the succeeding stage.

Before I pass from this subject, I should like to add my tribute to the numerous tributes that have already been paid to my Honourable friend the Finance Member. Although I have had the honour of being his colleague for a short time only, I have watched his work in a non-official capacity for many years and I have no hesitation in saying that no Finance Member no matter to what race or creed he belonged would have worked so wholeheartedly in the interest of the country that he has served as the present Finance Member has done. Those of us who are in a position to understand and appreciate what he has done will long remember his services to the country.

Now, Sir, I come to another subject on which it is somewhat distasteful for me to talk, but I think it is very necessary to dispel the suspicion, prejudice and misunderstanding that seems to exist in the minds of some of the Honourable Members of the Muslim League Party opposite as well as some of the organs of public opinion with regard to the activities of this Department and myself. It might be that that is due to my being one of the authors of the Bombay plan and therefore of being branded as a capitalist. It has been said that the Bombay plan is intended to make the rich, richer. I submit, Sir, that even a cursory glance at the plan will show that it is meant to do nothing of the kind. Its object is to raise the standard of living, to get rid of the evil of dire poverty from our country and to the extent to which it succeeds in doing so, it can only benefit the backward classes at the expense of the more privileged classes. If there had been any doubt about the intentions of the authors of the Bombay plan in that respect, they should have been set at rest by the issue of the second part of the plan. I would invite your attention, Sir, to paragraph 4 of the plan, second part:

"The primary object of the plan of economic development outlined in the previous memorandum is to improve the standard of living of the masses now. In fact an increased production will be meaningless unless it is directed towards the eradication of poverty. Then, again, concentration of the means of production in the hands of a small group of people has been considered as one of the patent causes of inequalities of income which prevails in the world at present as this is also to some extent, incidentally the result of such inequality."

Then, the authors go on to suggest various means of remedying these inequalities, such as imposition of death duties reform of the system of land tenure, small scale and cottage industries, regional distribution of industries, control by the State, accompanied in proper cases by state ownership or management and so on. May I ask, what there is in this programme with which either the Muslim League or anybody else would differ from? I have not come here to implement the Bombay plan in all its details. As a matter of fact, the authors of the Bombay plan have themselves been very careful to point out that they have not put forward any detailed blue print at all. All that they have put forward is a mere sketch of the objectives and the targets aimed at and the rough methods of achieving those objectives, but not a detailed plan. What I have said is that we agree with the objectives of Bombay plan. But then my Honourable friend Mr. Piracha himself has stated in his speech last November that he too agreed with the objectives of the Bombay plan. The principles underlying the objectives, as just now mentioned by me, are more or less the same as the principles we have laid down in the second report of the Reconstruction Committee of the Council. I will not weary the House by going into details over these but I would particularly invite the attention of my Honourable friends to the first three pages and the ninth page of the second report.

Then, there is the constitutional issue. On the constitutional issue, I made my position very clear in my last speech that the work of planning and development is absolutely without any prejudice to the constitutional issue. Whatever shape that future constitution may take the work that we are now doing is not likely in any way to prejudice that, on the contrary it will only benefit

the various parts of the country to which it is extended. If for instance, there are irrigation works in the Punjab, how is it going to injure the Punjab or any future constitution that the Punjab may have? If free primary education is extended to Bengal, how is it going to hurt Bengal or its future constitution? It can only help those provinces and not hinder them in any way. Apart from that, it has been found by historical experience that even Provinces and States which enjoy the utmost measure of autonomy have had to come together in the interests of economic development. That has been the experience of the U. S. A. that has been the experience of Australia, and in many other places. Various methods have been devised for bringing about such economic co-ordination. One of these is the method of regional authorities which was first tried in the Tennessee valley and is now being adopted in other parts of the world.

Now, Sir, I come to some specific allegations which Mr. Piracha has made against me in the November Session in this House and repeated in this Session. It has been particularly painful for me to have to listen to these allegations because I have always had the utmost sympathy for the struggles and aspirations of the Muslim and the backward communities. I realise the handicaps from which they suffer, and I am also very well conscious of the fact that a mere policy of fair-field-and-no-favour is not going to do any particular good to the backward communities. They have got to be brought to the level of the more advanced communities, and for that purpose special measures are necessary. Mr. Piracha stated that it was in 1934 that Government realised the existence of the Muslims as a separate community and allowed them a separate ratio. But, Sir, it was in 1930 that as Municipal Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer of the Bombay Municipality that I issued a circular providing for special treatment for the Muslims and backward classes in the Bombay Municipality.

Then it has been stated that true to the Tata traditions I have been unfair to the Muslims. Sir, I am proud of the Tata traditions. I do not believe that there is a single concern in the whole of India, Indian or European, which has nobler traditions than the house of Tata's and I am particularly proud of those traditions. The method by which the house of Tata functions has not been properly understood by the majority of people. It is presumed that every individual member of the house of Tata is a multi-millionaire. As a matter of fact an overwhelming proportion of the profits which accrue to the house of Tata goes to charities; over 90 p. c. of the profits which are made by the house of Tata's go to the proprietors of two trusts, Sir D. J. Tata Trust and Sir R. J. Tata Trust, and that money is entirely disbursed in charity, and charity which is of an entirely cosmopolitan character, not only not confined to any caste or creed or community, not even confined to India, but world-wide charity and a charity under which among other communities the Muslim community has also benefited. That is in connection with the allegation that the traditions of the house of Tata's are hostile to the Muslims; I submit that it is nothing of the kind.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): They do not want charities, they want their rights.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I entirely agree, and I am fully in sympathy with the claims that Muslims might legitimately make for their rights. What I am trying to point out is that the traditions of the house of Tata's are not hostile in any way to the Muslim community.

Then, Sir, another allegation is that the Tata Iron and Steel Company has been particularly hostile to the interests of Muslims. In the Tata Iron and Steel Company, so far as the lower ranks are concerned, Muslims are adequately represented. In the higher technical ranks their proportion is not what it should be, but that is not due to any fault on the part of the management but because the necessary technical experience has not already been obtained by the members of the Muslim community. The remedy for that is to promote further technical training and that is what we should try to do. There is a Technical Institute connected with the Tata Iron and Steel Company

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in which instructions have been issued to admit Muslim students as far as possible. But out of about 200 applications every year barely two or three come from Muslims. But every time special care is taken to see that Muslims, in so far as their qualifications permit, are admitted to that Technical Institute. I do not deny that in an institution of that character, since the Muslims in the higher ranks are in a minority, some cases of injustice might take place. But wherever such cases have come to my notice, in the past adequate action has been taken, and the management has been asked every time to see that, because they are in a minority, Muslim interests should not suffer.

Then I come to the allegations made by Mr. Piracha regarding my own department. In his first speech he stated that Sir Ardeshir Dalal had taken good care to exclude Muslims from positions of responsibility. The communal ratio has been completely observed in making all appointments in my department; the Home Department circular has been fully carried out. In the case of such posts as Secretary, Joint Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Superintendents, and so on, the communal ratio does not apply because they have already been selected on the basis of that communal ratio. Nevertheless, my first appointment was notified in June though I did not actually take charge until August. But from June onwards I tried to get a Muslim Deputy Secretary for my department, as one post was vacant. I literally begged the other departments of Government to spare me a Muslim Deputy Secretary and even attempted to take over one man who was Assistant Secretary and promote him to Deputy Secretary; but I could not succeed. However, after four months a Muslim officer wrote to me from Bombay, and the Supply Member, under whose charge he was, agreed to spare him. That will illustrate the efforts made by me to secure Muslims for the superior posts in my department. Similarly in the case of the Adviser's department, they are posts of a technical and special kind and therefore the Home Department's circular does not apply. Nevertheless two out of ten superior posts in the Industrial Branch belong to the Muslim community. In the case of the Industrial Adviser himself, which is one of the most important posts in my department, Mr. Piracha stated that when it fell vacant by accident a Muslim was not appointed. Now, Sir, I submit that it is not reasonable on the part of any community to say that any particular post, no matter of what importance, must be and should be allotted to any particular community. As a matter of fact that post did not fall vacant by accident and perhaps Mr. Piracha is unaware of it. It was held by a Parsee officer of very high attainments, and it will show how communally minded I am when I say that that Parsee officer no longer holds that post in spite of his very high attainments, but another officer, a retired I.C.S., an officer who was formerly Adviser to the Governor of Bombay, has now been appointed to the post. But even in connection with that post there is a Muslim officer—not an I.C.S.—who, to my mind, was suitable for the post, but three or four attempts of mine to get that gentleman for that or any other post in my department has been turned down by the department to which he belongs. If Mr. Piracha desires I shall mention his name to him. Except in the case of comparatively small appointments like P. A.'s and stenographers, the proportion has been fully observed, and in many cases I have gone out of my way to get recruits from the Muslim community for jobs. In the case of stenographers I am informed that they are as rare as Birds of Paradise in India and it is extremely difficult to get Muslim stenographers. Nevertheless we have written to the Delhi branch of the League to spare us a Muslim stenographer if they can.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Why did you go out of your way like that?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: It is not going out of my way, because it is very necessary, if we are to proceed in a friendly spirit, that these absolutely unfounded misapprehensions should be corrected. And I am only doing so in a very friendly spirit; and in that very friendly spirit I would lay

down a challenge to Mr. Piracha or anybody to prove on the floor of this House or to the satisfaction of any impartial authority that any injustice whatsoever has been done to the Muslim community.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): Will he keep the interests of other small communities in view, or will he require a reminder like that of Mr. Piracha?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I can assure my Honourable friend, Sardar Mangal Singh, that I require no reminders because I began making these attempts the moment I took over charge, and what I say about the Muslim community naturally also applies to the other minority communities.

Regarding the Panels, I have made it perfectly clear that these panels are not going to be representative of any caste or creed or community. These panels are composed of people possessed of technical and industrial experience. Because the panels are composed of members of certain firms, of members of certain communities, it does not mean that those firms or those communities are going to be favoured in the industries that are to be established. Their business is to recommend the establishment of an industry on an all-India basis. Besides, their recommendations are entirely advisory. When they come to us, the Government will decide—and the Standing Committee of this House will have a voice in the matter—what industries are to be promoted, how they are to be promoted, whether any particular industries are to be nationalized, how regionalization is to be carried out, how the interests of backward areas are to be met, and so on. Therefore my Honourable friend need not be in a hurry with his dynamite stick to blow up those factories when they come to be established.

Sir, I submit that a proper line to take in this matter for the Muslim community is to devote special attention to the technical training of their men and it is in that connection that in the scheme of technical training we have already written to the Provincial Governments and we ourselves are paying special attention to the interests of the backward classes. I have myself sent up a list of a number of graduates from the Aligarh University for the information of the Education Department and I am also in touch with Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad on that subject.

Another line open to the Muslim community is to start industries. The Muslim community possesses the necessary enterprise and I am also sure the necessary means for the purpose of starting these industries. I have already stated to a particular Muslim friend of mine that if they started a company with a capital of five crores of rupees in order to undertake industries in the country, he would receive my co-operation and support. No proposal of that kind has been forthcoming but that is the line on which to proceed instead of making these allegations which I hope I have succeeded in showing are entirely groundless.

I apologize for going into all these details; I thought it was necessary to do so. I hope I have said enough to show what foundation there is for this charge that I am unmindful of the interests of Muslims or any other backward community. I have no intention whatever to injure the interests of the Muslim community or any community whatever. My intention is to try to the best of my humble abilities to promote the advancement of the country.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Sir Muhammad Yamin. The Honourable Member can begin 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.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, this is the only opportunity when we discuss the Finance Bill that we can speak of many grievances to which we cannot refer on any other occasion. I would like to bring those grievances to notice as far as the different departments are concerned.

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

I will take up first a case in which my Honourable friend, the Home Member, may be greatly interested as well as other Members too. I have been in my capacity as the Secretary of my Party receiving numerous complaints. It is very difficult for me to deal with all of them in the time at my disposal. Sometimes I get 300 to 440 pages of typed complaints in one day from all over India. These complaints come not only from Muslims only. I sometimes receive complaints from the Sikh community. They say "you are a person belonging to the minority community; so look to our interests also". Sometimes I receive complaints from the Scheduled classes. Sometimes I get complaints from the Hindus also. They say "we entrust you with our case. Please look into the matter".

One particular thing to which I have been drawing the attention of this House is that you cannot give security to your subordinate staff unless you can assure them that their cases are properly heard. If they are badly treated these subordinates must have their full say and their case must be heard by a person who is not their superior. Otherwise a fetish is made of ideas of prestige and discipline and justice is not done. Whenever I receive a complaint I go through the whole file and send it with my note to the Honourable Member or Secretary in Charge. But in many cases I find that when I send it to the Honourable Member, he sends it to the Secretary, who in turn sends it to the officer against whom the complaint is, with the result that the same report comes back after a period of about two months.

I have with me some typical cases. I have gone through them and I have marked them for the guidance of the Honourable Member. This one case contains 48 typed pages about a man who was very badly treated in his office and if any gentleman had the time to go through this file he would see that a very good, efficient and hard-working person was being sacrificed in the department simply because somebody got offended with him. There is another case which I sent to the Honourable the War Transport Member but I got back the same report. This shows that justice can never be done to the subordinate staff unless an impartial tribunal is there to go into their cases. We have got the Public Services Commission which gazetted officers can approach if they feel justice is not done. But where your subordinates are concerned it is not so.

I shall now give you one or two cases that are most illustrative of my contention. There was a man named Mr. Akhtar Mir, B.A., LL.B. He was recruited through an upper division competitive examination as a Court Clerk to the Political Agent, Simla. He began to get very good remarks up till 1943. Major Alban, who was the Political Agent, gave him a very good recommendation and wanted him to be promoted on account of his hard work and ability. A very unusual thing for an LL.B. and practitioner—he was a good stenographer too. He did that work also. In 1944 unfortunately for his man, the Muslim League and the Congress in the Assembly worked hand in hand and this gave great offence to some of the eccentric officers in the country.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): Was this gentleman also a member of the Muslim League or the Congress?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: He was a clerk. He was not a member of either organisation. But the charge against him was that he was an undesirable Muslim Leaguer and he was made to give a reply within three-quarters of an hour, and degraded. Then his stipend as a stenographer was taken away. Again he was not allowed to draw his salary for six months because they said that his case was under consideration. On the 18th May he was charged for not drawing his salary. When he proved that he wanted his salary all these months and this charge failed, he was next accused for delaying fifteen cases. He then showed the orders of the Political Agent that these cases should be delayed. This was also done. When he showed this order, then he was degraded for indiscipline to a lower job, for which he was

not recruited. Then on the 22nd May he filed an appeal and took one day's leave on the 23rd. On account of all this he got such a shock that he fell ill and sent an application for two days' leave supported by a medical practitioner at Simla.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: What Department was he employed in?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Political Department of the Government of India. On the 23rd May when he sent this certificate the leave was refused and he was asked to produce the Civil Surgeon's certificate. A man getting Rs. 174 is asked to produce the Civil Surgeon's certificate for two days' leave which was due to him. He had to his credit many days leave but he was not allowed. Then when he appeared on the 25th May he was given three quarters of an hour to give an explanation as to why he did not appear before the Civil Surgeon. He said that he received no information. They said "Your mother was served with the notice and she refused to receive it". The man replied that he was not responsible for his mother not receiving any letter which was given to her and that he was asked by the medical practitioner to remain outside in the country since his house was a very small one. Then insulting words were used about his mother and the officer said, "She told lies at your instigation. You are suspended". Because he could not give an explanation in three quarters of an hour he was degraded as a lower division clerk. He wanted to prefer an appeal but it was not sent to the Political Resident.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: On a point of order, Sir. I do not wish to make any remarks as to the merits of the case but it appears from the Honourable Member's remarks that this officer is employed under the Crown Representative and not under the Governor General in Council. I do not know that the Honourable Member is in order in bringing this case to our notice. We are the Governor General in Council.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: It may be. The Budget is presented here and it may be a non-voted budget.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I do not think we have time enough to go into such minute details.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I apologised in the beginning saying that I have got numerous cases and that I would give illustrations to show how badly subordinates are being treated. I am giving only an example. I have picked out one or two cases just to convince Honourable Members that there is a great necessity for some impartial man to judge them. I am showing how the unscrupulousness of an officer can injure his subordinates.

On the same day he was charge-sheeted and asked as to why he should not be discharged because "You are an undesirable Muslim Leaguer". On this he was summarily suspended. He wanted to file an appeal and that was withheld. Then he applied to the Political Resident who appointed a committee. The committee absolves him of all the charges, finds him innocent and says that all the charges are absolutely incorrect. Still the question of prestige comes in. They say, on account of prestige, this man should remain in the lower job, though his suspension is removed. What remedy can you give to a man like this. I have got many other cases like this.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Have you finished this case?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: This case is finished. He wants to file an appeal to the Political Secretary and the appeal is not allowed to go to the Political Secretary.

There are other cases. I am holding here a case relating to one Usman. He was for over 25 years a very good officer. He has got the best certificates and he has put in 25 years service. Then all of a sudden Mr. Towers.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: What was he?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: He was a telegraph engineer in the railway somewhere in Ajmer. One of his officers wanted him to purchase his suit.

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

(The man has produced the original letters) "You purchase my old suit and my table for Rs. 100." And this man refused to purchase, because he could not afford nor were they any use to him. On this a quarrel starts and then the career of the man is ruined. Ultimately he is shunted from one place to the extreme end on the other side. When you read all these things, what protection can you give to a man like this. You send it to the General Manager and the latter will make an enquiry and the same officer comes before them to give evidence.

There is another case of a clerk, which also refers to the railway and I would have referred to it at great length if Sir Edward Benthall had been here. I sent this file to the Honourable the Transport Member and he very kindly sent it to the Railway Board to make an enquiry. After ten days I received a reply from one official in the Railway Board saying that they had also received a copy of this, that the General Manager had made an enquiry into this and he found that there was some misunderstanding about this man.

These three typical cases are out of about one thousand cases which I have got in my file. Something must be done to your subordinates to get protection against their officers who have got personal grudge or some personal animosity against some of their subordinates. After all they are the servants of the Crown, not of an individual or an officer. Some protection must be guaranteed. In the name of discipline people should not be hit, simply because one man is in authority to hit and the other person in a position to receive the hit. There is therefore necessity for a small tribunal to which all matters should be referred.

Another class of grievances which I get is that when a man is just about the time to go into a higher service he begins to get bad remarks. If an assistant is likely to become a superintendent, a year before that he begins to get the remark that his work is bad. Formerly very good, then satisfactory or fair and now not as good as before. Then, when he gets the chance of officiating as a superintendent it is said, 'he was very good as an assistant, but he cannot control the section'. How on earth can you say this? If one man has been very good all through, how does he become bad under one man? He should be put under another, and if his remarks are good, then the officer who gave a bad remark should be chucked out. For his remark was not on merits, it was on something which I would not call disinterested. Then and then alone you will create a kind of terror for these people, and they will be very careful in making remarks in the service book. This terrorism will save many innocent people. You send a murderer to the gallows only to save others.

These are the grievances to which I thought I would draw the attention of the Honourable the Home Member so that he might issue directions in this matter.

Now another thing to which I would draw the attention of the Honourable Members of Government is this. We find lately that ordinances have been taking the place of law. If the Legislature is not sitting, and if there is an immediate necessity, then an ordinance may be passed for the purpose of maintaining security in the country, but this power to issue ordinances has been misused by the Departments. They take shelter behind these because the Governor General has got the power to issue ordinances, and nobody has the right to criticise the Governor General. I do not here criticise the Governor General, but criticise the Departments who advise the Governor General to issue these ordinances. For, the Governor General himself cannot know the conditions which are prevailing, nor is he in a position to draft any ordinance nor has he the time for it. Many of your ordinances come from the Departments, and the Governor General is used by them for giving them power which they think they cannot get from the Legislature. I think this is a great encroachment on the rights of the Legislature. If there are in

existence the Assembly and the Council of State, and they are to meet: within a few days later on, then there is no necessity for issuing an ordinance. I know, Sir, that His Excellency the late Lord Willingdon, once passed an ordinance—that was in 1931. I think—but he was very careful to place that ordinance before the Assembly as soon as the Assembly was called, and the Assembly passed it into law just as he had issued it. Why is it not done now?

My attention was drawn by the landlords of Delhi to an ordinance which was issued on 3rd June 1944 soon after the Assembly had gone and the next Session was near. Still that ordinance was passed which did not take into consideration any equitable principles. I wanted to bring in a Bill to repeal that ordinance, but I was refused sanction which I had to obtain from the Governor General before doing so. Now this means that the country is not ruled by the Governor General, but is ruled by the Deputy Secretary who frames the ordinance and sends it to the Governor General and gets his sanction through his Member. Now, if this is the condition, what is the good of my giving my vote to the Finance Bill as the Honourable the Finance Member asks? Why not issue an ordinance that this Bill is passed? Now under this ordinance which I was referring to, they can take away from me my property. All Government officers are asking for increments in their salaries as conditions are not the same as before. But the property owner is asked to take the same rent which he charged on 1st January 1939—not even the rent which he charged in 1943 or 1944. And what happens? Government officials who have got into their houses cannot be turned out, and there are many of them who have sublet part of the houses at very high rents, and still you cannot chuck them out. When this inequitable ordinance was sought to be repealed, the permission was not granted on the recommendation most probably of the Department concerned, because it would expose those people who had this kind of favour, and who had been doing many things which are really against all equity. You want more salary, but you ask the landlord to remain content with the income he used to get before. Several people from Delhi came to me. Their expenses have gone up four times, but still they are not allowed either to chuck their tenant out or increase the rent. This is the law. You want their help, you want to tax them more, you have your new Income-tax Bill, but they should not get any benefit at all. Government servants have got increments. A man who was Deputy Secretary four years ago is probably over the head of the Secretary now. I have seen many people rising from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 5,000 in four or five years.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not know many people who draw this salary. Can he give five names, he said many people.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: The Honourable Member will not be content with four. What was the position which His Excellency the Governor of Sind holding here in 1939? To what was his salary increased when he was appointed to the Supply Department, against which there was a hue and cry here? Instead of being made a Secretary he was given Rs. 5,000 a month. Shall I go on narrating? Who were there in his own Department in 1939, what posts were they holding then, and what are the posts they are holding now?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Honourable Member said that he knew many people who have risen from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 5,000. All I say is that I do not even know many people under the Government of India who draw a salary of Rs. 5,000 belonging to the class he mentioned.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Rs. 5000 is the salary which was granted as a special case: some jobs were created for these people on Rs. 5,000. Of course the Honourable Members have made sacrifices, I do not deny: they have cut down their salary from Rs. 6,666-10-8 per month to Rs. 5,500. That is a different thing. There was also a cry about General Wood's salary.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkhand and Kumaon Division: Muhammadan Rural): Will the Honourable Member tell us what he was getting?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: He has never been in receipt of Rs. 5,000.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I can give a good many examples where the salaries have gone up very high: you have given them some benefit; but what benefit are you giving to these poor widows who are getting Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 3,000 as annual income and they are not allowed to increase their rent by a single penny, and you want to tax them more every year? That is where the inequity comes in, and if the Honourable Member likes, I can present him a list of many Government servants who have got in their houses subtenants and they are making a profit out of them: they are not living alone, and a house is allotted to them on the specific condition that they will live there and still they are keeping boarders and making some money out of them—they do not say they charge as rent but in the shape of boarding and lodging combined; they become a sort of semi-hotel keepers. This is the thing which strikes the public attention—the public whose help you want every day. They notice the favour you are showing to one class and how badly you are treating other classes.

The Honourable the Finance Member in his speech replying to the Budget debate said in conclusion:

"I want the House to select the Standing Finance Committee of such persons who can come and scrutinise the budget properly, who should be the people to whom you can entrust this work and there was no necessity of any further committee of the House to be appointed specially for this purpose."

May I know what precaution the Government has taken on their part to send those people of that class and with those qualifications—how did they exercise their votes in this case? Can they tell me that in the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, they gave their vote for this kind of people? Have they received information from the Financial Commissioner as to who are the people who understand the work of the Railway Standing Finance Committee and did the Government give any vote to those people? Or do they simply choose their own people on political ground and say that they should send those whose votes they get? After setting a bad example, they come and preach to us on this side, and ask us to do something which they are not willing to do themselves. Has the Honourable Member given any kind of instructions to his whip to see that only those persons should go into the Standing Finance Committee who are the best financiers in this House, who can understand and scrutinise? Were not people thrown away who had been given a vote for many many years for the Standing Finance Committee for Railways by the Government? I hear a great protest has been lodged by a Member who was a late member of the Standing Finance Committee because he was not given votes by the Government; he was not given a vote last year because he voted against the Government on one issue. Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi is not here—he was not given a vote last year and this year and he has lodged a protest against the Government this time. He understands this business. Whom have you sent in his place? Have you asked for a report from the Financial Commissioner for Railways as to who are the people who have been taking an interest in this matter? You have not done that; then what is the use of preaching to this House and saying that we should be careful and should send only people of that class who can scrutinise the expenditure? You do not send such people yourself. I say that if the Government comes and tells us that they are going to have retrenchment or exercise control over the expenditure, the best thing they can do is to use their own 42 votes in the interests of the House and the country generally and not on party lines. The Government do not have to please these people any more whom they have nominated. They have nominated them as members and is that not a sufficient reward that you have given? What more do you want to give?

I am sorry my friend the Commerce Member is not here. I wanted to tell him that I have received several complaints—I have no time to read the whole letter but I can show it to the Honourable Member as well as other letters—that the Muslims are not getting cloth for burying their dead in Nasik. The cloth required to wrap the dead body is not available in Nasik and they have been refused and when the Muslim League members went to the Collector of

Nasik district, he was very unsympathetic and told them "These are the shops which are under my orders: you better go there". Their orders are not to give more than 10 yards and as you know, you require 25 yards to wrap a dead body for burial purposes. There are many dead bodies which have been lying and which have been buried without a proper ceremony performed on them. That is the greatest insult which can be given to a dead man. My friend the Commerce Member may say "This is not my work: this is done by the Local Government; this distribution work is entrusted to them". But who has entrusted it to them? Why do you entrust it to them? I say, bring it to the notice of the Local Government of those provinces that they should not treat these people badly.

I have received a similar complaint from Aligarh, my own constituency; and the Body of *sooth* and cloth dealers in Aligarh allege the same complaint; they say they are not getting proper cloth for selling even to those people who require urgently for such kind of work for religious purposes. . . .

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Do you want any special kind of cloth?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: No; ordinary cloth—long cloth. That is usually used for the shroud, but it is not available for the dead body: ten yards to a man in so much time—and because he is dead, he is no longer a man and therefore he cannot get it. Think of this: because he is dead, he ceases to be called a man and therefore he cannot claim anything.

Another point to which I would like to draw the attention of the Army Secretary—fortunately he is sitting here—is concerned with the army; and to show him I have got in my hand from the sufferers these letters and they tell me what kind of treatment these Indian officers are getting in the Army. There is a long list of grievances and this is the view of many of these officers. This officer says "I am bringing this to your notice, so that you may place it". First of all, you give to an Indian Lieutenant a marriage allowance, consolidated, of Rs. 50. To a British officer a marriage allowance, if he has got a wife and a child you give Rs. 120, while in the case of an Indian Lieutenant, you give him only Rs. 50.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Not for the purpose of marriage?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: To maintain his wife—but not a penny more. As soon as he has a wife . . .

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Only one wife?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: If there are others, they are not recognised. For every additional child British officer gets Rs. 40 and as long as he goes on producing children there is no burden on him. Mr. Ayyangar pleaded that as he has so many children he should be given exemption but here he would have to be careful. I ask why this invidious distinction? These Indian officers are laying down their lives for you, as much as the British officers. I do not say that the British officer should not be given but I say, for goodness' sake give the same thing to the Indian officer. Your policy seems to me that the British officer should have children and others should not. This is a great injustice and causes great heartburning. Wherever a man lives, he has got the same expense. If he lives and dines in the mess, he has to pay all the expenses but there is lot of difference in the graded salaries. In 1934 all of us joined and voted against the Army Bill. The President was also with us. We lost the motion by two or three votes. We did not agree to any invidious distinction between an Indian officer and an English officer. It was said that the English officer comes from Home, he has got more expense and that the Indian officer can manage more cheaply. Those days are gone. In 1945 the Indian officer has to spend the same amount as an English officer. The Indian officer cannot make any saving. Therefore, remove this distinction, specially in the case of junior officers such as lieutenants, captains and majors. It is in these grades that the distinction is mostly felt. And then you blame us and say that you cannot get the proper type of people from amongst Indians. How

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do you expect them to come to the army where they cannot make any savings at all. In the professions or in business, they make some savings. Because of these invidious distinctions that you are making, you do not get the right type of people to join the army. There should be a bond of brotherhood among the officers and the army must be kept contented and you cannot do that unless you remove all these invidious distinctions.

Then I have received a number of complaints about the way you have gone about recruiting for the posts of Civilian Gazetted Officers. You have been taking men from all kinds of offices, from clerks and other persons, while people who are unemployed are rotting outside. They do not get any share. Then I am told that you have employed only 40 Mussalmans out of 500? How is that? This seems to me to be ignoring the instructions which have been issued by the Home Department.

Then, Sir, I have got a grievance and I think many other Honourable Members of this House are also concerned in this. I do not know how it is that our letters are censored.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Yours also?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Yes, since I began to vote with you.

An Honourable Member: In spite of the fact that you are a Knight?

Sir F. E. James: My letters too.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I am glad to hear it. (*Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches*: "Our letters also".) Then, Sir, I condemn the practice. When the Honourable Members of Government are suspects and treated as untrustworthy and it is suspected that they will communicate some valuable information, it may possibly be right but why should we be treated like this? Let the censor treat you as he likes but I can assure you that my correspondence will be above board. You will find nothing in my letters, which is of a suspicious nature. I give you an example of how the censor works. A letter was sent to me posted at Lahore. When I opened it at Meerut, I found it contained a receipt for a big consignment of cotton cloth purported to be sent to Ferozepur. I thought it should be a valuable thing to get this consignment of cloth in these days when cloth is such a rare thing. I found that the receipt was issued from the Meerut City Booking office. I sent this to the man to make an inquiry as to how this receipt came to be sent to me. The clerk said: "The receipt was issued to such and such a man living in such and such a place. Please give it back. We will send it to the man concerned". What happened was that the letters in these cases were placed in the wrong envelopes by the censor. I wondered how it had happened, because the receipt was intended to go from Meerut, whereas this letter came to me from Lahore. This man was taken by surprise and he could not explain how the receipt had come to me. He sent the receipt again to the man in Ferozepur and my letter which had gone to the man in Ferozepur was sent back to me. The man after receiving letter wrote from Ferozepur: "My dear respected Nawab Sahib. I think my letter to you was exchanged by the Censor Department. The railway receipt was sent to you while your letter reached me. The railway receipt was received by me and I am also returning your letter".

This is a funny thing. After five days I get a letter which was intended for me and possibly this poor fellow had to pay some demurrage for not taking delivery of his parcel in time.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Was the censor a man or a woman?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I do not know who it was. I have seen many of my letters do not reach me in time. Sometimes there is a delay of ten days, sometimes the delay is as much as one month. I knew that in Simla, there was censoring of letters. I do not mind if all letters are opened and mine also along with them. Why should my letters alone be picked out for censoring? Here comes a letter from Mr. Jinnah. Nobody can mistake that letter and its author. It is put in a big envelope. It comes from Bombay to Meerut. It cannot contain any suspicious matter. It simply contains some details about a

complaint which he received and which he wants me to dispose of. What is the idea in censoring Mr. Jinnah's letter. This letter was posted under a certificate of posting. This was handed over to the post office. Mr. Jinnah had taken a receipt for this and still it was opened.

An Honourable Member: Sent from Bombay?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: It bears the stamp of Malabar Hill.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Yours was at least openly opened; ours is clandestinely opened.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Many other letters have been opened. I think these are matters of every day occurrence. I do not know why this money is wasted on censors. Why should your censors read private letters? If the army people appoint these censors, then why do you want my sanction for this Finance Bill to pay for these censors? Is it the idea that I should say that this money is well spent and that I should give you my vote to spend this money?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have ceased to hope for that, but I did not think of the censor.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Sir, I have taken much more time of the House than I had intended. I should like to draw the attention of the House to one more point and that is with regard to the speech delivered by my Honourable friend Mr. Ghiasuddin the other day. He paid compliments to himself and to the people of his brotherhood who went with him. He was praising the great service done by himself and others to the cause of India. I say they have done no service, but they did the greatest disservice to India while they made that tour. I interrupted him at that time and I wanted to bring back to his memory the debate that took place in this House. He would have been wise if he had read the report published at page 84 of the *Assembly Debates Vol. I of 1944*. He would know what questions I put. I gave an extract of the Press report to the Honourable the Leader of the House and he admitted that these things appeared there. What did Mr. Bhole say? What did Mr. Ghiasuddin say? How did they misrepresent this country? This appears in the *Assembly proceedings, page 84*:

"Answering to the questions about the vote of censure passed in the Central Legislature against the despatch of Lecturers to Britain and United States, Mr. Bhole said that the Assembly had ceased to be representative. It was elected eight years ago."

Well, Sir, whatever may be the nature of this Assembly, whatever may be his opinion, whether we are true representatives or not, one fact remains and that is, it was the height of folly on the part of Mr. Bhole to claim that he represented India. He was only *bhole*. Further on he said.

"Both the major parties were against the war effort."

Well, Sir, I took great exception to this, that both the major parties were against the war effort. Further he goes on:

"and it was not surprising that they should join together in the motion of adjournment."

He misrepresented this country in the eyes of the world and he also tried to show that the two major parties representing a great majority of Indian people in this country were opposed to the war efforts. Now, Sir, instead of doing this propaganda that India was doing great service during the war, he tried to create the impression that a majority of Indians were opposed to war efforts. It was absolutely wrong and untrue, it was a complete misrepresentation that anybody deputed by the Government of India could indulge in. Further:

"Asked if the war effort would not be mightier under a National Government, Mr. Ghiasuddin replied 'it might and it might not'. It would depend upon what type of National Government we had."

While this side of the House and the whole country was saying that your efforts will be ten times more if National Government is formed, while the majority parties were willing to take up the entire responsibility for war effort on themselves if a National Government was formed, this gentleman deputed by the Government of India and belonging to this House goes to Europe and says that a National Government might or might not bring mightier war efforts. I say he has misrepresented this country. If he had not paid so much compliment to himself, I would have taken no notice of his speech. He did not

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deserve any notice to be taken of by me. Especially after the whole thing was exposed by the questions put by me in the Assembly, one cannot understand how he can pay compliments to himself. I thought it was the greatest injury he wanted to cause to India in other parts of the world that whatever he had done was the right thing. But this side of the House says that whatever he did was the greatest harm to the country. He greatly misrepresented the country and he misrepresented us. These are some of the grievances which I wanted to narrate at present, and unless these grievances are removed, I think the Honourable Member should not expect me to vote for the Finance Bill.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi (Secretary War Department): Sir, in the course of the debate on the Finance Bill, several Honourable Members referred to matters affecting defence services. I welcome this because it is very essential that there should be an informed opinion on defence matters. Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Lawson asked for a review of the military necessity for the black out in Calcutta. I am glad to be able to inform the House that a review is already in progress and an appreciation of the extent of air threat to North East India will shortly be sent to the Defence Department. It will then be for the Defence Department and the Provincial Government, that is, in this particular context, the Bengal Government to consider whether the existing black out regulations should be relaxed or abolished. I was sorry to learn from my Honourable friend Mr. Lawson that military vehicles were not observing black out regulations in Calcutta. The regulations apply to all vehicles, whether civil or military and I have asked the military authorities at the General Headquarters to address the General Officer Commanding Eastern Command on the subject.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants Chamber and Bureau: Indian commerce): Are American vehicles also included under military vehicles?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Yes, Sir. My Honourable friend also urged that claims for compensation arising out of accidents by military vehicles should be settled promptly. I fully agree with him that these schemes should be dealt with most expeditiously. I must frankly admit that the position in this respect was not very satisfactory in the past. We have now set up a Claims Commission, and its main duty is to settle these claims with the greatest possible speed. There is already a marked improvement in the pace with which claims are now dealt with and settled. As regards the particular case of Mrs. Robson, the Claims Commission settled the matter on Saturday last with her. Mrs. Robson has agreed to accept Rs. 3,000, and the amount will shortly be paid to her.

My Honourable friend Sir F. E. James paid a glowing and well-deserved tribute to the armed forces of India. I am sure this tribute will be greatly appreciated. The magnificent part played by our forces in this war is well known to this House, and no words of mine can adequately describe the deep debt of gratitude which the United Nations owe to our navy, our army and our air force. I was pleased to hear my Honourable friend saying that the Royal Indian Navy is no longer regarded as the Cinderella of the services. He thus confirmed my statement to that effect in my speech on the Finance Bill last year. He asked me what progress had been made in the matter of improving the pensions of ratings, petty officers and chief petty officers, of allowing the chief petty officer to travel by a higher class than at present and the grant of extra pay to junior ratings for doing the work of senior ratings. These questions are, I am afraid, such as to necessitate consultation with the other services, and discussions between the Royal Indian Navy, the Royal Indian Air Force, and the Indian Army are still proceeding. The cases have not reached a stage of finality and have not therefore come before the War Department. I shall do my best to hasten these processes and to see that a decision is expedited as soon as we receive the final proposals from Naval Headquarters.

My Honourable friend complained of the iniquity of charging rent to the executive officers of the Royal Indian Navy for the cabins they occupy when afloat. The pay of Royal Indian Navy officers—I think my Honourable friend is aware of this—includes an element of lodging allowance; and the case of an officer having to pay rent for his cabin is analogous to that of an Army officer living in a tent in a forward area and not being eligible for lodging allowance on the ground that accommodation is provided by the State. I am sorry, therefore that I am unable to promise that the present practice will be reversed. But it will be some comfort to my Honourable friend to know that whereas formerly an officer was charged 5 per cent of his pay for rent of his cabin, the rent has now been reduced to 55 per cent of 5 per cent, that is, by about half.

Finally, my Honourable friend pleaded for increase in the pay of Indian airmen. Questions of pay are extremely complicated. All I can say is this that in our judgment the existing pay of Indian airmen is in balance with the pay of the other services and that the rates of pay of Indian airmen must be based on Indian conditions and not on the pay of airmen in the Royal Air Force. At the same time we are always willing to make minor adjustments from time to time, and have in fact done so last year, not only for the Royal Indian Air Force but for the Royal Indian Navy. I shall be happy to discuss this matter in detail with my Honourable friend if he so wishes.

My Honourable and gallant friend Lt. Col. Dr. Chatterjee suggested that the civil posts reserved for candidates with war service should be distributed among the communities not according to the accepted proportions for communal representation but according to the numbers contributed by each community to the armed forces of India. This is a matter which falls to be dealt with by the Honourable the Home Member, though I myself see grave difficulty in adopting that suggestion. My Honourable friend stressed the need for a strong defence force after the war. I fully agree with him and I think it is a truism to say that whatever may be the form of Government that India will have in future, she will need a highly efficient, well-disciplined and well-equipped armed force. I also agree that our aim should be to have a truly national armed force and that recruitment should be on the widest possible basis. My Honourable friend referred to the University Training Corps and complained that the military authorities did not take them seriously in the past. Whatever justification there may have been for this complaint—and I admit that the complaint was not without justification in the past—I can assure him, and I believe he knows it too, that it is not so at present. We do regard the University Training Corps very seriously; as my Honourable friend is aware, we have reorganised several University Training Corps. We now call it the University Officers' Training Corps. We have introduced certificate A and B examinations. I cannot agree that students who are members of the University Officers' Training Corps should be selected as cadets straightaway without going through the selection boards. We do not, however, require such students to go to the provincial selection boards in the first instance. They now go straight to the G.H.Q. Officer's selection boards. Moreover, those who have passed certificate A or certificate B examination are not required to go through the full pre-officers' training school training, and there is a provision for exempting them from that part of the training. The Army Reorganisation Committee is fully alive to the importance of the Officers' Training Corps as a source for potential officers for the armed forces, and I have no doubt that it will make suitable recommendations designed to improve the Officers' Training Corps still further. Our difficulty at present in going ahead with all the improvements which we should like to make is the shortage of both officers and equipment.

My Honourable friend Mr. Basith Chaudhury in a speech full of eloquence referred to the inconvenience caused by the requisitioning of buildings in

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Assam. I fully recognise this inconvenience. It will be our endeavour to de-requisition these buildings as soon as the military necessity for continuance of requisitioning disappears. My Honourable friend also referred to certain questions he had put to me regarding wages and general conditions of service of the employees of the steamer companies plying in inland waterways in Bengal and Assam. My Honourable friend was not satisfied with the answer that I gave, namely, that these are matters for the Provincial Government. That is the constitutional position, and all I can do, if my Honourable friend so wishes, is to send copies of his question and my answer both to the Bengal and the Assam Governments.

I now come to the speech of my Honourable, gallant and learned friend Lt.-Colonel Dr. Sir Zia-Uddin Ahmed. I acknowledge with gratitude the assistance of the Aligarh University in the war effort, and I hope my Honourable friend will agree that our gratitude has not stopped with words but has been translated into financial and other assistance to the University. He referred to the poor success of passed candidates of the Training Corps in selection by the G.H.Q. Officers' selection boards. I venture to suggest that the blame, if anybody is to be blamed for it, is not to be laid at the door of the selection board. We now propose to extend the duration of the course in the Air Training Corps, and will do our best to develop during the course the qualities of leadership and initiative which are so essential for officers of the armed forces. This we hope will give better results at selection boards.

My Honourable friend next asked why we were not offering permanent commissions in the Royal Indian Navy to emergency commissioned officers now in service while continuing the recruitment of outsiders for training in England with a view to granting permanent commissions. The latter scheme is mainly a continuation of the pre-war practice. The vacancies offered are very few. We have now under consideration a proposal for granting permanent commissions in the Royal Indian Navy to those holding emergency commissions and considered suitable for permanent commissions. A register of those wishing to be considered for permanent commissions has also been opened, not only for the Royal Indian Navy but also for the Indian army and the Royal Indian Air Force.

My Honourable friend wound up his speech by describing me as the First Lord of the Indian Admiralty, and asking at the same time for my help in securing materials for a hall which is being constructed in the University. I am not at all certain that he was right in describing me as the First Lord of the Indian Admiralty; in fact, I am quite certain that he was quite wrong. Nevertheless I appreciate the compliment and I can assure him that I will do what I can to help him in this matter of securing building materials when the papers reach me, although the best I can do may not be very much.

I now come to the speech of my Honourable friend Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, who spoke last. He referred to the disparity in the pay of the Indian officer and the British officer in the Indian army. We are well aware of that and, as I said the other day, I hope shortly to be able to make an announcement on the subject. I am afraid I cannot say anything more on that at present, except that when an announcement is made I am sure it will be found satisfactory.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I hope there will be no difference after this.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Let him wait and see.

My Honourable friend next referred to the civilian gazetted officers, and I think he said that out of about five hundred civilian gazetted officers appointed only forty were Muslims. I am sorry I have not got the exact figures with me, but I am almost certain that my Honourable friend's figure of forty is quite wrong.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: What is the correct figure?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I think it is either 1/3rd or 25 per cent. of the total number of Civilian Gazetted Officers.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: How can the Honourable Member say that I am wrong when he himself is not sure about their number?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am quite certain that your figure of 40 is wrong.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: How can you be certain when you don't know the figure yourself?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: All I can say is that we are observing communal proportions.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: That is no argument.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am saying that your figure of 40 is wrong and it is something like either 1/3rd or 25 per cent.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: 'Either' and 'or' shows your uncertainty.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Sir, I have nothing more to say.

Lala Sham Lal (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to oppose the Finance Bill. Even as I have been doing this in the past. The matters urged by me on previous occasions may well be considered in relation to the present Finance Bill also. Sir, I am not going in details from department to department quoting figures; I am not to repeat anything what has already been said by so many Honourable friends on the floor of this House. My opposition to this Bill will be in a general manner based upon deductions arising out of the cumulative effect of circumstances all round.

Sir, the present Bill is the outcome of the Indian Budget placed before this House by the Honourable the Finance Member, the sixth war budget. This Budget shows a deficit of some 156 crores of rupees. Out of that deficit, this present Finance Bill proposes to bring in some six crores of rupees; while the rest of the deficit, amounting to about a huge sum of 150 crores of rupees, has to be raised through loans.

It is said in some quarters that India has got off lightly this year. But I say it is not so. No doubt the taxes that are going to be imposed this year are not so drastic as they used to be in previous years, but if anything the deficit is there, the deficit of 156 crores that has to be met whether by taxation or by loan. The loan after all has to fall upon the shoulders of India, the loan after all has to be repaid sooner or later. In that test, either the taxes that have been imposed so far as a temporary measure during the war shall have to be continued or fresh taxes shall have to be imposed in order to make good the deficit, in order to make repayments of those loans. Therefore to say that India has got off lightly is not a correct proposition.

Then, Sir, I think that the taxes that are proposed to be imposed this year are somewhat in keeping with the words of the Honourable the Finance Member expressed by him in his Budget speech last year. He stated then that already signs of distinct overstrain and possibly even of breakdown are appearing. Still last year he imposed taxes, still this year he is imposing further taxes. Thus the taxes that are going to be imposed are in a way in keeping with the words of the Honourable the Finance Member as he expressed in his Budget speech last year. But at any rate the deficit of 156 crores is there.

Then, Sir, let me point out before this Honourable House that during the last six years taxes have been rising in leaps and bounds notwithstanding the bewailings and crying of the people of this country. All these things have been fully expressed by the Honourable Members of this House on previous occasions, but still the taxes were imposed and are being imposed still. In a way the deficit has been coming every year; the deficit has been made good every year by fresh taxation. When one has been digested and then another deficit every year is coming. In this way, burden of taxation has been put on the Indian people which they cannot bear. That is the state of affairs under which this present Finance Bill is coming before this House.

Sir, it was expressed by a great Prime Minister of England Lord Salisbury some years ago that India has to be bled: the lancet has to be applied where

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the blood is congested, and we see that during so many years this policy of Great Britain, laid down by the Prime Minister of England, has been systematically adhered to. Every year the Government of India has been placing budgets with deficits and the lancets have been applied to the people of this country. Sir, I would not have grumbled much if the lancet had been applied to places where the blood is congested, but I now see that encroachments are being made not only in the places where blood is congested, as laid down, but also in places where there is no blood and the people are languishing and dying. What is this tobacco tax? What is this salt tax? Taxation upon the poorer people, who cannot bear in any way, who cannot even find the necessities of life, and still taxes are being imposed upon them. This is not a tax upon people where the blood is congested.

I need not go into details as to how the extravagant and indiscriminate expenditure of the Government of India in its various departments has been rising during the last six years. I know it has been rising in leaps and bounds as has been so nicely pointed out by the various Members; I will not repeat all that. But I may point out here that the present deficit as well as the present taxation, that is required to be imposed on this country, are mainly on the grounds of war measures and post-war planning and development. Now, Sir, expenditure is rising every year on account of the war and in the name of war. I see that in every department expenditure has been rising, but I can say that all this is on account of war, because all the material of India is being exploited, is being monopolized, is being sent to Allied countries, is being utilized for war purposes both in India and abroad, and therefore the prices have gone high and therefore the salaries and all other expenditure in other departments have gone high. I can say that the excess of expenditure in all other departments are also due to war conditions. It is a self-evident fact that India is made to bear the brunt of the war expenditure, not only India but outside too. Whether this involving of India into the war was with her consent or not—I need not repeat it again because it has been stated so many times on the floor of this House—I shall take it that India now stands involved in the war. But at the same time I must say that India is made to bear the brunt of the expenditure on account of this war, be it for the international war or for the war on the Indo-Burma front. But let me point out here that the war on the Indo-Burma front is dominantly financed by Indian resources. Indian men, money and material are utilised for this war on the Indo-Burma front. The two provinces of India—East Bengal and Assam—are now the theatres of war preparations to take the aggression against Burma. These Provinces are practically in the grip of military.

Now let me ask Honourable friends of this House for what is all this about? I do not grumble if they are going to take the aggression against Burma. I do not grumble if they are going to conquer Burma. I am glad they are going to re-occupy Burma. But there must be some aim for which all this should be done. Now, have they ever asked the British Government or His Majesty's Government in England as to what will be the relations between India and Burma after Burma has been reconquered and re-occupied? Have they cared ever to ask what will be the position of Burma in relation to India in the matter of trade, and acquiring property? Nothing of the sort has so far been declared by the British Government. Yet, here are friends who are very eager to fight for Burma, to recapture Burma, to reoccupy Burma. The other day a friend of mine, sitting just on my left side was prepared to take arms to conquer Burma at the age of 76 provided he was well fed. That seems to be the end of his aspirations when he was prepared even at the age of 76 to take arms. He never cared to think out the future consequences of his so doing. Then there is another friend of mine, whom I always call as my master—the High Commissioner of India for Burma. Capable though he is, but has he ever cared to know what will be the relations after the reconquest of Burma.

with respect to India and what will be the consequences thereof? That is the position to which I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Members.

Let me review the history of Burma with respect to India. Burma was conquered by Indian resources, men and money and materials in 1886. Burma used to be a province of India under the Government of India and His Excellency the Viceroy. Burma used to send representatives to this House and also used to send representatives to the All-India Congress Committee, the only national organisation of the country fighting for the freedom of this country. What took place later? Burma was at that time aspiring for freedom equally as India was, being a province of India. Where India wanted freedom, so did Burma. Burma having been a province of India and sending representatives to this House, presupposes that the British Government was committed to the fact that whatever rights India may get in the end Burma will also get. But what do we find later? In 1935 Burma was separated from India.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: In the interests of Britain.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: And Dr. Banerjea!

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: And against the wishes of the Burmese people.

Lala Sham Lal: So that in case India became independent, Burma may not.

In 1935, Burma instead of being under the Indian Government was placed under His Majesty's Government in England. The fruit of the victory in 1886 which was due to the resources of Indian men, money and material, was thus destroyed. This was the first act of dishonesty on the part of the British nation with respect to India.

Then, Sir, this was not the only thing. We find later that after the separation of Burma from India another act of dishonesty, complete in itself, was committed and that was the Indo-Burma pact whereby egress from and ingress to India was shut out, trade limitations were placed, and in every way Burma was separated from India and Indians were forbidden to hold property there. That was the Indo-Burma pact against which the late Mr. Satyamurti fought so hard. That was the reason for which the stalwart Honourable friend of mine, sitting on my left, proudly stated that Burma was conquered by the Andhras. I know the Andhra people had property there to a great extent. After the occupation of Burma by the Japanese all that property was lost. Now where is the declaration that if Burma is reoccupied all that property which has been lost shall be restored to previous owners? Is there any guarantee for it? Nothing. It was in this way that Burma which was conquered was eventually lost to India in every respect.

India is now fighting to recapture Burma. What for? Indian resources are being used to reconquer Burma. What for? Unless and until assurance as regards the position of India with respect to Burma is not made clear, I think this war expenditure which is being incurred on the Indo-Burma front is needlessly a burden on India and the Honourable Members should not be a party to an expenditure of this nature.

Let me cite in this respect another fact of history. You know that the United States of America used to be in bondage under Great Britain before 1783. In that year, or a little earlier, Britain wanted to tax the United States of America. The people rose in revolt and the war of American Independence was the result. That war came to a close in favour of the U. S. A. and that

country declared its independence in 1783. After 1783 the U. S. A. 4 P.M. though coming out successful in the war for American independence, though they declared their independence, they could not have peace for a long time. Britain sitting in Canada went on intriguing, making all sorts of machinations and plots still to hold the U. S. A. in bondage and as a result of those intrigues, as a result of those tactics and machinations employed by Britain sitting in Canada, a severe type of civil war broke out in the U. S. A. Between successful in that civil war, also and coupled with the

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fact that Canada also became free, the United States of America could heave a sigh of relief and thereafter began the time of peace and prosperity for the U. S. A. If the U. S. A. is a powerful country, rich and healthy, it is the result of some 70 or 80 years only since 1867. Why I ask my Honourable friends to consider that history is that if India has to get independence, whether by the grace of Britain or otherwise, after the war or before the war, can it not be possible that these British sitting in Burma will still go on intriguing and plotting to keep India in bondage even as they did with U. S. A. History tends to repeat itself. Fighting without any definite demarcation of policy on the part of the British nation with regard to India and Burma will be a great mistake and you will be sowing the seeds of your own misfortune in the way of the coming independence. That is the point which I want to impress upon Members of this House in all earnestness. I do not in any way say that Burma should not be freed from the clutches of Japan or that Burma should not be reoccupied but, at any rate, Burma is as much entitled to freedom even as India is. Without a policy having been declared on that point by Britain it will be a sheer mistake on the part of this House or the Indian people to contribute anything to the war, simply to get Burma reconquered or reoccupied and handed over to England as a slave country for your own misfortune. That is the point which I wish to emphasise with respect to this present Finance Bill, with reference to the present deficit and with respect to this war.

I want to tell this House what will be result of all this. The Finance Bill on previous occasions has been thrown out by this House and they were made into law by H. E. the Viceroy with the power of veto hanging over the head of the people like the sword of Damocles. That will be the situation I know even at the present time, even if this House throws out the present Bill. But long will that go on? The discontent is being driven deep into the hearts of the people though no doubt the people of this country have lost the vitality to resist taxation. The people of the United States of America had the power to resist taxation but the people of India have not got that power to resist taxation. At any rate, this is a fact which cannot be denied that as a result of what is being done by the Government of India these days by taxing the people a sort of discontent is being driven deep into the minds of the people. This discontent will generate a force, which force after the limit is passed will remove the present Government for ever, I doubt not. It is a clear law that every night is followed by day and every hollow crests the wave. That being the case, if the helmsmen of the Government of India do not take care to appease the sentiments, the aspirations of the Indian people, a time will come when the limits will be passed and they will be no more here, leaving behind a bad name in the history to be recorded hereafter.

It is said that money is required for post-war planning and development. I said a lot about this post-war reconstruction in my budget speech and the speech on the Finance Bill last year. I ask again what does post-war planning and reconstruction mean? The war has not come to a close. The war is yet going on; though it is believed that they are nearing victory, I doubt this very much. May be that victory is possible in Europe but so long as the people of India are discontented, I am very much afraid that the war will not close unless and until the circumstances arise from which peace can come about. The war is not yet over. It is not yet known what will be the situation of India at the time when the war ends. As to how India shall be rebuilt after the war no definite programme has been laid down and can be laid down. Then what is the meaning of raising funds today? What is the meaning of post-war development and post-war reconstruction today? Funds should be raised today and tomorrow God knows what may happen with respect to India and with respect to all other countries in Asia. Nobody knows what may be the circumstances of the war as regards Asia tomorrow. The War in Europe may be finished or it may not be. I cannot say, but the war is not going

to be finished so far as Asia is concerned, unless circumstances come in whereby freedom and peace can come to the downtrodden Asiatic countries. Therefore this post-war reconstruction or post-war planning is premature. If the time for post-war planning and reconstruction comes and if India can contribute to it, when the occasion arises she will be able to contribute in the manner required or that may be found necessary. With these words, Sir, I oppose the Finance Bill.

Mrs. Renuka Ray (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, in speaking on the Finance Bill it is my desire to draw attention to certain matters vitally affecting the health and welfare of the common people of this land, and in particular to emphasize the conditions of women and children. Honourable Members of this House are well aware that I am here on a mandate from the true representatives of the women of this country, and when I speak, I claim to do so on their behalf and on behalf of an organisation of women which has the national interests of the country at heart but which does not belong to any particular party or bear a party appellation. For the All-India Women's Conference is common plank for all women of whatever community, class or party. But in saying this I should also say that women in this country are not narrow suffragists and it is one of the distinct contributions of India and perhaps of the East that the women's movement in this country has not brought sex-war. Only the other day, the generous support, the unanimous support, which this House gave to a resolution which was brought at the request of women's organisations in this country, shows how men and women who want the welfare of the country work in unity. There were only two women in this House, but the unanimous support that we have got is an eloquent proof of the fact that men and women are working together for the welfare of the country. The cleavages that rent the country have no part in the relations between men and women. Where women work separately in their own organisations, it is not in order to create further disunity, but it is only in order to see that women develop and get the opportunity to become responsible citizens and able to work shoulder to shoulder with men, in common service to their country.

Sir, the policy of non-intervention on the part of the Government in matters of social reform, which I may add has in effect extended to the health and education of people, has had disastrous effects on the nation. My Honourable friend, Mr. Ayyangar in his speech pointed out quite truly that it is the State which must take responsibility for the common people of the land: nation building is its primary duty. From time to time in the past social reform has crept in due to the efforts of valiant champions and pioneers, but the struggle has been a difficult and an unequal one as the State stood aside unconcerned with the welfare of the people. When one country was at its lowest ebb, when degradation brought subjection, the social customs and laws came to reflect the out-look of the time. When today, we are awake again, pulsating with new energy and new hope, is it possible that we should allow the customs which crept in during the days of our degradation to stand in our way and bar our progress? Let me express my gratitude to the Honourable the Law Member and to his predecessor the Leader of the House, who have taken a step in the right direction at last. Of course the results are yet to be seen. May be it is a halting and a slow step; but I sincerely hope that it heralds the dawn of a new era, of social reform in the country.

When we look to the basic needs of the people of this country, food, health and enlightenment, we find that it is the same indifference, the same apathy, that has influenced the attitude of the Government. There have been sporadic and limited attempts no doubt, largely the attempts of private and voluntary effort, but thereby it was not possible for these to reach even the fringe of the problem, that confronts us. In England today the Beveridge Plan with all its implications has been accepted, but in India our people today are left to fend for themselves with the consequent result that they remain undernourished, ill-clad and uneducated. It would be a truism to say that the situation in the

[Mrs. Renuka Ray:]

country is one almost without parallel in the world in regard to the condition of the poor and the middle-class poor of this country.

The food problem in this country has been discussed many times, and I do not want to take up the time of the House by going into details and I should only like to point out that constructive proposals which have been made have not yet been given effect to in all their aspects and though I do not deny that efforts are being made, it cannot by any means be said that all that should be done, is being done. We must judge by results. I can only point out, Sir, that even the economy that existed before the war has not been restored and the plight of the villager is too terrible to describe in words.

There is one point with regard to the food problem to which I want to draw the special attention of this House. It is not only the quantity of food that matters, it is also the quality. In this country we do not even have the semblance of a nutritive diet or a well-balanced diet, and this is seriously affecting the health and welfare of thousands and thousands of women and children. Here I will quote from an authority eminently fitted to speak on this subject due to long years of research, Dr. Akroyd. He says:—

"It is clear that well-balanced diet is far beyond the means of a large section of the populace. It is impossible to estimate accurately, the percentage of the population which suffers from actual hunger but certainly it is a large one. . . . Over 70 per cent. diet surveys of groups of families both rural and urban in about 30 per cent. daily caloric intake per consumption unit was below 2,300, i.e., below any reasonable Standard of requirements."

Again he says:

"There can be no possible doubt that millions in India never get enough food to eat and this fact is, of fundamental importance in connection with agriculture."

To say the least, this condition is much worse today and that leads me to the question of the milk famine. This matter has been discussed in the House again and again, many suggestions have been made, but the supply of milk is becoming less and less. It affects children who are the future generation of the country, and I feel it is my duty to call the attention of Government to it once more, and I hope that the Members of this House will forgive me for taking their time in doing so. While children die or remain on as human skeletons and physical wreck, due to lack of milk, which nursing mothers and babies are deprived of, we find that so far the slaughter of cattle has not been banned, we find that rationing of milk with priority rights for nursing mothers and children has not yet been brought in. We also find that large subsidies on a widespread scale for the breeding of cattle and for encouraging production of milk has not yet been introduced into this country though some localised efforts are discernible here and there. We find, Sir, it is not only a question of quantity but also of quality which is of great concern. I do not bring up these points with any idea of destructive criticism. I point these out to Government with the hope that even more effective action may be taken because it is matter so vital to the welfare of our country. It is so necessary that the State which is ultimately responsible for the children of this country should take up this milk problem and see that the production and distribution of milk in this country is carried out in such a manner that our children are not deprived of one of the essential requirements to build up healthy bodies.

Turning from the question of health to the question of education, what do we find? We find that the figures of literacy today, which stares us in the face, is for men 15 per cent.; and so far as women are concerned, I think it is still somewhere about 3 per cent. These figures speak for themselves. I am not against post-war planning or post-war reconstruction, provided it is carried out with the real interests of the people of this country and provided their plans and schemes which will be relegated to the background to adorn the shelves of Government offices, like this book before me—the Royal Commission on

Labour's report—which if it had been put into operation, the conditions of labour in this country would have been vastly changed by now but to return to the question of education, I should like to draw the attention of Government to the report of the Central Advisory Board on Education. This plan has been before the country and the Government since January, 1944. This plan is not a part of the post-war plans, when post-war plans became the fashion. It is the result of much labour and effort for some years past. It has the contribution of many of our most eminent educationists some of whom may not be signatories to the report in its final shape. The Board has taken into consideration the views of all educationists in this country as well as in educationally progressive countries. The report is before us and I do not understand any reason, any justification, to put off the introduction of this report for the post-war period. We have long been asking for free compulsory primary education. This report incorporates it, it incorporates the Wardha scheme of basic education which today has come to be recognised as the best system of education even by educationists in other countries.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

For the correlation of craft and activity and with the physical and mental environment of the child must be given due emphasis in the educational system. This too has been incorporated in the report. In every stage of education, equal opportunity and equal talent and capacity has been brought in. Provision has been made whereby the backward communities, or I should say, the educationally backward communities should be given chances so that they should not be left behind. It is a minimum plan for education for all, irrespective of any differences; and I would like to call the attention of the Government that it is essential to put this plan into operation immediately and not wait for any post-war period. The plan has also laid a great deal of emphasis on the training of the teacher, for that naturally is the most important and the most fundamental point; for unless those who are to train the citizens of the future are trained themselves, how is it possible that any plan can come into operation with any measure of success? The only legitimate criticism that has been brought against this plan is on the ground that it will take long years before it comes into final operation, and the delay is due to the delay in training of the personnel. I think I can say with assurance that no one will be so pleased as the members of this Board of Education if this can be done more swiftly; and this is a second and additional reason why this plan should be brought into operation immediately, without waiting for the future. And if the Government is unwilling to put the whole of the plan into operation at once, at least they should bring in on a wide scale that portion of it which relates to the training of the teacher. The majority of provinces and of states have given their consent to this plan; they are drawing up plans on a similar basis; and I cannot understand any reason why the Government of India should relegate for a post-war period, education which is the very basis on which the future of the country depends.

I will now turn to the department of the Honourable the Labour Member. He is not here, but I should like him to know that this is without any rancour, without any political intent and with every realisation of the fact that he has inherited the worst legacy inasmuch as he has to look after the interests of a class of people whose mere existence seems to have been forgotten for long years. My Honourable friend Mr. N. M. Joshi, who has drawn attention to these conditions, is far more eminently qualified to speak on it and I do not want to go into the details. I only want to draw attention to two classes of labour where women are employed in large numbers and which to my mind are examples, glaring examples of exploitation, even in a country like India. I will first speak of tea plantation labour. In going through the report of the Controller of Immigrant Labour in Assam, I find that so many thousand 'souls'—not men and women, but so many thousand 'souls'—have gone to the Assam tea gardens. It struck me immediately as typical of the attitude

[Mrs. Renuka Ray.]

towards the unfortunate 'souls', they certainly have souls like ours and a right to the same consideration as all these made in the image of God; but this is the general attitude towards these tea gardens labourers.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what has happened to the murder case—that a manager has been charged with the murder of 800 labourers in an Assam tea garden owing to a house collapse—any information about it?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): She does not know about it.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: I am afraid I do not know. I am not going into great details about tea garden labour; it is not my practice, nor the practice of members of the Women's Conference to speak on subjects about which they have no detailed knowledge and personal experience. But I shall only bring certain factors to the notice of this House and to the notice of the Government. First of all, we know that these labourers who go to the tea gardens are recruited by the garden sirdars. These garden sirdars take them there under contract and in the majority of gardens on arrival they are given a bonus; and when they are given this bonus of a few rupees their thumb impression is taken; these exploited people are under the impression that that means that they are under contract for a long period of years. Of course legally they are taken there under contract for three years with right of repatriation at the expense of the employee. But I have heard from people who are qualified to speak on the subject, that in actual fact in the case of a large number of plantations, once taken there, the labourer remains and has little chance to get away.

There are chowkidars employed in the gardens, to see that tea garden labourers do not leave and they are never or seldom allowed to leave the tea gardens. There is no public thoroughfare and people from outside are discouraged to go to the gardens and so they have no contact with the world outside. Then there are rules made by these employers by which tea garden labour cannot migrate from one tea garden to another; and today when wages in other industries are higher, if a tea garden labourer wants to go out and if by any manner or means they are able to overcome all the restrictions and evade the chowkidars and get out, they are known as absconders. All this reminds us of mediaeval days, and can we deny that it is a kin to serfdom? I will not dwell any longer on this subject, as I have said already; but I will now go on with diffidence to speak of another class of labour and that is mining labour.

An Honourable Member of this House told me the other day that I had a bee in my bonnet on this subject. Sir, when you know that a great wrong has been done, is it possible to measure the effort that is taken in righting it? Sir, the entire House, without division, has accepted the motion on the re-imposition of the ban on women working underground in coal mines and yet we hear from the Honourable the Labour Member the very next day that it was not possible to reimpose the ban, because evidently 16,000 women working underground in coal mines is the only way of overcoming the shortage of coal production and of helping the war effort. Sir, no one denies that, at a time when coal is needed in ever increasing quantity, the fact that there is shortage in the country is a matter for great alarm and one which the State must take action upon but, Sir, are not other fundamental causes being overlooked? Is it not a fact that coal mining is a very wasting asset, that the coal owner does not find it lucrative to produce beyond a certain level, that due to shortage and due to the Excess Profits Act the coal mine owner finds that it is better to keep productions as it is. Have these factors been taken into account by the Government and what action is being taken? I should like to know. I am sorry that the Honourable Member is not present. (An Honourable Member: "Neither his Secretary nor the Supply Member".) And, Sir, not only this. We find that this employment of women underground has been considered to be the only way of

overcoming labour shortage. I do not deny labour shortage but is there no way of overcoming labour shortage? After all it is obvious to each one of us that coal mining is a dangerous and unclean occupation and instead of the conditions of labour and wages being such as override these considerations they are an additional deterrent. The result is that there is and will be shortage of labour unless the miners' wage makes a reasonable approach to the wages in the neighbouring industries. Many arguments are brought forward as excuses. The main argument of the mine owner is that if you pay higher wages to labour, the result will be that the output per head will go down as these miners are terribly lazy. I take exception to that statement. These miners, whatever they are, are living under conditions which are bad as a consequence of which their physique is bad. They work under conditions which are recognised as injurious to health. Is it possible for them to increase their output unless other amenities are first provided to improve their physique. Whether it increases output per head or not or even if it decreases output per head, there is no doubt that if higher wages are paid in the coal mines, there will be more labour attracted to that area. This indirect subsidy that is being paid to the coal mine owner, by employing women underground will no longer be necessary. Sir, there are many other arguments that are brought forward, the same arguments that were brought forward before the elimination of women labour underground was first brought in. It was said that women were not forced to go underground, that it was voluntary, that husbands were jealous if women did not go and that women themselves preferred such employment. I would like to ask, when economic necessity drives how many of us, similarly placed, could have withstood its implications? In any case these arguments were controverted long ago at the time when the Royal Commission on Labour drew up their report and investigated conditions. Some of those who interviewed the miners asked them questions and the reply invariably was that if they earned a minimum wage themselves, a family wage, they would not allow their women to go underground. They would not even allow them to work on the surface. They would prefer surface employment for them and it was only because it will mean breaking up of family life and leaving the women back in the villages that they agreed to women working underground. Sir, the Honourable the Labour Member made a reference to a committee of investigation sent by the All-India Women's Conference to mining areas when this subject was a live issue before the ban was first imposed. This Committee was appointed because the All-India Women's Conference had been hearing these arguments that it was wrong to deprive women of occupations. They wanted to know facts for themselves and that is why the Committee went down. It impartially surveyed all sides of the question and came to the definite conclusion that women should not go down to work underground under any circumstances. They also made certain conditions in regard to surface labour for women. They suggested that an adequate minimum living wage be paid to the miner. Had these recommendations been acted upon, then I would not have bothered the Government, nor would the women whom I represent, in regard to the lifting of the ban, as its withdrawal could not have sent such huge number of women underground.

I should like to congratulate the Honourable the Labour Member on having introduced the 'Miners' Benefit Fund, by which certain amenities will be provided for labour. But I think he is aware as well as every one else that this will not solve the question of a minimum living wage. It has been seriously suggested that as the Government is unwilling to reimpose that ban, it would be better if we try to get certain amenities for women miners who are working underground, such amenities as maternity benefits, such amenities as not allowing pregnant women to go down. Sir, it is not only pregnant women but even potential mothers who should not work underground in mines and this would be but a half measure.

Sir, there is another argument which I should like to counteract before I stop speaking on this subject. It has been said that Indian mines have higher

— [Mrs. Renuka Ray.]

galleries than British mines and therefore it does not matter if women work underground. It may be that Indian mines have higher galleries but they are much more ill ventilated and ill lighted. The smell of the explosive and the kerosene lamp is very bad and in conditions underground, there is no sanitation whatever.

Sir, I had noticed that it is the convention of this House when speaking on the Finance Bill to say a few words about the Honourable the Finance Member, who, I observe, is not in the House. He is leaving shortly. It is not for me to render either praise or blame in regard to his portfolio. In any case I think these can only be judged by a future generation, when the dust and the heat of present day controversies is over. I should only like to point out one point about which I think all Members of this House will agree with me, that the Honourable the Finance Member has certainly set an example to many of us in the unfailing courtesy that he has shown. During the period I have been in this House, I have observed that, no matter what the provocation, he has always had a smiling face and never been rude to any one. He certainly believes in the truth of the statement that a soft answer turneth away wrath and I think it can be said of him that he has the unfailing courtesy which is the hallmark of nature's true gentleman.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, after a long number of years of interval, I have the good fortune or the misfortune to speak on the Finance Bill. The Honourable the Finance Member has introduced this Bill in order to give effects to the financial proposals of the Government of India. While talking on the Finance Bill, it is the right of every Member to review the whole financial position and the administration of the country. While reviewing the administration of the country, all the Government activities have to be criticised. Before coming to the activities of the Government, we have to see how the Government Members work in this very House. Sir, last year, I was in jail and I read in the newspaper that while there was a discussion raised in this House regarding the deadlock in the country, the Honourable the Home Member pooh-poohed the idea. He asked where is the deadlock. He had no capacity to see whether the deadlock was in existence or not. He simply saw that the King's Government was going on, that he was getting enough material for the prosecution of the war, he was getting both men and money. So in his mind, there was no deadlock. According to us there is no responsible government as envisaged in the Government of India Act, 1935. In six of the major provinces, there is no responsible government, only Czars are ruling in those Provinces. Is that not a deadlock? Is no capacity left in the minds of the members of the Executive Council to see that there is deadlock. Sir, the other day when the Honourable the Supply Member was speaking, referring to this question of deadlock, he had not the same boldness as the Home Member to say that there was no deadlock in the country, but he was saying in a manner that in his opinion too there was no deadlock in the country. Sir, the Government submit proposals, they submit Bills they submit the Budget. With what idea? They want our vote thereon. But with what result? Whenever there is Division, the Government are defeated. In the Voting on Demands for Grants, on each Cut Motion, the Government were defeated. In one day, they were defeated four times. Is that not deadlock? Not only that. Look round the country? Is there any enthusiasm for war? Is that not a deadlock? Then, in England also the *Times of London* and many good people, all admit there is deadlock in this country which has got to be removed.

The other day, I put some questions to the War Secretary and the question related to military pensions of the military personnel in the country. He said that the question of pension was not a matter of legislation. He further said that this was a matter of royal prerogative. He added further that pensions were all gifts and bounties. I think in this matter he did not represent

the views of the people of this country. I do not think that it will be any encouragement to anybody in this country to enlist in the army. Sir, for the information of the War Secretary, I may quote from the Government of India Act, 1935, Seventh Schedule, Item 9:

"Federal pensions, that is to say, pensions payable by the Federation or out of Federal revenues."

From this it is clear that federal pension is a matter of legislation by the federal legislature. Yet the War Secretary says on the floor of the House that it is not a matter for the legislature. He said it was a matter of gift or bounty. For his further information, I may also read from the Government of India Act, section 311. It says:

"'Pension' in relation to persons in or formerly in the service of the Crown in India, Burma, or Aden, means a pension, whether contributory or not, of any kind whatsoever payable to or in respect of any such person, and includes retired pay so payable, a gratuity so payable and any sum or sums so payable by way of the return, with or without interest, thereon or any other addition thereto, of subscriptions to a provident fund."

Sir, emphasis must be laid on the word 'payable'; it is not a matter of gift or bounty. I think this House should take note of this question. So far as the law is concerned, pension is the inherent right of any person who does work under Government. For the service a man renders to Government, he is entitled to pension. When he completes some period of service, say, 10 years or 15 years and so on, he is entitled to pension. So, I lodge an emphatic protest against the statement of the War Secretary that military pension is a matter of gift or bounty. Besides, Sir, under the British Army Act it is a fact that the Secretary of State issues Regulations but the Regulations must not go beyond the provisions of the Act. And there the question of forfeiture or stoppage of pensions is decided by the Courts Martial and not by the arbitrary order of any military officer. It is laid down in section 180 of the said Army Act that that Act also applies to the Indian military personnel serving in the army, of course with some modifications. Here under section 13 of the Indian Army Act the Commander-in-Chief can dismiss even non-commissioned officers appointed by the Viceroy. But the Government of India Act lays down that no subordinate authority can dismiss any person appointed by a higher authority. This anomaly has to be remedied. In many cases it has even been found that such and such person has been dismissed by order of the Commander-in-Chief. According to section 13 of the Indian Army Act the Commander-in-Chief can dismiss, whether it is in keeping with the Government of India Act or not, but he cannot delegate his power to any one to dismiss a person. But when it is said that a man has been dismissed by order of the Commander-in-Chief it means that some one has done it according to his order. I have dealt with this point twice before and I am referring to it again. The War Department should see that justice is done to the Indian personnel in the army.

So far with regard to the Government Members who are here in this House. When we look outside this House and see how Government activities are carried on in the country we see nothing but prosecution and persecution on every side. The national savings drive has been so criticised in this House that it is needless to deal with it any more. But I must refer to the speech of the Finance Member where he says that a national habit has to be created in this country to save something and contribute to Government. But the Finance Member does not know that in this country 90 p. c. of the people do not know what it is to have two meals a day. And this gentleman who had been taxing anybody and everybody, and collecting money for this Government, does not know that the people are so poor that they cannot contribute anything to Government; and he says that a national habit has to be created. Sir, so far as taxation regulated by the Finance Bill is concerned, I wonder how this taxation is carried on. According to all sound principles of taxation the necessities of the common people must not be taxed. There is the salt tax; what is the principle involved there? By imposing the salt tax this Government is taxing

[Mr. Ram Narayan Singh.]

every morsel of the beggar's food. Is it Government's duty to do that? This attitude of Government reminds me of a proverb:

"Andher nagari, chauhat Raja, take ser bhaaji takay ser khaja."

"Chaotic town, idiot King; two pice per seer vegetables two pice per seer sweets."

Everything is at the same rate. Tax the food of the people, tax the luxury of the people. In this way when we look at the activities of Government, we find nothing but chaos in every department.

Sir, whenever we put any questions regarding our province, they are dismissed as provincial concerns, without having anything to do with the Government of India. But now everybody knows that the Provincial Governments, specially those where Governors are ruling, they are ruling under the direct supervision of the Governor General in Council. And every one knows that circulars are issued and instructions are sent as to how to deal with the people in the provinces. But so far as I am concerned, I belong to an area which is called "partially excluded area" and such area is a matter for the Central Government, and according to the Government of India Act the Governor is only an agent of the Viceroy. And therefore questions relating to the excluded areas people may very well be dealt with here. Sir, I have said with regret that at present in the country it appears that there is no law and anarchy prevails everywhere. Only recently I had a piece of news which will shock everybody. The news has come from Daltangunj, the headquarters of Palamu district, that seven boys were brought to the bungalow of the District Magistrate. They were made almost naked and were ordered to lie down on a raised platform and by the order of the District Magistrate, the Superintendent of Police flogged each boy on his buttock. Sir, this was nothing but a miniature Jullianwala Bagh. The boys went to the Sub-Divisional Officer of Daltangunj, Palamu District, and lodged a complaint against the Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police and one other officer, but the Sub-Divisional Officer—poor fellow, what could he do, he had not the courage to entertain such a complaint against the District Magistrate, who was his superior officer—dismissed the case.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is now 5 o'clock. The Honourable Member can continue his speech tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 22nd March, 1945.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 22nd 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

Sir Olaf Caroe, K.C.I.E., C.S.I. (Secretary, External Affairs Department).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

REPRESENTATION RE ADMINISTRATION OF DEFENCE OF INDIA ACT AND RULES

1246. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the Honourable the Defence Member received any representation regarding the administration of the Defence of India Act and the Rules made thereunder?

(b) Is it a fact that when the Defence of India Bill was discussed in the Central Legislative Assembly, Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan, the then Law Member to the Government of India, admitted that the powers were wide and drastic, but expressed the hope that "those who will actually be invested with the carrying of those powers into effect will use them with discretion and will use them humanly and in such a manner as to cause the minimum of inconvenience"?

(c) What sort of instructions do Government propose to give in this matter in order to carry out the letter and spirit of the assurance then given?

Mr. Ram Chandra: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given by Sir Muhammad Zafarullah Khan to parts (b) and (c) of starred question No. 216 on the 21st November 1940.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the Provincial Governments in whom these powers are invested are acting humanly and in such a manner as to cause the minimum inconvenience with regard to the requisitioning of houses from among the civil population in Bombay?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I have no reason to think that they do not abide by the provisions of the Defence of India Act.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the many representations and the agitation in the press which brings facts to the notice of the Government of India, would the Honourable Member consider getting into correspondence with the Government of Bombay on the issue that minimum inconvenience should be caused and humane attitude should be adopted in the application of the Defence of India Act to the requisitioning of Houses in Bombay?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I do not think it is necessary to issue any general instructions of this nature to the Government of Bombay. Section 15 of the Defence of India Act already provides for this.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member if he is aware that the assurance referred to in the question was extracted out of the Government at the time by persistent efforts for Government to make such an effort on lines similar to that given by Parliament in Britain.

Mr. Ram Chandra: The proceedings of the debate will show what happened. (At this stage Sardar Sant Singh rose in his seat.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Manu Subedar. Next question. This has been fully debated.

REGULATION SIZE BOOT FOR INDIAN SOLDIERS

1247. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the War Secretary please state who has selected the regulation size boot for Indian soldiers in the Indian army and is it not a fact that this is the same as in the British Army?

(b) Have Government received complaints from soldiers recruited from villages, particularly the small recruits from Madras and Travancore, who have never worn shoes of any kind before in their life, that the heavy boot involves too great an exertion, and has any difficulty been found in such recruits undertaking long marches?

(c) How many months does it take to the village recruited soldier to get used to the heavy boot, and what percentage of them suffer from cold during these days?

(d) Are Government aware of the inconvenience caused to the civil population by their monopolising all available supply of leather and shoe-making capacity of the country?

(e) What is the average life of an army boot (i) in camp conditions and (ii) on active service, and what arrangements are Government making with regard to the replacement?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) The present pattern of the No. 1 boot has been in use in the India Army since 1911. I am not aware who selected it. It is, however, not the same boot as is used by the British Army.

(b) No complaints have come to my notice.

(c) Three to four weeks approximately. On the assumption that the Honourable Member wishes to know how many recruits suffer from corns, (and not from 'cold' as stated in the question) the answer is 1 per cent.

(d) I cannot subscribe to the view that Government have monopolised all available supply of leather and shoe making capacity of the country.

(e) (i) From 12 to 18 months.

(ii) From 9 to 12 months.

Provision for replacement is made 12 months before hand.

Mr. Manu Subedar: From the point of view of cruelty to human beings, will the Honourable Member consider that the heavy boot on the foot of the villager who has never used any footwear in his life is absolutely inhumane?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not think so, Sir.

Mr. A. C. Inskip: With reference to part (a) of the question, is it not a fact that the last on which the present type of army boot is made, was specifically designed for the Indian type of foot?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I think so.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Isn't it too heavy for the smaller build of human beings from the South as compared with the tall and big men of the North?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not think so.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is a matter of opinion. Next question.

DEFENCE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL ON RECRUITING ACTIVITY

1248. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the War Secretary please state the total personnel of the Defence Department engaged in recruiting activity?

(b) Did Government employ any contractors for recruiting work, and, if so, on what basis?

(c) Have Government employed any recruiting agents, and, if so, what was the remuneration given to them per head?

(d) Were recruiting agents given uniforms?

(e) Are they permitted to go to villages and, without any interference from the civil authority, to compel each family to give an adult male?

(f) Have any cases of misdemeanour by recruiting agents been reported to Government?

(g) Have any recruits refused to serve on the excuse that they were brought over by force or by misrepresentation?

(h) Are recruiting agents permitted to handcuff or carry, with a dog's chain in the neck any recruits?

(i) Are absconding recruits permitted to be treated in this manner?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) No personnel of the Defence Department are engaged on recruiting activity. The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the personnel under War Department. On the assumption, the answer is 2,561.

(b) and (e) to (i) No, Sir.

(c) Government have employed technical and non-technical paid recruiters as publicisers and escorts to recruits on maximum salaries of Rs. 50 and Rs. 25 per mensem respectively, plus dearness allowance. In addition, they are also given "bringing in money which is admissible to technical and non-technical recruiters" at rates of Rs. 5 and Rs. 3 per recruit. They are also paid recruiters' allowance which is normally a minimum of Rs. 2. This allowance is intended to cover the expenses of feeding and transporting the recruit and can be increased if it is insufficient to cover actual expenses.

(d) The paid recruiters are granted a free issue of clothing on a modified scale.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether Government are aware that there is a big outcry from rural areas of *jabarjasti* and forceful persuasion for recruits to be taken from the villages?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, Sir. I am not aware of that and I do hope that the Honourable Member, before making such allegations, will substantiate them with facts.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Besides pay, is it a fact that a fee of Rs. 3 is given to the recruiting agent?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have already answered that question. It is called "bringing in money".

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to (e) are they permitted to go to villages and without any interference from the civil authority to compel each family to give an adult male.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, Sir.

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

INDIAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMAN AND JAPANESE HANDS

1249. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state:

(a) how many Indian prisoners of war are in German and Japanese hands;

(b) whether any Indian prisoners of war have been freed recently by the recent occupation of German territory by Russia; and

(c) whether Government have satisfied themselves that they are getting fair treatment consistent with the relevant International Conventions?

Mr. Ram Chandra: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to part (a) of his question No. 572 on the 1st March 1945.

(b) Fifteen Indian prisoners are known to have been liberated on the German-Russian Front.

(c) Reports show that Indian Prisoners of War receive fair treatment in Germany. As regards their treatment by the Japanese, the Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to part (b) of question No. 355 on the 19th February 1945. No further information is available.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the source of information of the Government in their saying that there is fair treatment?

Mr. Ram Chandra: We get reports from the International Red Cross. That is one important source of information.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the information of the Government whether there is any discrimination shown between Indian Prisoners and non-Indian prisoners?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I must ask for notice of that question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have Government any information from the people who have escaped from those prison camps and does that confirm what they have heard from the Red Cross?

Mr. Ram Chandra: Will the Honourable Member please repeat his question?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have they any information from the prisoners who have escaped from the prison camps and whether that confirms the information of the Red Cross?

Mr. Ram Chandra: Government do receive information from prisoners who escape. But I am not in a position to say whether that information tallies in all cases with the information received from the Red Cross.

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

WITNESSES BEFORE ARMY RE-ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

1250. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) whether, in pursuance of his reply to question No. 342 on the 19th February, 1945, he has considered as to who should be examined as witnesses by the Army Re-organisation Committee;

(b) if so, which categories of persons are going to be examined by the committee; and

(c) when the committee is expected to finish its labours and submit its report?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Committee are at present framing a revised Questionnaire which it is proposed to send to all members of the Provincial legislatures and all non-official members of the Central Legislature. Members of the Legislatures will be asked to send written replies to the Questionnaire and to state whether they would like to give oral evidence as well.

(c) The Committee is not expected to submit its report during the next six months.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that recruitment will be made of women also, may I know whether the Government propose to consult any representative women's organisations?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have already answered that but I will ask the Committee to consider it.

Sardar Sant Singh: By what time this questionnaire is likely to be received by the members of the Central Legislature?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Very shortly, I hope.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will it be possible to examine them when the Assembly is in Session?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: It depends on the programme of the Committee.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask for an assurance that this Committee will not come to any conclusions without consulting any representative women's organisations with regard to the future of the WACIs and other services?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have already answered that. I will ask the Committee to consider the desirability of consulting the women's organisations.

INSTRUCTIONS AGAINST COMPULSION IN SELLING NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

1251. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:-

(a) whether he has issued instructions to various Provincial Governments particularly the Bihar Government to warn their subordinate officers not to use compulsion on the people of Bihar for the purchase of National Savings Certificates, if so, the contents thereof; and

(b) the total amount of National Savings Certificates purchased during 1944 and January 1945, in various Provinces?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) It is proposed to address all Provincial Governments on the matters referred to during the course of the discussions on the adjournment motion of the 10th February last.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing total amount of National Savings Certificates purchased during 1944 and January 1945 in the various provinces.

(In lakhs of Rs.)		(In lakhs of Rs.)	
Ajmer	7	Madras	2,17
Assam	33	North West Frontier Province	16
Baluchistan	7	Orissa	33
Bengal	77	Punjab	3,24
Bihar	3,25	United Provinces	1,03
Bombay	2,91	Sind	66
Central Provinces	1,14	Coorg	1
Delhi	91	Indian States	2,14
		TOTAL	19,19

SALE OF GOLD

1252. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state what has been the extent of the sale of gold since last year when the gold sales were begun up to date?

(b) What has been the price at which it was sold?

(c) At what rates is it purchased in South Africa and U. S. A.?

(d) To whom do the profits go?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I am not prepared to disclose this information.

(b) It has been sold at the market price current from time to time.

(c) I have no information.

(d) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the answer I gave to part (a) of Mr. Krishnamachari's starred question No. 191 on the 8th November, 1944.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know the sources from which the information is obtained in England, information which is withheld in India and which my friend Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari supplied the other day?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not know from what source Mr. Krishnamachari derived his information. He presumably picked up something from the newspapers.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know the reason for withholding the information? Is it because that there is such a difference in the purchase and sale prices and a large amount of profit is made by Great Britain and America?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The reason is the public interest.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that the price of gold is coming down?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The price of gold comes down from time to time and then again sometimes it goes up.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the present tendency?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I should like the Honourable Member to tell me that.

RECRUITMENT TO I. M. S.

1253. ***Mr. Frank R. Anthony:** Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether recruitment to the I.M.S. is still taking place;

(b) whether I.M.S. personnel are being seconded to the I.A.M.C.;

(c) if it is not a fact that I.M.D. (British Cadre) personnel in civil employment are still retained in the I.M.D.;

(d) how many military medical students are now being trained for the I.M.D. (British Cadre);

(e) how will these students, on the completion of their courses, be fitted into the present scheme of medical services;

(f) who was responsible for the discontinuance of recruitment of military medical students for the I.M.D. (British Cadre); and

(g) what objection, if any, was there to new recruits being seconded to the I.A.M.C. on the completion of their courses?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes, to the Emergency Cadre.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The fact is as stated by the Honourable Member.

(d) 88.

(e) These military medical students on passing the final qualifying examination will be first gazetted into the Indian Medical Department (British Cadre), then granted commissions in the Indian Medical Service and immediately seconded to the Indian Army Medical Corps.

(f) The Government of India.

(g) As all the military medical students now passing out of the Medical Colleges possess medical graduate qualifications, they are eligible for appointment to Emergency Commissions in the Indian Medical Service and accordingly they are first granted such commissions and then seconded to the Indian Army Medical Corps. Medical Licentiates only are eligible for direct appointment to Emergency Commissions in the Indian Army Medical Corps.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: The Honourable Member has not really replied to my question. What was the reason for discontinuing the recruitment of military medical pupils?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The reason is that such subsidising of Anglo-Indians for medical education is no longer considered necessary.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Will the Honourable Member please convey to the military authorities the feeling throughout my community that it is an unjustified act of discrimination which has been inspired by a person or persons hostile to my community?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, Sir. I do not agree with the Honourable Member that this is an act of discrimination at all. It is a question of preferential treatment which is now being withdrawn.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Is the Honourable Member aware that in view of the special contribution to the military services made by the Anglo-Indian community, it has never been regarded as preferential treatment but as recognition of the services rendered by the community.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The Honourable Member is arguing, and expressing an opinion, and not asking a question.

ADVERTISEMENT RE "BANK AND INSURANCE COMPANIES READY TO CHANGE HANDS"

1254. ***Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to an advertisement appearing in the issue of *The Calcutta Market*, dated the 11th February, 1945, reading as follows:

"Bank and Insurance Companies ready to change hands.

The authorities of Banks and Insurance Companies may communicate with the undersigned for speedy negotiation on favourable terms if they have Banks or Insurance Companies ready to change hands.—The Commercial Manager, Calcutta Market. (2) Ram Lochon Mullick Street, Calcutta"; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider taking any steps in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes.

(b) The Government's attention had already been drawn to certain tendencies which are exemplified by the advertisement in question and the matter is under their active consideration.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member indicate the kind of steps which Government propose to take in this direction?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I think the Honourable Member had better wait and see what the Government's proposals will be.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Will Government bear in mind in this connection the specially privileged position of Banking and Insurance companies under Schedules I and II of the Excess Profits Tax Act?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Every thing will be taken into account. I am grateful to the Honourable Member for his suggestion and that aspect of the matter will also come under consideration.

GOVERNMENT POSSESSION OF GANDHI CHARITABLE VILLAGE HOSPITAL AT BADARPUR

1255. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please refer to his reply to starred question No. 677 on November 21, 1944, and state:

(a) if the Gandhi Charitable Village Hospital at Badarpur in the Delhi Province was taken possession of by the police in August, 1942, and what the exact reasons for doing so are;

(b) if the Committee of Management of the hospital consists mostly of non-congressmen and local village residents and that it is in no way connected with or affiliated to the congress organization and is not in receipt of any financial or other help from the congress; and

(c) if any incriminating literature, etc., was ever found on the premises during police searches?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Sir, with your permission I will answer questions 1255 to 1257 together.

As the Honourable Member knows, the matter of the release of the Gandhi Charitable Village Hospital at Badarpur was raised on 21st November 1944, by Mr. Abdul Qaiyum in his question No. 677. Since then Government have received a letter from the Secretary of the hospital committee asking for Government's intervention in the matter. After considering the Chief Commissioner's report, including all the points raised in these questions Government have decided not to intervene.

The position is that possession was taken of the hospital building in August 1942, on the ground that it was used for the purposes of an unlawful association. Of the managing committee of 23, 11 have previous convictions for political offences, one other was detained most of the rest including a few villagers are also Congressmen. Little secret was made of the fact that one of the objects of the hospital committee was the spread of Congress propaganda, and meetings for that purpose are reported to have been held there.

In November 1943 permission was given to the Committee to use two rooms of the hospital for the treatment of patients subject to the approval of the doctor in charge by the Deputy Commissioner. As the Deputy Commissioner did not approve of the name of Dr. Dalip Chand which was submitted by the Committee, the hospital remains closed. The appointment of a doctor on whom the Deputy Commissioner can rely to see that the building is used solely as a hospital is the only point at issue and it is clearly one in which Government cannot interfere with the discretion of the Deputy Commissioner.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I know if there were personal objections to the appointment of Dr. Dalip Chand or the objection was to his medical qualifications?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I believe there is no objection to his medical qualifications.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that the Committee of Management asked the Deputy Commissioner to give them an indication of the qualifications of the doctor that would meet with his approval and that the Deputy Commissioner has not sent any reply and because of that the hospital is closed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Committee are fully aware of the kind of man that the Deputy Commissioner requires—a man whom he could trust to see that the building is used solely for hospital purposes. I do not think there is any doubt about that.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I know what harm there was if the Deputy Commissioner had informed the committee as to the exact qualifications of the doctor he would approve of and why no reply even was sent to the communication from the Committee of management?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I imagine the Deputy Commissioner thought that this correspondence had better cease.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member now request the Deputy Commissioner to give to this committee of management some idea as to his requirements, so that the doctor may be appointed with his approval and the work of the hospital begun?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I think I made clear as to what the requirements are. I suggest my Honourable friend should inform the committee.

GOVERNMENT POSSESSION OF GANDHI CHARITABLE VILLAGE HOSPITAL AT BADARPUR

†1256. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please refer to his reply to starred question No. 677 on November 21, 1944, and state:

(a) if any political meetings or functions were ever held in the Gandhi Charitable Village Hospital at Badarpur (Delhi) before the same was taken possession of by the police;

(b) if any person connected with the staff of the hospital was ever convicted or detained in connection with the 1942 Civil Disobedience or any other political movement;

(c) if repeated representations were made to the authorities to permit the re-opening of the Hospital;

(d) if in November, 1943, the Hospital was permitted to be opened under certain conditions which were accepted by the Committee of Management and if one of the conditions was that the doctor-in-charge should be approved of by the Deputy Commissioner of Delhi; and

(e) if the Hospital was opened in December, 1943, and Dr. Dilip Chand was appointed in charge subject to the approval of the Deputy Commissioner?

GOVERNMENT POSSESSION OF GANDHI CHARITABLE VILLAGE HOSPITAL AT BADARPUR

†1257. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please refer to his reply to starred question No. 677 on November 21, 1944, and state:

(a) if in February, 1944, the Secretary of the Gandhi Charitable Village Hospital at Badarpur (Delhi) was informed that the Deputy Commissioner did not approve of Dr. Dilip Chand, appointed by the Committee of Management;

(b) if the Secretary immediately withdrew Dr. Dilip Chand and requested the Deputy Commissioner to inform him about the qualifications of the doctor who would meet the Deputy Commissioner's approval, so that the management may be guided in the matter of their next choice;

(c) if no reply has been received up to date to this representation despite reminders, and that the Hospital is closed entailing much suffering on the surrounding population; and

(d) if the Honourable Member proposes to take steps to get the management of the Gandhi Charitable Hospital at Badarpur informed of the exact wishes of Government in the matter of the appointment of the doctor and thus enable the Hospital to be re-opened?

RATES OF DISABILITY PENSIONS FOR INDIAN PERSONNEL OF INDIAN FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

1258. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that in the case of Indian Personnel of His Majesty's Indian Forces on "active service", rates of disability pensions have been decided with reference to two categories (i) "resulting from Field Service" and (ii) "not resulting from Field Service", in that the former carries the full rate, while the latter category carries 3/4th rate as compared with the category in (i) and that this distinction has not been made in the case of personnel of His Majesty's Forces?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will he please state the statutory authority for the reduction of rates in category (ii) referred to in (a) above?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1255.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) On the assumption that by the term "active service" the Honourable Member means the state of mobilisation in which most of the Indian Forces have been placed for the duration of the war, the answer is in the affirmative.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (b) of his starred question No. 731 on the 6th March, 1945.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: May I know whether the War Secretary is prepared to see that such distinctions are abolished?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not quite understand what the Honourable Member is referring to, but I will have the matter examined.

POST-WAR PLANS FOR UPLIFT OF SCHEDULED CLASSES

1259. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) whether Government have any post-war plans for the uplift of the scheduled classes, in the provinces or in the centrally administered areas;

(b) whether they have considered the advisability of giving a large number of Harijan boys facilities for technical and higher education in India and foreign countries; and

(c) if so, what their schemes are and when they expect to bring them into force?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to page 3 of the Second Report on Reconstruction Planning.

(b) Yes. Three lacs of rupees per annum for five years from 1944-45, have been sanctioned for scholarships to be given to students belonging to the Scheduled Classes, of which approximately half is intended to be spent on scholarships for study in India, and the other half for study abroad. Any unspent balance in any particular year will be carried forward to the next year. A Special Committee to consider the applications has been set up. It is also intended that adequate representation should be given to minority communities, including the Scheduled Classes, provided that suitable candidates from those communities are forthcoming, in the recently announced scheme for sending approximately five hundred students overseas for technical education.

(c) The scholarship schemes will come into force immediately while the others will take effect as soon as plans are ready for execution.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are Government aware that Rs. 3 lakhs is an infinitesimal sum for the work they have undertaken?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: That is a good beginning, but it is a matter of opinion.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether applications from centrally administered areas only will be entertained, or whether applications from provinces also will be entertained?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: This is not confined to centrally administered areas.

REFUND OF ENHANCED DUTY COLLECTED ON DUTY PAID TOBACCO

1260. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to refund the enhanced duty collected from traders in tobacco on which duty had already been paid on or before the 29th February, 1944; and

(b) whether he is aware that he undertook to look into it in reply to the adjournment motion moved by Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta on the 13th March, 1944; if so, whether any steps have been taken?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). In pursuance of the assurance which I gave to the House on the 13th March 1944, the circumstances of all clearances of tobacco from warehouses immediately prior to Budget Day last year were carefully reviewed. A number of merchants appear to have expected that the rates of duty on tobacco would be raised and sought to clear unusually large quantities of tobacco in order to avoid payment of duty at the

enhanced rates and there was consequently some congestion in clearances. Where, on investigation, it was established that goods sought to be cleared before the 29th February were not cleared until after that date owing to misunderstanding either on the part of the owner or of the warehouse officer, and that, but for such misunderstanding, the owner could reasonably have obtained clearance before the new rates of duty became effective, reassessment was allowed at the old rates.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Maharashtra Peasants Committee has made a representation to the Finance Department requesting them to exempt chewing tobacco from the imposition of this tax in view of the fact that it is used by both peasants and workers?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That may be a fact, but I do not see how it arises out of this question which deals with the point of actual time of clearance of tobacco shortly before a change in the rate of duty.

INDIAN OFFICERS RECRUITED TO INDIAN DEFENCE FORCES

1261. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the number of Indian officers recruited in the Indian army, navy and air force since the beginning of the war;

(b) their proportion according to the various provinces in India; and

(c) whether the old idea of classifying the provinces of India into martial and non-martial has been given up now in view of these facts?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) I regret that in the interests of security I am unable to give the actual numbers, but the percentages of Indians amongst the officers recruited to the three Services since the beginning of the war are as follows:

Royal Indian Navy—46 per cent.

Indian Army—47.3 per cent.

Royal Indian Air Force—100 per cent.

(b) As regards the Royal Indian Navy and the Royal Indian Air Force I lay a statement on the table. Corresponding figures are not available for the Indian Army.

(c) The use of the term 'martial' to distinguish those classes recruited before the war has been discontinued.

Statement showing the percentage composition by provinces of the Indian officers of the Royal Indian Navy on 1st March 1945 and the percentage by provinces of the officer recruitment to the Royal Indian Air Force since the outbreak of War.

Province	Royal Indian Navy *Percent- tage	Royal Indian Air Force Percent- age.
Madras		
Bombay	8.5	12.1
Bengal	29.6	11.7
United Provinces	8.2	9.6
Punjab	8.7	9.4
Bihar	25.2	32.0
Central Province and Berar	0.8	1.1
Assam	3.3	2.6
North West Frontier Province	0.7	0.5
Sind	1.4	3.0
Orissa	3.2	1.6
	0.2	0.6

* Figures showing the officer recruitment to the R. I. N. since 3rd September-1939 by provinces are not readily available.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know what is the reason for the percentages in the Navy and the Army being less than even 50 per cent. It is 46 per cent. and 47.3 per cent.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: There is no definite percentage laid down, and the only limiting factor is the number of Indian officers available.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether the percentages include Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: They include those who are Indians according to law.

Sardar Mangal Singh: My specific question was whether they include Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: If they are statutory natives of India, they are included in the term 'Indian'.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether Government will keep in view, when demobilisation comes, the need for retaining Indian officers and disbanding the European officers?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: That will be one of the points to be considered at the time of demobilisation.

NEED OF PUBLIC BONDED WARE-HOUSE IN NORTH KANARA DISTRICT

1262. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that tobacco merchants in South Kanara are suffering from want of a public bonded ware-house in the North Kanara district as they have tobacco trade of long standing in that district; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to facilitate the trade?

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

WETTING OF TOBACCO BY BONDED WARE-HOUSE KEEPERS IN MANGALORE

1263. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the bonded ware-house keepers in Mangalore are forced to wet the tobacco meant for eating and then weigh it and charge duty on the tobacco leaves and water absorbed by the leaves; and

(b) if so, whether this procedure is authorised; if so, by whom and under what provisions of law?

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

PROHIBITION ON ROASTING AND POWDERING OF TOBACCO WITHIN BONDED WARE-HOUSE IN MANGALORE

1264. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether he is aware that the Central Board of Revenue have prohibited roasting and powdering of tobacco (not as snuff) within the bonded ware-house in Mangalore, contrary to the liberties contained in the provisions of rules 149, 159 and 173 of the Central Excise Rules? If so, the reasons for the violation of those rights of the ware-house keepers in processing tobacco to any variety of tobacco they like?

(b) Is the Honourable Member not aware that if drying and powdering of tobacco in a bonded ware-house is prohibited, the ware-house keeper would be forced to pay the highest duty even on the sand in the stems of the tobacco?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Operations on excisable goods stored in a bonded warehouse are governed by rule 143 of the Central Excise Rules, which provides that the owner of such goods "may sort, separate, pack and repack the goods and make such alteration therein as may be necessary for the preservation, sale or disposal thereof". In deciding whether or not a particular operation is permissible in a warehouse, the governing consideration is its necessity or otherwise for the preservation, sale or disposal of the goods. For example, where it is established to the satisfaction of the Collector that the powdering of tobacco is essential for its preservation, sale or disposal, this process may take place in the warehouse; but where it is part of the process of manufacture into snuff, chewing tobacco or hookah tobacco it may be conducted

only after removal of the tobacco from the warehouse. The roasting, prior to powdering, of tobacco which is to be converted into snuff is not permissible in a warehouse, since it is a process of manufacture.

(b) Drying of tobacco in warehouses is not prohibited; nor is powdering in the circumstances indicated in my reply to part (a) of the question. The removal of sand from tobacco is always permissible in warehouses.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: With reference to reply to (b) that drying of tobacco in warehouses is prohibited, is it not necessary to dry tobacco before sand can be removed?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I said drying is not prohibited, and the removal of sand is always permissible.

REDUCING WORKING HOURS OF CLERKS

1265. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Home Member been drawn to an article under the heading 'Clerical Hours' which appeared in the *Dawn* of the 5th March, 1945?

(b) Will he please consider the desirability of reducing the working hours to 10-30 A.M. to 4-30 P.M.; if not, why not, how long do Government intend to continue it?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes.

(b) No. It is proposed to continue the longer hours as long as it is necessary to do so. The present working week of 38 hours is by no means excessive.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether Government propose to pay a wartime allowance for officers who work longer hours?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No. One of the conditions of employment under Government is that the whole time of the officer is at the disposal of Government.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member make inquiries as to how it has affected the health of the officers?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have noticed no deterioration whatever.

COMMUNAL PERCENTAGES FOR RECRUITMENT IN THE OFFICE OF ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, PUNJAB.

1266. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the percentage fixed for the recruitment of Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs in the Office of Accountant General, Punjab; on what basis these percentages have been fixed?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply given on the 21st November 1944, to Sardar Sant Singh's starred question No. 701. It includes the information now required by the Honourable Member.

Sardar Mangal Singh: What is the reply to the latter part of the question? What is the percentage fixed?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I referred to my reply to Sardar Sant Singh's question No. 701, which includes this information.

FACILITIES FOR HIGHER STUDIES ABROAD TO PERSONNEL OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL BRANCH OF M. E. S.

1267. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the War Secretary please state if the personnel of the Electrical and Mechanical Branch of the M. E. S. would be allowed to take advantage of the facilities provided by the Government of India in the Education Department under the scheme for higher studies abroad? If not, why not?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Not at present, Sir, because of the extreme shortage of experienced personnel to cope with the heavy works programme.

INDIANS WORKING AS CHIEF ENGINEERS, ETC.

1268. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the War Secretary please state the number of Indians now working as Chief Engineers, Deputy Chief Engineers

and C.R.Es. and whether there has been any increase in each case as compared to the figures of 1943, and, if so, by how much in each category?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Two appointments of Commander, Royal Engineers are now held by Indians, as against one appointment in 1943. No Indian has so far qualified for appointment as Chief Engineer or Deputy Chief Engineer.

PROMOTION OF LOWER DIVISION CLERKS TO UPPER DIVISION (ENGLISH LINE) IN AJMER-MERWARA

1269. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is a fact that the Upper division clerks of the English line clerical establishment of Ajmer-Merwara Commission, under the control of the Deputy Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, are not of Selection Grade?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, will he please lay on the table of the House:

(i) a copy of the relevant rules framed by the Deputy Commissioner, explaining the procedure, according to which a Lower division clerk is promoted to Upper division scale;

(ii) the numerical strength and percentage of Muslim substantive clerks in Upper division scale and Selection grade on 1st January 1945;

(iii) the numerical strength and percentage of Muslim substantive clerks in Upper division scale and Selection grade on 1st May, 1945;

(iv) a list showing the names of Lower division clerks who after passing the Upper division efficiency test are at present waiting for promotion to Upper division scale, showing against each the year when they passed the said test; and

(v) a list showing the names of Lower division clerks who after being exempted from passing the Upper division test are at present waiting for promotion to Upper division scale, showing against each the year when they were exempted?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: With your permission, Sir, I would like to answer question Nos. 1269 and 1270 together.

The information is not readily available and the advantage to be gained by collecting it would be out of all proportion to the labour and time involved in doing so. If, however, the Honourable Member has in mind any particular case, I will see that it is brought to the notice of the Chief Commissioner, if he will furnish me with the necessary details.

PROMOTION OF LOWER DIVISION CLERKS TO UPPER DIVISION (ENGLISH LINE) IN AJMER-MERWARA

1270. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is a fact that the Upper division efficiency test is held every year for English line clerical establishment of Ajmer-Merwara Commission under the control of the Deputy Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara? If so, how the promotion of Lower division clerks who have already passed the said test and are working as acting Upper division clerk since then are safeguarded in comparison to the new successful candidates (including exempted) who have previously either failed in the said test or never dared to appear at it?

(b) Is it a fact that B. Mannalal of Deoli Internment Camp, who was exempted from the Upper division efficiency test about a year ago, has recently been in succession substantively promoted to Upper division scale in preference to all the Muslim Lower division clerks who have passed the said efficiency test long ago and are already acting as Upper division clerks since then? If so, why?

(c) Is it a fact that from amongst the Lower division clerks one, who passes the Upper division efficiency test or is exempted from it, is only promoted to Upper division scale? If so, why a clerk who has passed the prescribed test or exempted from it first of all is not substantively promoted to Upper division scale prior to all?

(d) Is it a fact that the percentage of Muslim substantive clerks in Upper division scale is very low? If so, how Government propose to remove the

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1269.

paucity, specially when Muslim Lower division clerks duly qualified and approved for promotion are available since long?

ACCESS TO WATER RESOURCES WITHIN REQUISITIONED LANDS AT KUMBLA

1271. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the owners of agricultural lands lying outside the lands requisitioned at Kumbla (South Kanara District) are being denied access to water sources situated within the requisitioned area; if so, why; and

(b) if such access is going to be denied hereafter, whether Government propose to pay compensation or damages to such agriculturists who suffer by such denial policy?

Mr. Ram Chandra: Sir, with your permission I would answer question Nos. 1271, 1272 and 1273 together.

I have called for a report from the Provincial Government and will lay a statement on the table of the House as soon as information is available.

GRIEVANCES RE COMPENSATION, ETC., OF OCCUPIERS OF REQUISITIONED LANDS AT KUMBLA

1272. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the occupiers and owners of lands and houses requisitioned at Kumbla were forced to leave their holdings before the 1st February, 1945?

(b) whether it is a fact that most of them were not paid any compensation at least as a part payment of it, while so quitting the premises and lands, because they did not submit to the valuation fixed by Government;

(c) if Government are prepared to pay the compensation without prejudice to the higher claims, before the arbitrator, to be made by the claimants; if not, why not; and

(d) whether Government are prepared to make good any loss of property, houses, trees, etc., in the holdings now requisitioned at the time of releasing them to the owners?

GRIEVANCES RE COMPENSATION, ETC., OF OCCUPIERS OF REQUISITIONED LANDS AT KUMBLA

1273. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: With reference to requisition proceedings in respect of agricultural lands at Kumbla, South Kanara District, will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken into consideration the loss of personal labour in respect of small holdings which are personally cultivated by the owner; if so, what the rate of compensation awarded is;

(b) the basis for fixing the rate of compensation for the occupation of the residential houses; and whether it bears any relation to the capital invested in constructing such houses;

(c) the compensation fixed per acre of (i) rice land, and (ii) betelnut garden;

(d) whether it is a fact that most of the occupiers and owners of those lands have not accepted the compensation offered by Government; and

(e) whether any arbitrator has been appointed to determine the compensation; if not, why not?

SUPPLY OF RADIO SETS TO PROVINCES

1274. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a scheme proposed by Government by which radio sets have to be installed in different provinces in India and that the Government of India propose to supply radios for rural broadcasting; if so, the number of radio sets Government propose to give to each of the provinces;

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1271.

(b) if it is a fact that since the aforesaid scheme was inaugurated Government of Bombay were supplied with radio sets and they have installed them and carry on programmes including a variety of subjects that interest the ryots and also music and news; and

(c) whether Government have supplied the Government of Sind any radio sets for the aforesaid purpose; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The Government of India have no scheme of their own for the installation of radio sets in the provinces. They have, however, supplied some sets to Provincial Governments, etc., who asked for them for the purpose of installation in public places for community listening. This allotment was made out of the sets obtained from U. S. A. under Lease/Lend arrangements and the necessary charges are payable by the allottees. A statement showing the number of sets supplied to the various Provincial Governments, etc., is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Government have no definite information as to whether all the sets supplied to the Bombay Government have been installed and, if so, where and how exactly the sets are being used.

(c) The Sind Government were supplied with 100 sets which was the number for which they themselves had asked. The latter part of the question does not arise.

Statement showing the number of radio sets supplied to the Provincial Governments etc.

Name of Province	Number of battery operated sets supplied.	Number of mains operated radio sets supplied.	Total
Bombay	525	280	805
Bengal	16	22	38
Madras	258	310	568
U. P.	150	375	525
Punjab	220	70	290
Bihar	150	30	180
Orissa	24	6	30
Assam	42	25	67
C. P.	225	150	375
N. W. F. P.	175	35	210
Sind	5	95	100
Deputy Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara	5	15	20
Chief Commissioner, Delhi	1	2	3
Secretary to Agent General to G. G. in Baluchistan, Quetta	2		2
Chief Commissioner, Coorg		2	2
TOTAL	1,798	1,417	3,215

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if these radios are given for use in towns or in rural parts?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: That is entirely for the Provincial Governments to decide; some of them are used in towns and some in rural areas. Sets which are operated by battery are supplied to rural areas and those operated by the electric main supply, where there is a main supply, are given to the urban areas.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Can the Honourable Member tell me how many are supplied with batteries and how many of the other sort, to the Sind Government?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Five is the number of battery-operated sets and 95 main-operated radio sets.

(Sirdar Jogendra Singh, the questioner, being absent).

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: May I rise on a point of order on this question. Under the rulings, questions put on behalf of an absentee Member

must be by authority; but still there is this standing order 19 which gives power to allow such questions to be put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the Honourable Member want to put this question? If the Government Member wishes to reply I have no objection.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have no objection to answering it, if the House wishes it.

INELIGIBILITY FOR WAR ALLOWANCE OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS ON LONG LEAVE

1275. *Sirdar Jogendra Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) if he is aware that under the existing rules Government servants going on leave for more than four months on full or half pay are not eligible for the grant of war allowance for the period of leave in excess of four months; if so, the reason therefor;

(b) if he is aware that leave for more than four months is generally granted on medical grounds;

(c) if he is aware that the expenses of Government servants increase during such leave due to expenditure on their medical treatment;

(d) if he is aware that the cost of living of Government servants during such leave is in no way lessened on account of the high cost of living wherever the Government servants may reside during the period of their leave;

(e) whether it is not a fact that the Provincial Governments grant similar or even more liberal war allowances to their employees; and

(f) if the replies to (b) to (e) above be in the affirmative whether Government propose to amend the rules so as to make the war allowance admissible at full rates during the period of leave on full or half pay for more than four months; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) to (d) and (f). As war allowance is a form of compensatory allowance it would not ordinarily be admissible at all to a Government servant on leave for more than four months or on leave preparatory to retirement for any period. Government, however, decided to relax the relevant rules to the extent that the allowance will be admissible during the first four months of leave (including leave preparatory to retirement) except that it will not be admissible during extraordinary leave or leave out of India, or in cases where the leave salary exceeds the pay limits of eligibility for the allowance. Government consider that no further relaxation would be justifiable in view of the fact that under the ordinary leave rules leave salary itself comes under reduction after the first four months, except when the leave is on medical certificate. It is probably true that leave for more than four months, when taken in India, is in present conditions generally granted only on medical grounds. It should, however, be remembered that those Central Government servants to whom the Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944, apply, continue to be eligible for free medical treatment during their leave in British India to the same extent and under the same conditions as would be applicable to them on duty; also that a Government servant when on leave on medical certificate has the privilege of drawing full pay for more than four months.

(e) Provincial Governments have generally followed the Central Government scheme of war allowances, subject to certain minor local variations.

EXTENSIONS OF SERVICE TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT STAFF

1276. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the policy of Government in granting extensions of service to the staff in the Government of India Secretariat on their attaining the age of superannuation?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to paragraphs (a) and (b) of Fundamental Rule 56.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The answers to the next four questions of Mr. Hegde will be laid on the table.

POWER OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO WITHHOLD IN INDIVIDUAL CASES PENSION, ETC., OF INDIAN RANKS

†1277. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to refer to his answer to starred question No. 731 of 6th March, 1945, and state:

(i) the particular Official Gazette, Royal warrant or Order-in-Council in which the exercise of the Royal Prerogative, referred to by him in his answer, to withhold disability, family, service pensions and children allowances at pleasure, was delegated to the Government of India and to create "deductions" by rules as distinct by a law passed by the Governor-General of India in Council referred to in Section 136 of the Army Act; and

(ii) the reasons which led the Government of India in 1936 to obtain approval of the Secretary of State for India as distinct from the like provisions in previous Regulations of 1923 and 1928?

(b) Does he propose to include the aforesaid prerogative referred to in (a) above in the consolidated law contained in the Indian Army Act and refrain from the exercise of this prerogative pending such an inclusion or its reference in the Indian Army Act? If not, why not?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) (i) The power was delegated to the Government of India by the regulation published as correction slip No. 37 of November 1936, to which I referred in my answer to part (a) of question No. 731. Section 136 of the Army Act applies to pay only and not to pensions.

(ii) I will look into this and will lay a statement on the table in due course.

(b) No Sir, because I see no necessity for this.

DENIAL OF APPLICABILITY OF ARMY ACT AND ROYAL WARRANT PRIVILEGES TO INDIAN FORCES

†1278. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: (a) Will the War Secretary please refer to starred question No. 640 of 21st November, 1944, regarding denial of applicability of Army Act and Royal Warrant privileges to Indian Forces, and state if the letter referred to has been called for, and if it has been laid on the table of the House?

(b) Will he please state the practice of the Government of India that has been in vogue so far with regard to the enforcement or otherwise of Royal Warrant, dated 22nd February, 1902, and Section 136 of the Army Act, to Indian personnel of His Majesty's Indian Forces with special reference to Section 180 (2) of the Army Act?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: First part of (a) Yes Sir.

Second part of (a) and (b). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the statement which has since been laid on the table as promised in my reply to starred question No. 640 on the 21st November 1944.

SETTING UP OF INDEPENDENT PENSION APPEAL TRIBUNALS

†1279. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: (a) With reference to his answer to Starred question No. 644 of 21st November, 1944, regarding refusal of non-effective pay during war to certain Indian personnel of Indian Forces, will the War Secretary please state when Government propose to set up independent pension Appeal Tribunals, whereas they have been in existence in England since 1920, under the War Pensions Act 1915 to 1920?

(b) what interim measures does he propose in that connection?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). Every effort is being made to set up the Pension Appeal Tribunals as early as possible, and no interim measures are at present proposed.

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

REVISION OF PENSION CASES OF CERTAIN INDIAN PERSONNEL OF HIS MAJESTY'S INDIAN FORCES

†1280. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the fact that war Pensions for services rendered in the last Great War have been adjudicated with reference to the expression "attributable to Military service" as distinct from "attributable to or aggravated by service during the Great War", as contained in the condition of eligibility for war Pensions recognised by the war Pension Act 1915 to 1920?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, does he propose to order revision of all such cases amongst Indian personnel of His Majesty's Indian Forces in which the phrases "aggravated by service during the war" and "attributable to service during the war" have remained unadjudicated and pensions refused? If so, does he propose to specify the procedure and officials who will undertake revision of these cases? If not, why not?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir. Under the working rules of the Government of India for the grant of disability pensions to personnel of the Indian Army, cases of the type mentioned by the Honourable Member have been held to be "attributable to military service" if justified on merits.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: If you permit Sir, I would like this question to be answered.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go on asking questions of those who are absent.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: This is a very important matter, Sir. I am asking only if the Member has no objection.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: These are questions in which we are interested.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: In view of the public interest taken in it, and in view of the importance of the question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Which question is the Honourable Member referring to?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: 1281, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Government Member wishes to reply he may do so. It is left entirely to him to do so, unless any particular member has been authorised to put the question on behalf of the absent member.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I do not wish to appear to be discourteous, but I think it is a bad practice, if the questioner has not taken the trouble, that we should have to reply. I do not propose to reply.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: The Honourable Member's father was ill and he had to leave.

RUSH AT BOOKING WINDOWS AT DELHI CINEMA HOUSES

†1281. *Sirdar Jogendra Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that on the 18th January, 1945, the first day of the release of the picture "Chal Chal Re Naujawan" at the Jubilee Talkies, Delhi, a boy of about 14 years was crushed to death in the rush at the booking window;

(b) if satisfactory arrangement for the orderly marshalling of persons was made by the local police at the booking windows; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures, if any, taken or proposed to be taken by Government to avoid such loss of human lives under such circumstances at cinema houses; if not, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) No. The death was due to cerebral haemorrhage. No external injuries were found on the body.

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

(b) Police aid was given as soon as the cinema management made a request for it. It is normally the responsibility of the cinema management to make arrangements for the orderly marshalling of persons at the booking windows.

(c) Cinema managements are being instructed to ask for police help during the opening one or two weeks of a new picture and on rush days, if necessary.

INCREASE OF CRIME IN DELHI

†1282. *Sirdar Jogendra Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that crimes in Delhi Province have increased due to an increase in population;

(b) whether it is a fact that an increase in the strength of Delhi Police Force was also made accordingly; and

(c) if the replies to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, (i) the percentage of crimes to population, and (ii) the percentage of increase in the strength against crimes?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Honourable Member is referred to my replies given on the 1st March, 1945 to unstarred questions Nos. 36 and 37 asked by Mr. Badri Dutt Pande, which contain substantially the information asked for. There has been a considerable increase in the strength of the Delhi Police since the war.

Nothing would be gained by basing an estimate of the extent of crime in Delhi on the percentage which it bears to some assumed population, as the population of Delhi has increased enormously and continuously in the last four years.

OBSERVING MUSLIM RATIO IN NEW APPOINTMENTS OF CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT

1283. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether he has issued instructions to Customs authorities of various ports to observe communal ratio for Muslims in the 168 new appointments of temporary establishment and also in the new appointments of 247 Additional temporary establishment as shown on page 3 of the Demands for Grants (Budget) for 1945-46; and

(b) whether he has issued instructions to various Commissioners of Income-tax Department to pay particular regard to the grievances of Muslims and observe communal ratio for Muslims in appointing (i) six Assistant Commissioners, (ii) fifty Additional Income-tax Officers; (iii) nineteen Additional Income-tax Inspectors; and (iv) five hundred and five Additional establishment in various offices as shown on page 7 of the Budget for 1945-46?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, with your permission I answer questions No. 1283 to 1285 together.

The standing orders regarding communal representation apply to all these posts, and no specific instructions are necessary. Annual returns showing the communal proportion in services and in appointments made during the year are, however, obtained from all offices and checked to ensure that the rules are being observed.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know whether the Honourable Member's attention has been drawn to the low percentage of Muslims in all those services under the Finance Department, and if so, whether it is necessary to issue fresh instructions to all the Departments under him?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have said that the position is reviewed at the end of each year and I presume, unless the rules have been observed, the necessary action is taken.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: My question is this: whether the attention of the Honourable Member has been drawn to the low percentage of

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

Muslims in all services in the Department under him and if so whether fresh instruction to all the Departments is necessary or not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Honourable Member seems to me to be confusing two matters. One is whether the instructions are actually observed; and I pointed out that there is a procedure for bringing the proportions and the appointments under review in order to ensure that the rules are being observed. Whether the actual proportions at any time are inadequate or not seems to me to be a different matter.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: In all new appointments going to be made, provided for in the Budget, whether the Honourable Finance Member think it desirable to issue fresh instructions—that is my question.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I can only say that the matter is regulated by existing rules and instructions and that it does not seem to me necessary to do anything more than to ensure that those rules and instructions are actually observed.

OBSERVING MUSLIM RATIO IN NEW APPOINTMENTS OF SALT AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT

†1284. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether he has issued instructions to various Collectors and Assistant Collectors of Salt and Excise of every circle to observe Muslim ratio in the new appointments of the following officers and establishment as shown on page 13 of the Budget for 1945-46:

- (i) forty Executive Officers,
- (ii) twenty-one Additional Officers (Chemical),
- (iii) 1916 Deputy Superintendents, Inspectors and other executive subordinates,
- (iv) 294 ministerial establishment,
- (v) 27 Marine establishment, and
- (vi) 145 inferior establishment?

OBSERVING MUSLIM RATIO IN NEW APPOINTMENTS OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT

†1285. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

- (a) whether he has issued instructions to the Secretary, Finance Department to appoint Muslims in all the new and additional appointments connected with the Finance Department as shown on page 61 of the Budget Estimate for 1945-46;
- (b) whether he has asked the Members of the Central Board of Revenue to observe ratio of Muslims in the new appointments under them as shown on page 76 of the Budget Estimate for 1945-46;
- (c) whether he has issued fresh instructions to the miscellaneous Departments to observe ratio of Muslims in new services as shown on page 172; and
- (d) whether he has issued instructions to the Currency and Mint Department to observe ratio of Muslims in services under them?

TREATMENT TO CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS

1286. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please inform this House whether there is any separate status for the political prisoners arrested in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movements? Are they to be kept separately or in the same block with ordinary criminals and considered to be of the same category with ordinary convicts while under trial and even after their conviction?

(b) Why are the Civil Disobedience prisoners, while under trial, taken from place to place and even before the trying Magistrate with both their hands chained like ordinary criminals?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that one Mr. Chowdhury Mohmuddal Hoosein arrested in Delhi for an alleged seditious speech, has been kept with ordinary convicts in judicial lock-up?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). The classification of under-trials and convicts is provided for in the various Jail Manuals. It usually depends on the social status of the prisoner and has nothing to do with whether his offence is of a political nature or not. The question of handcuffing is also dealt with in the Jail Manuals and depends on the probability of an attempt to escape and not on the nature of the offence. It is not, I am sure, the usual practice to handcuff persons under trial for offences of a political nature.

(c) No, except possibly for short intervals.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In almost all the provinces political prisoners are treated differently from the ordinary criminals and are kept separately and together.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I really have no information about the jail rules in all the provinces. It is largely a matter of convenience which the Provincial Governments have to settle.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What has been the experience of the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I lack the Honourable Member's experience.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know what the Honourable Member means by social status?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: What is usually meant by social status.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the possession of wealth is a determining element in the interpretation of 'social status'?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is generally one of the elements.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that when Dr. Sukh Dev was arrested the other day, he was handcuffed and that his social status required immunity?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no information.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member inquire?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: If a question is put down, I will answer it.

DETAINED TRADE UNIONISTS AND LABOUR LEADERS

1287. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please inform this House how many trade unionists and labour leaders were detained without trial under the Defence of India Rules after the August Disturbance of 1942? How many of them were released with restrictions imposed on them?

(b) Why are the trade unionists released two years ago, still restricted to carry on legal trade union activities? Why have the communist trade unionists been given full liberty to create rival unions in labour areas?

(c) Why has Mr. Ajit Das Gupta, a local trade unionist of Delhi, been under restrictions for about two years following his release from detention? When are his restrictions expected to be removed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) I have no information. No one is restricted or detained merely because of his membership of a Trade Union or status as a labour leader, and there is therefore no reason why such statistics should be kept.

(b) and (c): Detention or Restriction orders are passed to restrain the persons concerned from activities prejudicial to the public order or the prosecution of the war, and not from legitimate trade union activities. Mr. Ajit Das Gupta was restricted because his activities were of the prejudicial type mentioned above and he will continue to be restricted as long as it is considered necessary.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Has the Honourable Member been informed by his Department or by his agents that he is dangerously ill and that he cannot be a danger to public peace?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I cannot give information up to date.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Will the Honourable Member inquire and see if he can be released unconditionally?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I will consider that.

OUTRAGE COMMITTED ON AN INDIAN LADY BY A SOLDIER IN DEHRA EXPRESS

†1283 ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that a soldier entered the compartment of Mst. Yagesri Devi, daughter-in-law of Mr. Chatter Singh, Vakil, at the Roorkee Railway station while she was travelling by the Dehra Express on the 24th January, 1945?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that on an objection by Mst. Yagesri Devi, the soldier who wanted to force the lady to yield to him, took out a knife and there was a regular scuffle between him and the lady till fortunately the lady succeeded in over-powering him by snatching the knife, biting in the hands of the soldier and kicking him?

(c) Is it or is it not a fact that as the train slowed down near the next station the soldier jumped out of the train and Mst. Yagesri Devi followed him but unfortunately became unconscious by the shock and that the soldier ran away?

(d) Is it or is it not a fact that Mst. Yagesri Devi was picked up by the engine driver of a goods train which came after the Dehra Express and was taken to the Roorkee Railway station where she was admitted into the Civil Hospital and a telegram sent to her husband who came down from Bareilly and made a report at the Police Station?

(e) Is it or is it not a fact that the culprit soldier has not yet been traced?

(f) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, have Government considered the advisability of ordering proper enquiries in view of the serious nature of the offence committed?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) to (f). The only information that I have is that contained in the statement of Shrimati Yogeshwari Devi in which she said that her assailant was an I. O. R.—a Sikh. He has not yet been traced but investigations are being carried out by the Railway police and the military authorities in collaboration. I will let the Honourable Member know the final result of the investigation.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

HIGHEST POST REACHED BY INDIANS IN INDIAN NAVY AND AIR FORCE

99. **Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the War Secretary please state—

(a) the highest post which any Indian has reached in the Indian Navy;

(b) the highest post which any Indian has reached in the Indian Air Force; and

(c) when Government expect to Indianise the majority of the officer grades of the Navy and Air Force?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Officer Commanding one of the largest and most modern of the R. I. N. sloops.

(b) Head of Manning Section; Air Headquarters (India).

(c) As regards the Royal Indian Navy, I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to parts (f) and (g) of starred question No. 336 on the 19th February 1945. The Royal Indian Air Force consists entirely of Indian Officers, though a certain number of Royal Air Force officers are attached to the Royal Indian Air Force.

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

HIGHEST POST REACHED BY INDIANS IN INDIAN ARMY

100. **Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the War Secretary please state—

(a) the highest post which any Indian has reached in the army;

(b) how many Indian Brigadiers and Majors there are in the Indian army; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to completely Indianise the Indian army within the shortest possible time?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Deputy Director Medical Services, Headquarters, North Western Army, which is a Major General's post.

(b) Two Brigadiers and 884 Majors.

(c) It is the policy of Government to have as many suitable Indian Officers as possible in the Indian Army. On the 3rd September 1939 the ratio of British officers in the Indian Army, including British Service officers serving with, or attached to, Indian Army units, to Indian officers was 7, 5: 1. The corresponding ratio on the 1st February 1945 was 2:9: 1. It will be seen that considerable progress has been made in Indianisation, and I can assure the Honourable Member that steps will continue to be taken further to increase the number of Indian officers in the Indian Army.

TRANSFER OF DETAINED CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO THEIR PROVINCES

101. **Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state—

(a) whether Government have considered the matter of sending the detained members of the Congress Working Committee to their own Provinces; and

(b) whether this is done at the instance of the members themselves or at the instance of the Provincial Governments concerned?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to his question No. 1114 on 19th March.

HOME DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR RE UNRESERVED VACANCIES

102. **Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if any circular was sent to the various Departments that all communities are eligible against 'unreserved' vacancies? If so, will he kindly lay on the table of the House a copy of the circular in question?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that in some of the Departments 'Unreserved' is freely interpreted as reserved for Hindus and senior and better qualified candidates of minority communities are ignored on this basis?

(c) Will the Honourable Member please state if any statements are received in the Home Department for scrutiny so that interests of minorities are duly safeguarded? If so, will he kindly lay a copy of such statements on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes. A copy of the circular is laid on the table.

(b) No.

(c) As I have made clear on many occasions, copies of communal returns are received by the Home Department and are placed in the Library of the House.

Memorandum of Supplementary Instructions connected with the orders contained in the Government of India, Home Department, Resolution No. F.14/17-B/33-Psts., dated the 4th July 1934.

1. *Minority communities.*—Subject to any special orders which may be issued in connection with Section IV of the Resolution, the term "other minority communities" covers the following four communities only, viz., Anglo-Indians including Domiciled Europeans, Indian Christians, Sikhs and Parsis.

2. *Application of orders to inferior posts.*—Subject to any special orders which may be issued regarding any particular class of inferior servants, the orders contained in the Resolution do not apply to inferior posts.

3. (a) *Application of Orders to temporary appointments.*—The orders contained in the Resolution apply to temporary vacancies lasting three months or longer (including vacancies in permanent posts filled temporarily by persons not permanently in Government service). Vacancies for a period of less than three months may, if suitable candidates belonging to

a particular community are not readily forthcoming, be filled without regard to communal considerations. Similarly, vacancies originally sanctioned for a period of less than 3 months and extended thereafter need not necessarily be filled in accordance with the orders contained in the Resolution unless the period of extension is 3 months or more. But special care must be taken to see that the orders are strictly applied in all cases in which posts though originally sanctioned on a temporary basis are likely to become permanent. If any doubtful cases arise they should be referred to the Home Department.

3(b). "A person holding a purely temporary vacancy, who has no substantive post under Government, must, if appointed to a permanent post, be treated as a direct recruit."

4. *Application of orders to paid apprentices.*—As has already been provided in the case of Special Class Apprentices in the Mechanical Engineering and Transportation (Power) Department of the Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways [*vide* Railway Department (Railway Board) Notification, No. 2387-E.G., dated the 18th October 1934], the orders contained in the Resolution apply to paid apprentices.

5. *Application of orders to each grade or division of a service, etc.*—(a) The percentages prescribed for minority communities are to be applied to vacancies (as distinct from posts) in each grade or division of a service to be filled by direct recruitment and not to vacancies to be filled by promotion, which will continue as at present to be made solely on merit and seniority. It is not the intention to reserve all future vacancies for Muslims and other minority communities, or to stop or postpone recruitment from the majority community, till the prescribed percentages of posts in a grade, division or service are held by Muslims and members of other minority communities.

(b) A person holding a post to which the orders contained in the Resolution do not apply (e.g., an inferior servant) must, if appointed to a post to which the orders do apply, be treated as a direct recruit.

6. *Minimum standards of qualifications.*—In accordance with rule (v) in para. 7(1) of the Resolution, minimum standards of qualifications applicable to all communities alike should be prescribed for each grade, division or service to which recruitment is made direct. No fresh restrictions in other respects should be introduced except with the previous approval of the Governor General in Council.

7(a). *Procedure for filling vacancies.*—A minimum of 12 vacancies (but of which 3 will go to Muslims and 1 to other minority communities) is required to give proper effect to the rule reserving 25 per cent. of vacancies for Muslims and 8½ per cent. of vacancies for other minority communities. If the number of vacancies in a particular year is less than 12 (or is not a multiple of 12) it will be necessary to keep a running account from year to year as in the model rotation below:—

1. Unreserved vacancy.	1 unreserved vacancy.
1 Muslim.	1 other minority community.
2 unreserved vacancies.	2 unreserved vacancies.
1 Muslim.	1 Muslim.
1 Schedule Castes.	1 unreserved vacancy.

It is not necessary to adhere strictly to the rotation as shown in the model rotation above but Muslims or other minority community candidates may be taken at an earlier stage of the rotation if the actual composition of the service at the time suggests that such a course would be desirable. In any case, the filling of the four reserved vacancies in every twelve should not be postponed until the eight unreserved vacancies have been filled.

(b) Unreserved vacancies are open to all communities on their merits, but when a member of a minority community obtains an unreserved vacancy, a corresponding reduction should be made in the number of vacancies reserved for that community. For example, if Muslims are entitled to three vacancies out of twelve and one Muslim obtains an unreserved vacancy on his merits, two more vacancies only should be given to Muslims by reservation; if Muslims obtain on their merits more than the number of vacancies reserved for them, no vacancies should be given to them by reservation. It is open to minority communities to obtain on their merits more than the percentage of vacancies reserved for them.

(c) A vacancy caused by the termination of the services of a probationer should not be treated as a fresh vacancy, but should be treated as (i) unreserved or (ii) reserved for Muslims or the other minority communities, according as the vacancy in which the probationer was originally appointed was treated as unreserved or so reserved.

8. *Steps for securing a supply of suitable candidates from minority communities: Communal Societies.*—So far as services recruited on an All-India basis are concerned, no serious difficulty is anticipated as regards the supply of candidates, but all vacancies in such services should be advertised in the following papers:

(1) The Madras Mail, Madras.	(9) The Eastern Times, Lahore.
(2) The Hindur, Madras.	(10) The Indian Nation, Patna.
(3) The Times of India, Bombay.	(11) The Hitavada, Cradock Town, Nagpur.
(4) The Statesman, Calcutta.	(12) The Khyber Mail, Peshawar.
(5) The Star of India, Calcutta.	(13) The Hindustan Times, Delhi.
(6) The Leader, Allahabad.	(14) The Tribune, Lahore.
(7) The Pioneer, Lucknow.	(15) The Dawn, Delhi.
(8) The Civil and Military Gazette, Lahore.	

As regards locally recruited services, the question as to the papers in which vacancies should be advertised is left to the local Head of the Department. If in any area a sufficient number of qualified candidates for a particular service or post are not forthcoming from the minority communities to fill the reserved percentage of vacancies, the local Head of the Department should communicate the deficiency of qualified candidates to the Societies, if any, recognized by the local Government concerned as representative of the minority communities in the locality and should invite the Societies' co-operation in bringing the existence of vacancies to the notice of suitable candidates. It should, however, be made clear to the Societies:—

(1) that their functions are limited to the following matters:

(a) to bring to the notice of suitable candidates any examinations for recruitment to the services for which they could usefully enter and any advertisements of appointments to be made by selection;

(b) to advise candidates about the examinations for recruitment to the services for which they should enter or the appointments for which they should apply;

(c) to advise candidates on any matters which might be of assistance to them in preparing for, or applying for admission to, examinations for recruitment to the services; and

(2) that it will not be their function to press the claims of any individual candidates, who should submit their application direct to the appointing authorities.

9. *Annual returns.*—With reference to paragraph 5 of the Resolution, the Government of India have prescribed two annual returns as in the model form attached. Subject to slight modifications of detail which may be decided upon in connexion with locally recruited services, the form should be suitable for all services to which the orders apply. Particulars in regard to each service should be furnished in this form each year, those due in 1935 being sent as soon as possible, and those due in subsequent years being sent so as to reach the Government of India in the Home Department not later than the 1st April.

10. *Non-observance of orders.*—Any appointment made contrary to the orders contained in the Resolution, read with the foregoing supplementary instructions, should be regarded as null and void and should be cancelled by the Head of the Department concerned as soon as it is brought to his notice through annual returns or otherwise.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands):
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 during the year 1945-46 on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects Agriculture and Forests dealt with in the Department of Education, Health and Lands."

This is a new Standing Committee and perhaps I should say a few words by way of introduction of the subject. I should explain that there used to be three Standing Committees connected with the Department of Education, Health and Lands; one dealing with Emigration—what we used generally to call "Indians Overseas",—one dealing with Pilgrimage to the Hejaz and one residuary Standing Committee which dealt with the rest of the Department's activities. It will be recalled that many of the latter were regarded as almost purely provincial matters. Now, the subjects of Indians Overseas and of Haj pilgrimage were matters of perennial interest but I am afraid the residuary committee seems to have found little or nothing to do or to discuss and I find that it was allowed to lapse about 8 years ago. Thereafter, the subjects of Indians Overseas and the Haj pilgrimage have gone to another department. I recognise that a great deal of interest is now taken in this Honourable House in subjects which we used to regard as purely provincial, and we are therefore now coming up for Standing Committees on certain of those subjects. Honourable Members who have plied me with questions from time to time will realise that the Department for which I am the spokesman in this House handles a large number of subjects, not entirely related one to the other and it would, I think, tax the ingenuity even of the Whips in this House to put up a single committee with members who could usefully advise Government and their parties in turn on subjects differing so widely as Health, Agriculture, Survey of India and Education. Therefore I have come before this House with a suggestion that we should have two Standing Committees which will have really homogeneous subjects. The first is the one for which I am moving now on Agriculture and Forests; but I shall presently ask leave to

[Mr. J. D. Tyson.]

have a committee set up for Education. Those two committees, I hope, will deal with single homogeneous groups or subjects and then there will be, as we used to have in the past, a residuary committee, if the House agrees, dealing with the other subjects of which, I should like to warn the House, so that I may not have to take time later on, "Medical and Health" will be the principal. Allied to that, will be, "quinine and quinine substitutes" but also, I should inform the House, there will be subjects like Archaeology and the Survey of India which cannot very appropriately be fitted in with the other committees. I should, I think, add at this stage that the Standing Committee for which I am now moving will have to handle certain subjects falling under the head of lands—land tenure systems and land revenue systems. Those are matters very closely connected with agriculture and will be dealt with in that Committee. But certain other subjects which in the Department are treated under the head of lands, such as land acquisition and local self-Government, we propose to put into the residuary sub-committee because they are related undoubtedly more to Health than anything else. With that introduction, which I hope will do for the three committees, I now make the motion in respect of the Committee on Agriculture and Forests.

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 during the year 1945-46 on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects Agriculture and Forests dealt with in the Department of Education, Health and Lands."

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted."

Sir, my amendment is proof positive that the House takes much keener interest in the subjects dealt with in this department, about which the Secretary to the Department complained. That interest is not confined to any particular Party. As the notice of amendments will show, all the majority Parties are taking interest in it. So, I hope, Sir, that having regard to the amendments, and his own complaint, that not sufficient interest was being taken by the House up till now, the Secretary will be pleased to accept my amendment. There is very strong reason why it should be accepted, and that is, as appeared, from the speech of the Honourable Member in charge, the question that would also be dealt with by this Committee is the revenue system. The revenue system differs in different Provinces. It is very desirable that Members from different Provinces should be on this Committee. So, I have suggested this particular number 'ten'.

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

"That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted."

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am prepared to accept this amendment.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am glad that this Committee is being brought into existence now. For a very long time past, the question of land revenue has been hanging fire and I hope this Committee will take up that matter and see that something is done in order to relieve the distress of the people who are suffering from *isthimirar* system. I hope this Committee will look into this question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You must leave it to the Committee to decide. You cannot discuss questions like that on this motion. I have given my ruling that no question relating to administration can be discussed on this motion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am making only suggestions to this Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have ruled that Members are not entitled to discuss questions relating to administration on a motion for the appointment of a Standing Committee. I have laid that down more than once.

The question is:

"That for the word 'five' 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, ten non-official members to serve during the year 1945-46 on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects Agriculture and Forests dealt with in the Department of Education, Health and Lands." The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): 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 during the year 1945-46 on the Standing Committee to advise on Education, a subject dealt with in the Department of Education, Health and Lands."

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 during the year 1945-46 on the Standing Committee to advise on Education, a subject dealt with in the Department of Education, Health and Lands."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore cum North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted."

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Sir, I accept the amendment.

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

"That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I want to make a suggestion to the Honourable Member. I did not exactly follow him, perhaps he said that archaeology should go into Miscellaneous Department or it should go with Education. My suggestion is that archaeology should be bracketed with education because archaeology is really an educational subject.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We will consider that suggestion. There are some considerations that work the other way. Administratively for the time being it could suit to have archaeology among the residuary subjects. If my Honourable friend will leave it to me, we will consider that suggestion of his.

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, ten non-official members to serve during the year 1945-46 on the Standing Committee to advise on Education, a subject dealt with in the Department of Education, Health and Lands."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): 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 during the year 1945-46 on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects dealt with in the Department of Education, Health and Lands other than those covered by the Standing Committees for Agriculture and Forests and for Education."

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 during the year 1945-46 on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects dealt with in the Department of Education, Health and Lands other than those covered by the Standing Committees for Agriculture and Forests and for Education."

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted."

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

"That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted."

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I gather that the feeling in the House is that it should be ten on all these Committees. I am willing to accept this amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted." The motion was adopted.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Sir, with regard to this archaeological department, will my Honourable friend tell me whether the board he had constituted last year for Archaeology as an Advisory Board to which members were elected from this House is going to continue separately or is that to be merged in the committee that is going to be elected now?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That is very largely a technical board which comprises all kinds of people,—like professors. That will go on as a separate body.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): That is a separate Board.

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, ten non-official members to serve during the year 1945-46 on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects dealt with in the Department of Education, Health and Lands other than those covered by the Standing Committees for Agriculture and Forests and for Education." 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 holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following committees, namely:

	Date for nomination.	Date for election.
(1) Standing Committee for Agriculture and Forest	23rd March.	29th March
(2) Standing Committee for Education	23rd March.	29th March
(3) Standing Committee for the Department of Education, Health and Lands	23rd March.	2nd April.

The nominations for all the three Committees will be received in the Notice Office upto 12 Noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose. The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10-80 A.M. and 1 P.M.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR HOME DEPARTMENT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon of 19th March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Home Department nine nominations were received. Subsequently one Member withdrew his candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Khan Bahadur Sheikh Habibur Rahman, Mr. Abdur Qaiyum, Mr. Sri Prakasa, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, Mr. Piare Lal Kureel, Sardar Mangal Singh and Mr. K. C. Neogy to be duly elected.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon of 19th March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Supply seven nominations were received. Subsequently two Members withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Seth Sunder Lal Daga, Sir Henry Richardson, Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee and Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh to be duly elected.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, when the House adjourned last evening I was referring to an atrocity committed by the Deputy Commissioner of Palamau district. The case was dismissed by the S. D. O. on the ground that the flogging might have been done but it was done in the course of regular discharge of their duties by the Deputy Commissioner and the Police Superintendent. It is for the House to judge what sort of duty it is. In order to refresh the memory of the House I should like to state again what the allegation was. It was alleged that seven boys of the Garhwa High English School were brought to the bungalow of the Deputy Commissioner at Daltongunj, made almost naked and then made to lie on a raised platform after which each boy was mercilessly flogged on the buttock in the presence of the Deputy Commissioner. As I have said before, a complaint was lodged in the court of the S. D. O. of Daltongunj and he dismissed the complaint. The matter has now been referred to the Judicial Commissioner of Ranchi, and as the case is therefore *sub-judice* I shall not say more on the subject. I shall only tell the House that the whole district of Palamau owing to this outrage is plunged into horror and indignation. Sir, the Congress is under a ban, no protest meeting can be held. The provincial presses have been gagged and there is no way of ventilating the grievances of the people. The worst part of it is that even doctors refused to examine the boys and certify their injuries. Such is the helplessness of the people there and such are the acts of lawlessness committed by the rulers themselves.

Sir, I am one of those who advise people to forget the past; I am not at all inclined to rake up the unpleasant past; but the attitude that Government adopted in 1942 is still continuing. There was a distance; I was in jail and I cannot honestly say who was responsible for that disturbance. But from the nature of Government, from the conduct of officials all over the country and from the attitude of Government's representatives in this House, it can very well be presumed that the disturbance was caused by agents provocateur. Sir, I can dismiss this presumption but is there any doubt and is it not a fact that Government took the August Resolution and the August disturbances as a God-sent opportunity to crush the Congress and to kill the freedom movement in the country? The first step that they took was to effect mass arrests of Congress leaders. That was a great provocation, and it was natural that some people got angry and created some mischief. But this might have been quelled with the ordinary police force. But they brought in British soldiers and what these British soldiers did the House must know very well. First of all the people were shot; not only that, an unarmed crowd was twice machine-gunned from the air. One British Deputy Superintendent of Police was heard boasting at Sonepur station that he had killed nineteen Indians and he was sorry that he had no more cartridges. We have also heard—I do not know how far it is true—that a British soldier sucked the blood of a dying zamindar who was shot by him. It is a heart-rending story and I will not dwell on it any more. But, as I have said before, the British soldiers looted the houses of the people and burnt them. They went to villages with petrol tins in their hands and enquired about the houses of Congress people. When the house of a Congressman was found they poured petrol on it and burnt it. This went on for a long time. After that indiscriminate mass arrests of all classes of people took place. Congressmen were arrested and so were non-Congressmen also; even loyalists were arrested, and a large number of people who were able to satisfy the police were let off. There is a report—again I do not know how far it is true—that several sub-inspectors of police made lakhs of rupees by means of bribes. When I was in jail I found quite an innocent man named Ajodhya Prasad. I asked him how he was arrested. He said he did not know, and then added that when he had asked the police Inspector who was arresting him why he was being put under arrest, the Inspector said, "When the people were returning by this road after burning the post office, you were smiling". Sir, under the

[Mr. Ram Narayan Singh.]

British Raj even a smile is an offence. If a man smiles, he is arrested, and put in jail. After that thousands of people have been imprisoned for various terms; some have been imprisoned for 20 to 30 years and one man has been imprisoned for 56 years—he is still in jail. Besides these people, a large number of people have been detained without trial. It was the duty of the Government to maintain their families; but nothing was done in this connection. In some cases allowances have been granted but the amount allowed was ludicrously small. One prominent advocate of the Patna High Court was allowed Rs. 25 a month. All these steps are being taken to kill the Congress. Even the constructive programme chalked out by Mahatma Gandhi is obstructed at every step, but I can tell the Government that the Congress cannot be killed; they have tried several times and have failed and I tell them that they will fail this time too. But in a Duel it generally happens that when one party proves immortal the other party goes down. If the Congress cannot be killed, it is certain that Government will be killed—of course by non-violent means.

As everybody knows, justice is the soul of any organisation, especially of a governmental organisation, but so far as this Government is concerned I do not think it has got anything to do with justice. Everybody in the world, everybody in the country, everybody in this House will agree with me when I say that this Government is not founded on justice. The Government is not being carried on according to justice. This means the soul of the Government is gone and hence the Government can be declared as dead. One ceremony still remains: the Government is dead but not buried as yet. The present attitude—obstruction to the constructive programme of Mahatma Gandhi—the national saving drive—all these are some of the steps only meant to bury this Government. I will leave this question here.

Now, Sir, I would like to say something about the mineral policy of Government. The other day when my Honourable friend, Dr. Ambedkar, was talking he said that Government has no mineral policy of its own. This indicates that the Indian Executive Councillors of this Government do not know what is the policy of this Government. I will tell the House what is the mineral policy of this Government. Since the beginning of the British rule in this country there has always been an attempt to create British interests in all mines, so that they may enjoy these interests even after India is free. My constituency—Chota Nagpur—is full of mines; my district of Hazari Bagh is full of coal mines. Coal mines belong to the proprietor of the Ramgarh Raj. Unfortunately the Government managed to keep that Raj under Court of Wards' estate for two generations and what they did during this period it is for this House to know and judge. All the mines—coal mines—have been leased to European concerns—one very famous concern is Bird & Co. And what in point of time, the length is of the lease? One lease is for 999 years. And what are the terms? These concerns are not to pay anything to the proprietor when the mines are not working, but when the mines begin working, the Raja Sahib of Ramgarh gets only four annas a ton on the coal raised. Again if the mines stop working, he won't get anything. It is quite clear from this how the mineral policy of this Government is carried on.

Now I take the mica industry. In mica industry there is one foreign concern—Christian and Co.—but besides this concern the rest of all the mines belong to Indians and the trade is also in the hands of the Indian people. It is the mica industry which can be called the industry of the common people, but a conspiracy has long been started to oust the Indian people from this industry. There is the Mica Act, and several other measures designed to deprive the people of this business. Mica Enquiry Committee has been constituted. During the question hour, when I asked a supplementary question—namely, whether the committee has been appointed at the instance of the manager of the Christian Company?—the Honourable the Labour Member was surprised, and said 'No'. Here again I would like to tell him that he may

be an Executive Councillor of this Government, but he cannot claim to know the inner working of these people. The thing is this: although the Provincial Governments went on giving ungrudging help to the Christian Company, most likely the Company was not satisfied. Hence Mr. Watson, the present manager, approached the Central Government and now the Central Government has begun dancing at the beck and call of this man. But there is one redeeming feature. Mr. Watson has been singled out and all the Indian capitalists in the trade have also joined the common people.

Sir, I do not want to take up much time of this House, but before I sit down I must raise my protest against the further prosecution of the war. I appeal to this House, and I appeal to the country to approach the warring nations to cry a halt now. No war is ever likely to end wars. The Churchillian principle of unconditional surrender will help neither the victor nor the vanquished. In 1918 the Germans surrendered unconditionally. But what is the result? The result is this war. So if they stick to this sort of attitude I think the world will go on with wars and nothing else. Sir, if peace is to continue for any length of time, it must be a compromise peace. I warn the British people and the British Government and the British agents in this country. They may crush Germany; they may finally defeat Japan but unless they are careful, the Russians alone will come out victorious and not the British. I therefore think, Sir, that this is the time that the people of the world should begin talking against the further prosecution of the war.

With these words I oppose the consideration of the Bill, which must be thrown out.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): Interest in this debate has centred mostly on economic matters. But enough has been said about the Home Department to justify I think, my intervention.

I would first like to have a little wrangle with my friend Mr. Sri Prakasa. After some preliminary apology Mr. Sri Prakasa based his charges against Government in the Home Department on a letter written by the late Mr. Luck sometime Superintendent of Police, Gorakhpur, to his wife. I do not approve of the tone of that letter, but I cannot allow the accusations which Mr. Sri Prakasa based on it to pass unchallenged. There is not the least doubt about the authenticity of that letter. But it is somewhat of a mystery. It was never received by Mrs. Luck. It was filed by one Mr. Shibban Lal, to whom Mr. Sri Prakasa referred in his defence in a case in which he and 19 others were tried in the Gorakhpur district for conspiracy. I quote from the judgment:

"Conspiracy to derail and blow up trains carrying military goods; to cut telegraph and telephone wires and destroy railway lines, roads, bridges, and culverts, to blow up and otherwise destroy buildings used for the purpose of Government."

That was how the letter came to light. Mr. Sri Prakasa based two charges on that letter one against the troops acting in aid of the civil power in Gorakhpur and one against Mr. Luck himself. I take first the case against the troops.

Mr. Luck wrote that Trouton and his men had not hesitated to go beyond the scope of their duty. From that Mr. Sri Prakasa asked the House to conclude that British troops in Gorakhpur had been used as "engines of oppression". That is rather a dangerous deduction to make because I made enquiries—and I shall also be able to satisfy the House—and I find that no British troops arrived in Gorakhpur while the disturbances were on or when it was necessary to use troops in aid of the civil power. The troops that were acting in aid of the civil power in Gorakhpur were Indian recruits from the Indian Armoured Corps Training Centre in Lucknow and Major Trouton was one of two or three British officers; the rest were Indians. I have enquired especially for the purpose of this debate whether any allegations were made against the conduct of these troops. I find none that was made and I certainly heard none at the time when I was in Gorakhpur.

What then did Mr. Luck mean by saying that: These troops had not hesitated to go "beyond the scope of their duty". I would like to read a few

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sentences from the judgment to explain what was happening in Gorakhpur. This is what the Judge says:

"Many crimes of violence and sabotage were committed resulting in a great loss of government property. Railway stations, railway lines, telephone and telegraph wires, bridges, culverts, roads and revenue papers were destroyed or seriously damaged. A chart has been filed and approved by a Senior Police officer. . . . It shows that in all 110 cases came to the notice of the authorities. There must have been many which were never reported or investigated. According to the chart there were 96 occurrences in this district in August, three in September, six in October and five in November."

The disturbances started in Gorakhpur on the 12th August. From the 12th to 31st August there were five cases of sabotage or that sort of thing each day. In the next three months there were only 14 cases. The British troops did not arrive till the second week in September. It is quite clear from these figures that there could have been nothing for them to do then in aid of the civil power.

Returning to the case of Major Trouton. That was the situation with which the district authorities, with the aid of the military, had to deal. It is clear that a large number of places, culverts, bridges, kutcheris, tahsils, thanas had to be guarded. Now if Major Trouton had stuck to the letter of his instructions, which were that he was not to use his troops in smaller bodies than one platoon, there would not have been enough troops to go round. What Major Trouton did was to break up his platoons and so guard a larger number of places.

There is another case which I can personally vouch for. It was necessary to restore rail communication between Benares and Gorakhpur, and I asked an officer,—"I think it was Major Trouton,—if he would do this and he replied that he was sorry he could not do so as it was contrary to his instructions and would take him outside his area. After a moment's thought he said: "All right. I will do it." Mr. Luck said that the troops went beyond the scope of their duty, not that they exceeded their powers. No one with any detailed knowledge at all of what was happening in Gorakhpur can have the slightest doubt that what he meant was that the troops were ready to go beyond the mere legalistic interpretation of their instructions and against the letter of the orders they had received. No case against the troops can be based on Mr. Luck's letter.

I now turn to the accusation that Mr. Sri Prakasa has made against Mr. Luck himself. Mr. Sri Prakasa quoted two sentences. They do not come together, but I will deal with that later on. Mr. Luck wrote: "I interviewed him from 7.30 to 9.45. I damned near did him to death in his cell." That was a letter to his wife. Now, Sir, if I wrote to a friend of mine and said "I damned nearly told Sri Prakasa what I thought of him" my friend would understand that Mr. Sri Prakasa had said or done something which annoyed me very much and I felt rather inclined to be nasty and rude but that I had refrained. That is also the obvious meaning of what Mr. Luck wrote. He was annoyed and would have liked to have beaten up Shibban Lal but did not do so. To show this I will read some of the things he wrote between the two sentences quoted by Mr. Sri Prakasa:

"I interviewed him from 7.30 till 9.45 this morning. The swine pretended to know nothing about the worst outrages committed by Congress rebels in the U. P. and Bihar. I gave him details of a few of the most revolting cases including burning of police officers alive, and the bloody hypocrite squeezed out a few crocodile tears."

As the Judge says "what raised his ire was Shibban Lal shedding crocodile tears on hearing of police officers being burnt alive by rioters". If Mr. Sri Prakasa is not convinced by the obvious meaning of Mr. Luck's words. I have got other and stronger arguments.

Mr. Shibban Lal's case was that he had been framed by the district officials who disliked him and in proof of that he filed Mr. Luck's letter and

complained of ill-treatment in jail. How did the Judge deal with this? First as to the letter he wrote:

"As to Mr. Luck there can be no doubt that the allegations against him are an after-thought and based entirely on a letter which was sprung as a surprise on Inspector Faizatullah during his cross examination. . . . How a personal letter got into the possession of the accused is a mystery—unless it is assumed that their tentacles are spread far and wide. That it was a most indiscreet production can admit of no doubt. But a reading of it gives one the impression that Mr. Luck was writing more like a braggart than a spiteful man. . . . His inherent honesty of purpose is best evidenced by the fact that he cancelled the charge-sheet against Shibban Lal in two serious crimes."

There is no hint or suggestion of any kind that Mr. Luck had actually beaten up Shibban Lal.

Now as regards Shibban Lal's accusations of ill-treatment in jail. The Judge says:

"Shibban Lal has found it exceedingly difficult to meet this evidence. The best that he could do was to say that they (jail officials) were responsible for the harsh treatment accorded to him in the jail—the reference is to his confinement in the condemned prisoners barracks. This accusation is groundless: no official of the jail can in any way be held responsible for the mode of Shibban Lal's confinement. In cross-examination it has also been brought out that on one occasion the jailor got him forcibly taken from one cell to another."

Is it conceivable—the House must remember that Shibban Lal was being tried for his life and that his defence was that the district officials and particularly Mr. Luck were against him and that he was ill-treated in jail—is it conceivable that if Mr. Luck had really beaten Shibban Lal he would not have said so in his letter? It is absolutely inconceivable. Take the whole position. He was Superintendent of Police of a district where five sabotage outrages per day were committed. The east of the district was in chaos. The railways were cut. Some of the police posts had to be abandoned. He was a highly strung man working under great strain. The letter is written to his wife. You may admit, as the Judge has said, that the man was a bit of a braggart. In such circumstances if he had really beaten up Shibban Lal and if the troops had really committed atrocities he would have boasted of what he did and what the troops had done. But he did nothing of the kind. No accusation against either the troops or against Mr. Luck himself can be based on that letter, unless it be an accusation of bad taste or some accusation of that type and as I said, there were extenuating circumstances. In particular, the accusations which Mr. Sri Prakasa has made cannot be based on that letter. I believe that Mr. Sri Prakasa is a fair man and I would ask him to withdraw them.

Before leaving Mr. Sri Prakasa's speech, there is one other minor accusation that I would like to ask him to withdraw and that is one against himself. Contravening what I said at question hour during the last Session, Mr. Sri Prakasa still accuses himself of being one of the most dangerous of Congressmen. As proof he told us that four C. I. D. men had taken a house near his own in Benares, the better to watch him and that they were still there. I have made enquiries and I was told that no C. I. D. men live near Mr. Sri Prakasa. That satisfied me and I was quite convinced that Mr. Sri Prakasa's C. I. D. men and their house are a figment of his imagination and not of our fears. But recently Mr. Parkin, the head of the C. I. D. in the United Provinces came to see me and I told him casually of Mr. Sri Prakasa's fears who knows Mr. Sri Prakasa very well and whom Mr. Sri Prakasa knows well. Mr. Parkin burst out laughing and said "What, jolly old Sri Prakasa?" That is the opinion of the C. I. D. of our friend.

I now turn to another question that is of particular interest to some Honourable Members of this House. I refer to the question of communal representation in the services. This question was raised by representatives of the Muslims, Sikhs and the Indian Christians. I do not propose to deal with the points raised by these Honourable Members in regard to the representation of these communities or indeed to go in any way into the detail. Details on the subject are very difficult and raise a great deal of heat. But there appears to be an impression in certain quarters that the Home Department objects to such reservation on principle and even if it is forced to accept the

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principle in any case it does its best to evade its obligations in this matter. I dealt with the subject from that aspect in replying to a cut motion of Mr. Kureel, as far as it applied to the Scheduled Castes. But today I would like to take the opportunity of explaining to those Members who are interested what my general attitude to the question is, what my general line of approach is. Although perhaps the distinction is not very clear cut, I mentally divide departments into two categories, those that deal, either directly or indirectly, with people and with human affairs and those who do not. I spent many years as district officer in the United Provinces and I very soon learnt that for good administration it was necessary to have on my staff the representatives of the main communities in the district. If this was not the case, then the necessary sympathy and understanding which are essential to all departments that deal with the people at large were wanting. If I had too many Muslims, then I lost touch with the Hindus; if I had too many, say, Brahmins, then I lost touch with other Hindus; and if I had too many British officers then I lost touch with everybody. Those Departments whose work requires sympathy and understanding with the people, must, I think, contain representatives of the main communities, subject always to the demands of what I may call technical efficiency. If they lack that sympathy and understanding, however great their technical efficiency, they cannot really be efficient. Work cannot run really smoothly. I do not wish to press that proposition too far and to allow it to be understood that I would have communal representation for every class or sub-class into which the people of this country might be divided. The case of other Departments, that is, Departments which have no direct touch or indirect touch with the people, is different. Take the case of the Meteorological Department. I do not ask myself, when I see the monsoon forecast, who made this, what are his social or religious sympathies, does he realise the effect of rain or draught on the people of the areas wherein he predicts an excess or deficiency of the monsoon. In such Departments efficiency depends entirely on technical considerations. I am aware, Sir, that there are other considerations, cultural and economic, that enter into this question, but I am discussing it purely from the Home Department and Service point of view. It is not to my mind a controversy between efficiency and jobs though it may degenerate into that. The question I ask myself is—how except in a few purely technical Departments, can you get efficiency in a Department which deals with people if it is out of sympathy with important sections of the people and is consequently distrusted by them. I hope, Sir, that I have made it clear that I understand and sympathise with them and can press for reservation and that I have not given cause to those who are opposed to communal representation, to think that I am trying to split up the services into a number of water-tight compartments, or that I attach any great importance to any particular mathematical relation between the population ratio and the percentage reserved. The important thing, to my mind, is that the major communities should be adequately represented, so that administration may be in touch with and be trusted by the people.

Finally, Sir, I would like to say something on a subject to which my very old friend, older even than Mr. Sri Prakasa, Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, referred. I regret I was not in the House when he was referring to the Home Department, but I understand that he appealed to me, in view of what had happened in the N. W. Province, to release all political prisoners. Well, Sir, I recently dealt in this House at some length with the question of political prisoners, and I do not propose to go over that ground again. But what has happened in Peshawar, I think, fully establishes one point that I then tried to make, and which was doubted in some quarters of the House, and that is, that with the exception of the comparatively small number of prisoners detained by the Centre the question of release or continued detention of prisoners is one for Provincial Governments to decide. The new Government of N. W. F. P. was of the opinion that they could safely release their prisoners. They were

perfectly entitled to that opinion, they did not consult the Home Department; we did not expect them to do so and if they had done so, we would have been considerably embarrassed.

Turning to Sir Vithal Chandavarkar's general argument, it was, I think, that as the Congress had resumed office in N. W. F. P., so we might assume that all over the country they had abandoned what I think Sir Vithal called their attitude of 1942. Now, Sir, is that a safe generalisation to make? Is it safe to generalise from a very small area, in the North-West of the country, to the whole country? Is it safe to generalise from a province in which there were practically no disturbances in 1942, to provinces such as Bihar, and U. P., in which there were very serious disturbances indeed. I think, Sir, that, on the evidence before us, it would be a most dangerous generalisation to make. I wish that I could safely make it. I wish that the Government of India and the Provincial Governments could with Sir Vithal and accept such a generalisation. We are not—neither the Government of India, nor the Provincial Governments—as Lord Wavell has made quite clear, asking for repentance in sack cloth and ashes. There is no question of that. But what the Government of India and the Provincial Governments are waiting for and hoping for, is some clear indication that all over the country, in principle as well as in practice, the Congress Party has abandoned their method of attempting to coerce those who do not agree with them and to paralyse the administration of this country. They are waiting for an indication that the Congress realise that if, after the storm of war is over, India is to have a fair passage to the harbour of self-government, what is required of them now is that they will, jointly with other parties, co-operate with, and if possible participate in, this Government.

Yesterday the conclusion of a speech, on which, if I may say so, I would congratulate him, Mr. Ayyangar, made an eloquent appeal for co-operation between this country and Britain on a basis of equal partnership. I would like to endorse that appeal. I personally am sure every one else on this side of this House is fully convinced that the only real solution of the difficulties that will face both this country and Great Britain after the war is such co-operation and on such a basis. I hope that that is now no longer in doubt, but if it is, the lesson which I would like to draw from what has happened in Peshawar is this: that whenever the hand of co-operation, the hand of friendship, is extended, we will not be backward in grasping it.

Mr. K. C. Neogy. (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, in rising to speak this morning, it is difficult to avoid a passing reference to the march of recent events at New Delhi, Lord Wavell's departure for London in dramatic circumstances. I should at the same time warn the country against any optimistic speculation. All that I can say is that we should hope and pray that good sense may yet prevail in quarters which think that they have the destinies of this country in their hands. Whatever else may happen as a result of Lord Wavell's visit to England, I am perfectly sure that it is going to lead to a further intensification of the war effort on the part of India. Warnings to that effect have already been sounded, now and again in different quarters; and we shall therefore have to be prepared to face a further period of intensified misery which is bound to result from the rising tempo of the campaign in south-east Asia.

This leads me to examine the present military burden on India, and in doing so, I would briefly refer to the position that the Finance Member plays in maintaining a check upon the rising expenditure on account of the military forces in India. It is no doubt true that according to the formula that obtains at the present moment, India is responsible for financing the defence activities of the country in so far as they may relate to her local defence, or what is called her local defence; and as regards the standard of local defence, it has been made abundantly clear that there is only one man who ultimately is responsible for determining that standard. The Commander-in-Chief, however, high his technical and other authority may be, lays down the law in this matter and

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the rest of the Government of India merely accept his *fatwah*. The Honourable Finance Member speaking last year made it quite clear that the determination of the strength of the forces needed for India's local defence is the responsibility solely of the Commander-in-Chief; and when this determination is made on the military merits of the case, the financial effect of those determinations is to be worked out by the Honourable Member and his department purely as a consequential matter. The Honourable Finance Member degenerates into a Member for Arithmetic, once His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief fixes the number of troops required, and then he dutifully goes on working out the financial effect of that determination. So, that is the type of control that the Finance Department exercises; and it is a matter of surprise that we do not find this composite Government, the Governor General in Council, functioning at all in this matter. It is also a matter of surprise that even our delegates to San Francisco have no look-in in regard to this question.

The Honourable Member once trotted out the theory that we have an Auditor General as the watch dog to control and check the allocation of expenditure as between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India. Here again, I think the Honourable Member has done less than justice to the Auditor General. In fairness to the Auditor General, the Honourable Member should have given us an idea about the nature of the authority that the Auditor General exercises in this behalf. We have in the latest report—the Audit Report on the Defence Services for 1944, an instance pointed out by the Auditor General which exemplifies his absolute helplessness in this matter. I am referring to page 18 of the Audit Report on the Defence Services for 1944—para. 29. This is what the Auditor General observes:

"Expenditure on measures outside India is ordinarily debitable to His Majesty's Government. As an exception to this rule, early in 1943, sanction was given to the construction from Indian revenues of two air fields outside India, but within reasonable flying distance of the frontier of India, at an estimated cost of Rs. 105.47 lakhs. As these air fields, though outside India, were stated to be for the local defence of India, the allocation of the expenditure to India has been accepted in audit."

In the first place, it is noticeable that expenditure on this particular construction had been sanctioned from the Indian Revenues, obviously with the fullest authority of the Finance Department, if the Finance Department functions at all in this matter.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Expenditure in the first instance is sanctioned not from any particular revenues; the question of what revenues it is sanctioned from is a matter of subsequent allocation.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Whatever it is, the fact remains that the Auditor General says that when he was face to face with this question the amount had already been found from the Indian revenues. Under whose authority that was done is a matter which my Honourable friend might explain; but the fact remains that the allocation had already been done before the matter came up to the Auditor General. There must be some one else then, some one other than the Auditor General, who was authorised to sanction the expenditure from the Indian revenues. Then when the matter comes up to the Auditor General, he is told that this was for the local defence of India and he has automatically to accept that *in toto*.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Not automatically.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: What else does it mean? The Honourable Member might read this—or I shall read it out once more for his benefit—"As these air fields, though outside India, were stated to be for the local defence of India"—stated evidently by some one else who has that authority: I should like to know that authority.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The military authorities.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: "the allocation of the expenditure to India has been accented." That is to say, one has merely to lay down the law for the Auditor General and the Auditor General is helpless. That is the extent of the safeguard that the Auditor General provides against any injustice to India in

the matter of allocation of military expenditure between India and England. I will take the Honourable Member's former estimates regarding the progress of expenditure. Speaking on the budget for 1943-44, the Honourable Member stated that the revised estimates for 1942-43 reflects the completion of the bulk of the programme for aerodrome construction for the air forces in India as well as for the United States Army Corps. That was the Honourable Member's estimate at that time, that perhaps the end in this matter was in sight. I am taking air fields as an illustration. I am not even going to examine the additional expenditure that was incurred later on the air field facilities provided at India's cost for local defence of India. But we find that as much as 26 crores of rupees were, subsequently to this statement, spent on air fields which had been provided to the United States as a matter of reciprocal aid, after the Honourable Member had stated that the year 1942-43 or 1943-44 had witnessed virtually the completion of the construction of the air fields for the United States Air Corps. Now, I find on a reference to the capital account of the air force for the four years that virtually 50 odd crores had been spent on the provision of air fields for the American authorities, out of which about 26 crores are spent after this statement had been made by the Honourable Member. Now, Sir, that leads me to the question as to whether there is any ceiling in regard to our obligation for a provision of this kind for the benefit of the United States Army. There is a ceiling in regard to India's own defence expenditure, a ceiling which of course is adjusted from time to time by the Commander-in-Chief. It seems to me that although there is a ceiling, whatever it may be, in regard to India's own local defence expenditure, there is absolutely no ceiling to the expenditure that we are to incur for the purpose of carrying out our obligations to the American authorities in India. I should like to know from my Honourable friend what is the limit beyond which India is not expected to go in the matter of provision of services and facilities of this kind to the United States Forces in India.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): May I ask the Honourable Member a question? By this expenditure on behalf of the United States to which he is drawing attention, does he mean lease-lend or is it from our own India's budget?

Mr. K. C. Neogy: So far as the expenditure is concerned, it has to be met from the Indian budget, and that is by way of reverse lease-lend aid to the United States of America. I wanted merely to know this. Although in the matter of local defence our obligation is confined within the geographical limits of India, are we expected to provide facilities of this kind which may be needed by the American forces for the purpose of carrying on their campaign outside India, in Burma, in Malaya and in China? It may be that as a result of the lease-lend understanding India is expected to provide certain facilities. Now, the point that arises further is this—having regard to our understanding with His Majesty's Government in the matter of allocation of expenditure between India and England, whether this is not a matter which could be taken up with His Majesty's Government for adjustment against that Government. Because if we are not expected to find the money needed for military campaigns outside the borders of India ourselves, we cannot in reason be expected to find all the help that American forces may require from us for the purpose of utilising India as the base for their campaign outside the geographical boundaries of India—in Malaya, in Burma and in China. Sir, I would not have made this observation except for the fact that I have found the President of the United States, in more than one of his speeches or reports, making reference to the increasing assistance which India is giving in proportion to the rising tempo of the campaign against China, Malaya and Burma.

Sir, that takes me once again to an examination of India's position under the lend-lease arrangements. I am much obliged to my Honourable friend for having promised to make a comprehensive statement on this particular point. Unfortunately, we have had no comprehensive statement in the form either of a report or communique so far, and whatever knowledge we possess is from occasional hints and occasional and casual observations which the Honourable Member has chosen to make from time to time in the course of his budget

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speeches. Sir, the Honourable Member stated the other day that the reason why India has not concluded a direct agreement with the United States of America in regard to lease-lend activities, is that India is anxious to save her freedom in respect of her own future economic policy, that is to say, he thought that by entering into a direct lease-lend agreement with America, India's freedom in that matter might be jeopardised. Evidently, my Honourable friend had clause 7 of the Master Agreement in mind. Clause 7 is a very lengthy one. It contains a lot of platitude, but it boils down to this—that there should be in future no discrimination in the field of economic and commercial activities of the different countries of the world. This is the policy that is embodied in Article 7; and incidentally it is mentioned in that article that the object is the attainment of all the economic objectives set forth in that rather elusive document known as the Atlantic Charter, and which is referred to as the joint declaration made on 14th August 1941 by the President of the United States of America and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Now, Sir, although India has not concluded a direct agreement with the United States of America, there is, I take it, some kind of an "arrangement". I know that that word was used in the House of Commons for the purpose of distinguishing our position from that of the U. K. It was stated that there is an arrangement in this regard between the United States of America and India. I find that among the dominions, Australia and New Zealand have not executed a lease-lend agreement but that they have executed the reciprocal aid agreement which is also related to the lease-lend agreement. As regards Canada, it is stated in an American official publication that Canada has not either executed a lease-lend agreement or a reciprocal agreement, but in an exchange of notes, Canada has accepted the underlying principle of Article 7 of the lease-lend agreement to which I have already made reference, and from the effects of which the Honourable Member is anxious to save India. Now, Sir, it was said the other day that India has entered into an agreement with Canada, and this time it is a formal agreement; and we were taken to task for not being aware that a copy of that agreement had been laid on the table of the House during the beginning of this Session, about the 23rd February. One Honourable Member on the Front Bench there spoke of the placing of that agreement on the table of the House as if it was a spontaneous act; and we were taken to task that we did not take the slightest interest in such matters. But looking up the records of the House I find that an Honourable Member of this House had put a question in the November Session; and it was in response to that question that the agreement was laid on the table of the House. We got a circular, one among many circulars, mentioning the many documents—some of them very interesting—which are from time to time placed on the table, that included this particular document; and may I state that it took me four days to obtain a copy of that agreement? Now, Sir, I proceed to place what I consider to be the most important clause in that agreement. My Honourable friend said he has done a great service to India by not concluding an agreement with the United States of America.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I never said that. I never used any such words.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I thought he tried to make out that it was to India's interest not to

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I merely indicated the reason why India had not been able to conclude a formal agreement with America.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Now I proceed to point out that the Honourable Member has done what he said would have been implied had we concluded an agreement with U. S. A. This is Article X of the Agreement which India has concluded with Canada. The two Governments declare:

"That their guiding purposes include the adoption of measures designed to promote employment, the production and consumption of goods and the expansion of commerce through appropriate international agreements on commercial policy, with the object of contributing to the attainment of the economic objectives set forth in the Declaration of August 14, 1941, known as the Atlantic Charter."

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: There is nothing about tariffs in that Agreement.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: My Honourable friend, I think, would require me to read out the Economic clauses of the Atlantic Charter. These are the clauses:

"They will endeavour with due respect for their existing obligations,"—

These words, I understand, were introduced at the instance of Mr. Churchill, as I find it stated in Sumner Welles book—

"to further the enjoyment by all States, great or small victor or vanquished of access on equal terms to the trade and to the raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity."

"They desire to bring about the fullest collaboration between all Nations in the economic field with the object of securing for all improved labour standards, economic advancement and social security."

This is, virtually the same thing that is contained in Article VII of the Lease-Lend Agreement. As a matter of fact these particular clauses are referred to in Article VII of the Lease-Lend Agreement as being the objective with which they proceeded to enunciate their policy in that agreement.

Now, Sir, I further want to remind the House that in the first instance, Canada has accepted the principle underlying Article VII of the Lease-Lend Agreement. Next, India has entered into an agreement with that Canada on the basis of the terms that I have just read out to the House which mention the Atlantic Charter as the guiding principle for the future economic and fiscal policy of the two countries. Now, I want to ask the House as to what difference would it have made, supposing a similar exchange of notes had taken place between India and U. S. A., as between Canada and U. S. A.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not want to interrupt my Honourable friend. All that I said in regard to Article VII was, all that I meant was that the use of the term 'for removal of tariff barriers' related to the difficulty which led the Government of India to conclude that it would be unwise to accept all the obligations of that Article as they stood. That is all which had been implied, not that the Government of India found difficulty in subscribing to everything in Article VII or to the objects of the Atlantic Charter.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I would now tell my Honourable friend that it was possible to make mental reservations while signing such an Agreement, as was done in the case of Great Britain. I have, Sir, the testimony of Mr. Churchill to that effect. In speaking in the House of Commons on 21st April, 1944, Mr. Churchill said:

"In February 1942, (that is the time when the agreement was signed), I did not agree to Article VII of the Mutual Aid Agreement without having previously obtained from the President a definite assurance that we were no more committed to the policy of imperial preference than the American Government were committed to the policy of their high protective tariff."

Sir, explaining the position further, the Chancellor of the Exchequer in one of his Mansion House speeches declared that the British Government had an obligation under Clause 7 of the Lend-Lease Agreement to work for the elimination of discrimination in all forms, with a saving clause about Imperial preference.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member may stop now and 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. K. C. Neogy: Sir, before the recess, I pointed out that New Zealand and Australia had entered into a reciprocal aid agreement without concluding a lease-lend agreement, and that in the case of Canada neither of these two agreements had been concluded formally, but that through an exchange of notes Canada had accepted the underlying principle of clause 7 of the lease-lend agreement. Now I should like to know whether an attempt was made by

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the Government of India to execute a reciprocal aid agreement on the lines on which Australia and New Zealand executed it, so as to avoid any difficulty that Government might have felt in having to agree to any principle implicit in clause 7 of the lease-lend agreement. It is true that lease-lend agreement in Art. 7 mentions reduction of tariffs as one of the methods by which the objective laid down in the Atlantic Charter was to be attained; and I pointed out before the recess that by having agreed to the economic clauses of the Atlantic Charter, India in her agreement with Canada had virtually agreed to take whatever steps may be necessary for the purpose of bringing about the result aimed at in these clauses. And if reduction of tariffs is one of the essential steps necessary for the purpose of bringing about the result, then India has by implication committed herself in that matter too.

I will now try to show that India has suffered because of the failure to have a direct agreement with the U. S. A. either of the nature of a lease-lend agreement or of the nature of a reciprocal aid agreement. We do not yet know how we stand in this matter. Are we free to negotiate with the U. S. A. in regard to all matters connected with the administration of the lease-lend arrangement, or have we to depend upon the United Kingdom for the purpose of determining any policy to which we may be expected to give effect?

The lease-lend agreement has been followed by periodical discussions and settlement of the details in regard to the administration of that agreement. I believe there are annual meetings that take place for the purpose of determining the scope and ambit of lease-lend and reverse lease-lend in the case of United Kingdom. I do not know whether India is independently represented at such discussions, and if so whether these matters come up for deliberation in the Government of India before any instructions are issued to any one who may represent India at such discussions.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Certainly.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I am glad that that is so. Then the next question that arises is whether in the recent past the scope of the lease-lend agreement has or has not been modified to such an extent as to lay a heavier burden upon India, while restricting the scope of assistance which India may obtain from the U. S. A.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No, that part about restricting the scope of assistance is incorrect.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Very well; but my Honourable friend then admits the fact that the scope of the aid to be given to India has been expanded in the past.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No. What I meant was that it is possible that as a result of the developments of the war what was expected from India may be greater; but that would be counterbalanced by a greater measure of assistance in the form of lend-lease.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I wanted to find out whether all these questions have been considered in all their bearings before any such expansion of the scope of the lease-lend agreement was allowed on our part.

Now, Sir, my Honourable friend in introducing the budget for 1944-45 said something on this subject in paragraph 37 of his speech. There he pointed out the different kinds of assistance that were expected to be rendered to the U. S. A.:

(i) Reciprocal aid to the United States forces in India in the shape of rations, etc.

(ii) Reciprocal aid to the United States shipping using Indian ports, etc.

The next one is the most important.

(iii) Available raw materials and available foodstuffs, such as tea, required by the United States Government directly for war purposes.

Then my Honourable friend added:

"The arrangements for granting reciprocal aid of the first two kinds are working smoothly, but the administrative arrangements governing reciprocal aid for raw materials are still being worked out."

It is only administrative arrangements that were being worked out at that moment. There is nothing to indicate in this that it was for the first time then that the obligation to furnish raw materials and available foodstuffs for being exported out of India to the United States had been undertaken. Sir, on this point I have the authority of the President of the United States himself who, in the 18th report that he made to the Congress on the lease-lend operations ending November 30, 1943, made the following observation:

"The Governments of the United Kingdom, New Zealand and India have agreed to provide as reverse lend-lease and without payment by us raw materials, commodities, and foodstuffs previously purchased within their territory by the U. S. Government agencies."

That is to say, for the first time in this period India had undertaken the obligation to furnish to the U. S. A. raw materials and foodstuffs which the U. S. Government were purchasing through their own organisation in India previously.

Sir, certain questions were asked in this House in November, 1943—as far as I recollect—in regard to the purchases made by the U. S. Government of jute and jute products. Then again as a member of a Committee I got a memorandum supplied from the Department of Labour in which certain officers of the Geological Department made an observation that the U. S. A. Government agency, in the shape of the Metals Reserve Corporation, which was really a Government show, had offered to the Geological Department prices for certain rare minerals which were not sufficient to cover the cost of mining. This is an observation made by officers of the Geological Department in a note which was circulated to us. So we have it on the authority of the Geological Department that in November the U. S. A. Government was purchasing certain rare minerals and that the prices offered by them were not remunerative or economic. Immediately after that we find that India has undertaken the obligation of supplying all these rare minerals and other raw materials, such as jute, to the United States of America without any payment at all. I should like to have a statement from the Honourable Member explaining the circumstance in which the scope of the reciprocal aid was extended in this matter. The Honourable Member supplied, in reply to a question asked by my Honourable friend to my right the other day, certain figures showing the export of the various raw materials that have taken place to the United States of America. I take it, Sir, that before the scope of the agreement was extended in this manner, our obligation was limited to supplying the United States forces sanctioned in India with whatever requirements we were in a position to supply to them for local consumption or local use. For the first time we find that we have on a particular date undertaken an obligation to export our raw materials for which we were receiving cash payment in the past and against which our dollar credits were accumulating.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Which date is the Honourable Member referring to? Is he referring to the budget speech of last year which refers back to a decision that had been taken before that?

Mr. K. C. Neogy: We are labouring under a great handicap in carrying on this discussion. The Honourable Member has never cared to supply this House with complete information on any of these matters. We have to work hard and get information from America for the purpose of understanding the situation.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I can assure the Honourable Member that he is not the only person who has to labour under great handicaps to understand the position in respect of lease-lend, but what I do want to know is what statement of mine he is referring to because I have not got with me the last year's budget speech.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I refer to his speech introducing the budget 1944-45. Before that we never knew that our obligation extended to the exportation of raw materials free of cost to the United States of America.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: But it was made quite clear in last year's budget speech and it was referred to in the course of discussions on last year's budget.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Yes, I myself referred to it once in a way, but what I mean is what justification can the Honourable Member put forward for having extended the scope of the reciprocal aid in this manner?—that is the statement which I want from my Honourable friend.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The justification which one side of any international arrangement has, namely that something is also expected from the other side.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: That is exactly what we want to know: What is the "something" in addition to the "Something" that you were expecting in the past that led to this expansion of the understanding? My Honourable friend would permit me to point out that a statement on this position was made in Parliament, in the House of Commons, where it was said that it was decided to include raw materials within the ambit of the reciprocal aid agreement with Great Britain. Was that decision automatically accepted by the Government of India for the purpose of sending out our raw materials like this without payment? That is the point on which I should like my Honourable friend to give us information. We are tied to the apron strings of the United Kingdom in these matters. I should like to know in regard to which particular matter we have an absolutely free hand for the purpose of dealing with the United States of America, and in regard to which other matters it is His Majesty's Government that takes the decision and we have to carry out those decisions? That is the point on which, again, I should like to have some enlightenment. It is a great pity that no opportunity is given to this House to have a discussion on such important subjects on the basis of any authoritative statement that one expects to get from any decent Government. Sir, in the United States and the United Kingdom, periodical publications are made in the shape of reports and White Papers setting out the details of the working of these arrangements. Then, there are regular debates that are held in the House of Commons in the course of which the position is explained from time to time; but the Honourable Member has failed to give us any comprehensive idea about the arrangements that obtain at the present moment.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I assure my Honourable friend that when I was in America I heard complaints in almost exactly the same words as he is making now, about the lack of information in America.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: That is no justification for my Honourable friend keeping us in a comparative darkness about the arrangements that are now operating.

Apart from anything else, are we or are we not entitled to these reports which are made by the President to the Congress in America from time to time, every three months, in which the President sets out in detail the operations under the Lease-Lend Act? We have to resort to American sources for the purposes of even getting loans of these publications. Will the Honourable Member see to it that in future at least these publications are regularly obtained and placed at our disposal in the Assembly Library?

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): He can give us the information.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: He says he is as much in the dark as some of us are.

Then again in the 15th Report to the Congress ending March 31st, 1944, the President says:

"The volume of reverse Lend-Lease aid provided to the United States forces in India has gone up by leaps and bounds."

Here, again, I pause and enquire whether there is going to be fixed any ceiling to all this? I asked more than once the question as to whether the financial capacity of India has at all been considered before this limitless liability was accepted by the Government of India. My Honourable friend in one of his speeches stated that the financial capacity of a country determines the nature of the aid that is expected to be afforded by way of reverse Lend-Lease, and I have not succeeded in getting a statement from my Honourable friend as to how Government came to the conclusion that the type and the volume of aid that we are giving are definitely within the financial capacity of India.

Then, I will come to the last available Report and that is the 17th Report of the President to the Congress ending with January 30th, 1945, and this is what the President says:

"In India the increased rate of reverse Lend-Lease aid we have received has kept pace with the rising tempo of air, land and sea operations in the Burma, India and China theatres."

Sir, I again want to know whether there is any limit to our obligation in this behalf. As I pointed out in the morning, our obligation in the matter of domestic defence is limited to the geographical boundaries of India, but we find that our obligation to afford reverse Lease-Lend aid to America is not bounded by any geographical limits in the least.

Sir, I think I have taken up too much of the time of the House already in dealing with this rather abstruse subject; and I would just, with your permission, devote a few words to another subject, which, though not of such great importance from the international point of view, has a very great interest to the country as a whole. I refer to the coal position. It is a pity that there has not been any sufficient discussion of the coal position in this House. Here again I must begin by voicing a complaint which I have against the Honourable the Finance Member, in so far as the present demands for grants indicate that certain departments, and branches of departments, which were votable last year are now treated as non-votable, simply because those departments and subjects have been transferred to the control of the Supply Department.

Sir, first of all the organization of the Coal Commissioner's office. It was shown as a votable item under the War Transport Department last year. Now it appears as a non-votable item in the Supply Department budget. Secondly, and that is a much more important point: the railway collieries which belong to a so-called commercial department of the Government of India were so long treated as part of the railway administration and the railway colliery establishment was a wholly voted establishment in the railway budget. That branch of the activity of the railway administration has now, for administrative reasons, been transferred to the Supply Department; and it appears as a non-voted item of expenditure in the present demands for grants. Of course "Pandit" Raisman will explain the financial "Shastra" which enjoins this touch pollution, because if Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar touches any particular department it becomes untouchable for the rest of us in this House.

But, Sir, that apart, there must be something very wrong in the administration of this department—I mean the coal administration—because I find that in regard to the question of the improvement that has taken place in the raisings of coal between 1943 and 1944, the Department itself does not seem to be in a position to supply correct information even to the Viceroy. My Honourable friend to my right made a complaint that he did not get correct information in reply to a question of his from the Supply Department. But what right has he to complain, if the Viceroy of India has no right to obtain correct information from the Supply Department? I have in mind a question which I put in this House. Unfortunately it was not reached for oral answer on the very first day of this Session, where I quoted one statement made by Lord Wavell at a meeting at the Associated Chambers of Commerce in Calcutta in which he was advised to say that the "production of coal throughout 1944, though below our target, has been greater, month by month, than the corresponding figures for 1943". Unfortunately for me I obtained a somewhat different answer to this very point from the Honourable Member in charge, in a reply to a question and I quoted that reply and I said: How is the Honourable Member going to reconcile the statement made by the Viceroy and that made by himself, which indicated that during certain months of this period, the raisings were definitely lower and the reply was that "the two statements clearly cannot be reconciled for the all-India figures". The all-India figures indicated that the statement made by the Viceroy was incorrect. Having regard to all known canons of administration, the head of a Government is expected to depend upon the information from the relevant departments for the purpose of making statements of this character, and therefore I say that my Honourable friend has no ground for complaint.

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because the Viceroy himself does not seem to have the right to expect correct information from this Department.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: They are political statements.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Yes. The Coal Department has embarked on a very ambitious project. It has set up a huge organisation, a very large number of officers have been appointed—mostly European—on high rates of pay for the purpose of administering the control scheme. Labour welfare schemes have been taken in hand. Labour forces have been specially recruited, and yet we find that the results are not as they should be. As a matter of fact, up to a point all the efforts of the Government in inducing the better class collieries to improve their raisings seem to have had no effect practically. But on the other hand, the collieries producing the inferior grades of coal have succeeded in increasing their raisings. The inducements that are offered mostly operate in the case of the higher grade coal people—concessions by way of excess profits tax, concessions by way of bonuses and things like that. If my Honourable friend were here I should have liked him to explain to the House the reasons why all these heroic measures that have been adopted have failed to produce the desired result in the case of the higher grade collieries and what is the Government's policy in this matter, particularly towards inferior grades of coal.

Apart from giving various inducements to the coal industry, they have fixed tempting prices for coal; and in one instance, to which I am coming, it appears that the price was determined without any serious consideration of the different elements of cost, and that in that particular case the price was determined on the recommendation of a part-time official who was also interested in the collieries. I put several questions on this subject and it appeared that in the case of Assam coal where the prices are fixed at very high figures, no definite principle was observed in the fixation of prices, unlike the Bengal and Bihar areas, and it was stated that prices were fixed on the advice of the "local authorities". When I asked the name of the local authorities I was given the name of the local Deputy Coal Controller who, it was admitted, is a part-time officer of Government and is also financially interested in certain collieries in Assam. In one instance I find that as a result of depending on the judgment of this single semi-official, the price of coal that has been fixed at Rs. 33/8 includes Rs. 11/8 as the transport charge over a ropeway 8½ miles in length. Now, Sir, the price of coal for this particular colliery was Rs. 10, Rs. 11 and Rs. 18 in the years 1941, 1942 and 1943, respectively, inclusive of the transport charge over the ropeway; and under orders of Government Rs. 11/8 has now been fixed as the cost of the ropeway transport alone, bringing up the total price to Rs. 33/8. When I asked for the details of calculations, the Honourable Member said there were no details. When I asked whether any independent officer had gone into the elements of cost he said that nothing of the kind was done. These are admitted facts, admitted on the floor of this House. For this one instance of jobbery, to which we can point, there must be hundreds other where jobbery is taking place without our knowledge in the coal department.

I am afraid, I shall not be justified in taking any more of the time of the House. But I would just conclude by referring to another fact. Everyone is aware of the extreme difficulty which the householders are experiencing for the absence of sufficient supplies of domestic coal. When we ask for information as to what is the normal requirement of the country, they say we have no calculations. I have got the figures for 1942, 1943 and 1944 and also the figures for 1940 and 1941. The supplies of soft coke were of the order of 9 lakh tons a year in 1940 and 1941. These figures are available from the published reports of the Soft Coke Cess Committee, although the Honourable Member said that he had no information about the requirements of the country. Some nine lakh tons of soft coke was supplied to the whole country in the years 1940 and 1941. It dropped to 4 lakhs 31 thousand tons and odd in 1942, 354 thousand and odd tons in 1943, and 443 thousand tons and odd in 1944. We are having less than one half of the total soft coke that used to be supplied

to the country in the years 1940 and 1941, and the Honourable Member is not prepared to give us full details with regard to these matters and we have to depend upon our own efforts for the purpose of finding out how the position stands as compared with the past years. This is a department which requires to be thoroughly looked into; and I am very sorry that my Honourable friend who is in charge of the Department is not here at the present moment. There are other aspects of the coal question which I regret I have no time to deal with on the present occasion.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare (Member for Commonwealth Relations): After having spoken once during this session, I would not have cared to open my lips a second time, but since attacks have been made not only against me personally but against my department also during the course of the debate, and since I also heard a whispering campaign that the demand for Emigration External pertaining to my department has been thrown out more on personal grounds than on principle or merit, I deem it my duty to intervene in the debate and give a reply to these various criticisms. The opposition has voted in favour of the refusal of supplies to the Executive Council which amounts to a censure motion against the present Government which clearly means that they do not want the present Government to function any longer; if that is so, it follows as a corollary that they should have voted down all demands for grants, but they have not done so.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Do you want them to do it?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: They have only thrown out 3 or 4 specific demands and passed the rest of the budget. This position according to me is rather inconsistent.

Now, Sir, I believe that they have joined hands to throw out the Finance Bill also. In so far as they have passed almost all the budget demands with a very few exceptions, it means by implication that this Government can and should function and administer the grants passed by the House. If that is so, how can they now oppose the Finance Bill? It seems to me that they are not going to throw out the Finance Bill on its merits but merely as a political propaganda for which purpose they have joined hands. We see the Muslim League Members walking arm in arm with the Congress Party Members into the lobby, but I am certain that this apparent unity is only a make-believe because while doing so here, the Congress has thrown out the Muslim League Ministry in the N.-W. F. Province, the pivot of Pakistan, and established a Congress Ministry there.

To understand all the implications of the mystery we must take a bird's eye view of some happenings in the past. After the 1942 disorders, complete demoralisation and sense of frustration had set in in the Congress organisation, the stocks of the Muslim League also were going down in the Punjab and the Punjab Premier refused even to see the General Secretary of the League in the spring of last year as will be gathered from the issues of the *Dawn* during that period.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): That is absolutely wrong.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: What transpired between them at that time can be summarised in two Urdu couplets:

*"Marta hun tere hijr men aye Khizr khabarlo
League ka lihar karké, Liqat ko bachalo
Liqat tu meri arzoo nahak hai kar, raha
Jina ke taraf se dil men mere chhala hai pargaya."*

It is after this that the Feuhrers of both the organisations met together in Bombay and tried hard to bring about a rapprochement between the two organisations, but as was expected they miserably failed. There were other indications also for the loss of morale in the Congress organisations in various provinces and the cracking of the League structure, details of which are not germane to the issue at the present moment. Suffice it to say, that it was found necessary by both these Parties to get into power as a means to reinforce

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their structure and raise their prestige. So it is not a common ideology that has brought them together but adversity has done the trick. It is well said that 'Adversity makes strange bed-fellows'.

Some Honourable Member: It does.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: This is the genesis of the superficial unity which we witness in the House every day. What Hitler failed to achieve is being attempted by Goebbels and Himmlers of the Parties and secret negotiations are going on to achieve it. Since the lips of those who are carrying on the negotiations are sealed, it is necessary to throw some light on these negotiations to bring about unity which is desired by all. My friend Mr. Sri Prakasa, the General Secretary of the Congress Assembly Party, has got a Hindi Daily at Lucknow, which says, "though no finality has been reached, we have learnt from a very reliable source that the Viceroy's Executive Council is going to be reconstituted in which three main portfolios, Finance, Home and External Affairs will remain in the hands of the Viceroy's nominees who will be permanent officials and War Transport in the hands of a non-official European who will belong to the European Group in the Central Assembly and the rest in the hands of Indian Members".

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): On a point of information, Sir, I have no Hindi paper under my control at Lucknow or elsewhere and I know nothing or what the Honourable Member is saying.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: It does not matter. I have got all this from the *Hindustan Standard*. The Viceroy's power of veto will remain intact. Regarding the composition of the Cabinet the paper further says, "Four elected Members of the Congress and the League Party each and four from other parties in the Assembly will constitute the Viceroy's Executive Council". The paper further adds that when this proposal was brought before Mahatma Gandhi, he is reported to have said that those who will accept office will have to sever their connection from the Congress organisation. By the way this shows the measure of support behind these negotiations. The paper concludes that Nawabzada has given his word on some such lines. If all this is true, it is quite in line with the history of the Congress over two decades: non-co-operation followed by conditional co-operation, non-co-operation followed by unconditional co-operation, surrender after a fight and so on and so forth. Even Hitler and Stalin will yield before this double-handed onslaught. It is no wonder if the British Government also yields. They will get a fine team drawing in opposite directions, because the Leader of the Opposition very recently at the Rotary Club, Delhi, preached *Ahimsa* or non-killing and the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party as was said by him believes in killing and getting killed. The Congress has always refused what has been offered by the British Government. Witness the history of 1919, 1935 and 1942—I mean the Cripps Proposals. If they are now thinking of revising their attitude after the rejection of the Cripps proposals, there is no point in throwing out the Finance Bill. Sir, after I spoke on the last occasion my Congress friends were annoyed with me but the House will be surprised to find that the same sentiments as were expressed by me are expressed recently by a Congress organ, *The Hindustan Times*. It says:

"Boycott of Legislatures and Ministries has a meaning and a purpose as a preliminary to non-violent direct action; by itself it is a mere gesture of protest which may be justified occasionally, but not as a prolonged policy."

There is no ignominy in surrender if it is honest, but hypocrisy is dishonourable. If they want to defeat the Government and occupy these Benches, they should give a decent burial to the corpse of 'Quit India'. 'Quit India' may have been dear to them, but even the corpse of the beloved person stinks. Therefore, they should bury the hatchet and elect to support war efforts as

has been done in the Frontier. This will be the duty of a person who is intellectually honest. Sir, I have always been a firm believer in the war efforts. I have never concealed it from anybody, and I have preached it openly even incurring the odium from the fraternity of friends. Opposite. Sir, war is now coming to an end and preliminary conferences for peace are going to be held. Yesterday I read in papers that the Indian Immigration Bill in the U. S. A. has been indefinitely shelved in spite of President Roosevelt's strong support. All honor to him for that. But this shows which way the wind is blowing for coloured people. Indians can fight side by side in this war along with Americans for a common purpose, for freedom and equality, but are denied even a small modicum of citizenship rights in that country. There is no wonder if one begins to doubt whether coloured people are going to be emancipated at all as a result of this war, but one thing is certain that a large proportion of white people are going to be enslaved for a good long time after this war. I have no hesitation, therefore, to support this war still, because to that extent at least the inequality between the white and the coloured will be wiped out. This is my individual view as a coloured man, and I hope that world's statesmen will take a note of it if they want to avoid future conflicts which may be between the coloured and the white people.

Sir, I have come to occupy this office in a straight manner. I never sought after it, never begged before anybody, never conspired for it, never intrigued for it. Yet the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party had the temerity to say that I came here for job and bread, and in support of it quoted some words from a contemptuous reply which I gave to an irresponsible juvenile interjector at a public meeting in Cuttack, which was evidently ironical. If people are so dunces as not to understand irony, nobody can help them. I never thought that the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League would be as obtuse in his intelligence as in his form and figure. Sir, I have followed an independent and honest profession all my life and I have offered whatever little sacrifice I could at the altar of my country for years. I am not a job-hunter; it is those who conspire and intrigue for it, that are job-hunters in my view. I have been called a jester; that only shows that some of my thrusts have gone home. It is natural that when a thrust goes home, people lose their balance and begin to dance like a prima donna. It is no wonder, therefore, that my Honourable friend, Nawabzada, who is proud of his suavity and urbanity, and rightly so; threw down the mask once and defended the League by blurring out, "Muslims believe in killing and getting killed". I am sure, in his saner moments, he will repent for having done so.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I still believe in that.

(Interruptions)

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have heard you with patience, now listen. Incidentally this throws a flood of light on the genesis of communal riots in this unfortunate country, and, if unfortunately my Honourable friend—the future Home Member, according to the new scheme—still believes in this dictum, then woe to this unfortunate country.

Sir, the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition has said that I do not understand the correct meaning of the word 'job' in the English language. I am not ashamed of it. I have not been an advocate all my life pleading in the English language before even a third class Magistrate. I have followed all my life the profession of giving injections and incisions. English is not the language of my ancestors, and I love my mother more than a paid wet nurse. Had it been possible I would have been proud to speak in my own language, Marathi. Sir, exhausted patience has made my Honourable friend lose his balance and he has compared his attempt to get on the Treasury Benches with the formation of the Ministry by Prime Minister Churchill. Mr. Churchill is a Prime Minister of an independent country, and he was called by His Majesty the King with honour and dignity to form a Cabinet; he had no occasion to go abegging from door to door and call on even Private Secretaries. The two things are incomparable: *Kahan Raja Bhoj aur Kahan Ganga Tel*. I hope and trust that at all events, now at least, my Honourable friend will realise that he exhibited a severe lack of sense of proportion when he made

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that comparison. If my Honourable friend, the ex-Advocate-General and the future Member for Planning and Development, assumes office in an independent India, I will certainly bow before him hundred times, but so long as there is no advance in the constitutional position of this country, there is no ground for any discrimination between him and me; but his dictum is that whatever he does is patriotic: if he withdraws from the Legislature, it is patriotic; if he re-enters, it is patriotic; if he fights, it is patriotic; if he surrenders, it is patriotic; if he resigns from the Working Committee before the storm, it is patriotic; if he sneezes, it is patriotic; if he yawns, it is patriotic; and thinking that he has got the monopoly of patriotism, he has twitted my Honourable friend, the Supply Member, by saying "that an impressive declaration of patriotism is the last argument of an unpatriotic person". Sir, we do not parade our patriotism. It is the other side which always parades it. May I, therefore, say that the observation made by him, if reversed, would be equally true of him? Sir, as I said before, there has been no advance in the constitutional position—thanks to the Parties opposite—since I accepted my office, and since my friends by all accounts are eager to 'step into office' under the present constitution, I congratulate them, and I am proud that my erstwhile leader is following in the footsteps of a humble follower like me. I take it that they have realised that, short of achieving independence, the present constitution does offer opportunities for rendering some service to the country, however little that may be. It is exactly in this spirit that I have also accepted office under the present constitution with all its limitations, and I think I should tell the House something of what I was able to do in my own Department from the time I took office. Apart from matters of policy, the Member in charge of a Department can do a great deal towards a more effective enforcement of the Indian point of view, in the administration of his Departments.

My Department is responsible for matters affecting the fate and welfare of a very large Indian population in overseas countries within the British Commonwealth. Until recently the Department was, however, only a section in a big and miscellaneous Department. It was made a separate Department in 1941 under my distinguished predecessor, Mr. Aney. The main problems with which I was concerned, when I first surveyed the Department, were:

- (1) the maintenance of a large number of Indian evacuees;
- (2) dealing with many long-standing problems concerning Indian overseas, and
- (3) the pilgrimage to the Hedjaz.

Taking the last subject first, my Muslim friends will, I am sure, give me credit for arranging—for the first time after three years—in spite of difficult war conditions, for as many as 5,000 Muslim pilgrims proceeding to the Holy Land under full Naval escort. In spite of minor shortcomings and difficulties I have it on the testimony of many educated and distinguished pilgrims that the pilgrimage was a very successful one. The Muslim Members of the Legislature had been asking for better facilities for the pilgrimage for a very long time. I appointed a Haj officer to be in charge of the arrangements for the pilgrims. I have already taken action to implement a very large number of the recommendations made by the Special Haj Inquiry Officer, and more will be done as soon as exceptional war time conditions disappear. In order to effect further improvement in the facilities for the pilgrimage I have already action to resume direct central control of the administration of the Port Haj authorities and have moved for further strengthening of the Haj staff.

I devoted special attention to the proper maintenance of the several lakhs of Indian evacuees, many of whom had to trek to this country in conditions of great hardship. Within a few months after taking over charge I had the rates of allowances increased for the poorest categories of evacuees and provided extra allowances for clothing and medical aid and for the school and university education of the children of evacuees. I have also taken special action

to obtain employment for as many of the evacuees as might be possible. To achieve these ends I did not hesitate to increase the staff. The proper maintenance of these unfortunate persons in their enforced absence from their home of adoption has been a matter of constant care and solicitude to me.

The political and economic grievances of Indians overseas have been, as the House is aware, a running sore for generations. When I first took over charge the most important problems facing us were those connected with Indian interests in South Africa, Ceylon and Burma. During the interregnum between Mr. Aney's departure and my taking over charge the obnoxious Pegging Act had been placed on the South African Statute-book and the House is aware of the strenuous efforts I have made for its withdrawal. I found that the Reciprocity Act which had been passed earlier was defective in several respects and I had an amendment of the Act drafted and passed at the very first opportunity. As the House is aware, this Act was for the first time applied by me against the country which persisted in its indifference to Indian interests and its harassment of our nationals resident therein.

This is the first time in history that the principle of retaliation was adopted and enforced by the Government of India against a fellow member of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Still the Congress organ *Hindustan Times* says in a leading article that Dr. Khare has proved himself weak and inefficient to bear the burden of South Africa and has appealed to His Excellency the Viceroy to take upon himself this burden. What a strong support to the theory of the White Man's burden from a patriotic and rationalist organ! As regards Ceylon and Burma, the members of the Standing Emigration Committee will bear me out that I have taken them into the fullest confidence in all matters affecting Indian interests in these countries and I believe I can claim that at no time have the Government of India moved so closely in touch with non-official opinion in these matters. As far as possible I have also appointed distinguished non-official Indians as our Representatives to safeguard Indian interests in overseas countries.

With the separation of the Department much greater attention is now devoted to the affairs of Indians overseas and the activities of the Department have been extended to cover all political relations with countries within the commonwealth; hence the change of name of the Department. Soon after taking charge of the Department I realised that unregulated emigration of Indians, particularly of the poorer classes, to Empire countries was likely to worsen the position of Indians overseas. With a view to the protection of emigrants and to placing the regulation of emigration on a sound footing, particularly in relation to post-war possibilities, I have centralised the administration of the Indian Emigration Act and the Protectors of Emigrants, who hitherto used to work under the Provincial Governments as our agents, now work directly under the Central Government. It is my belief that this centralisation of control will direct future emigration into right channels and enable us to stem the deterioration in the position of Indians overseas. I believe that as a result of this policy it is now recognised by all those who take any live interest in these matters that Indian emigration and the safeguarding of the interests of Indians overseas are being conducted much more in consonance with the wishes of the Indian public. If my efforts have not met with greater success, that is not due to any lack of solicitude and exertions on my part. Without the vigilance exercised by an Indian Member the position might have been very much worse. To stem the tide of deterioration and effect a reorientation in our policy have been quite worth the efforts I have been able to make.

Sir, as I have said before, the Congress technique is to refuse what is offered by the British Government, then to start some sort of a struggle and get beaten and then after enjoying a certain period of demoralisation and frustration, go abegging for something much less than what was offered, accept it and delude the public that they have won. I am afraid there is no departure from this technique this time also. When they come into power, they will

[Dr. N. B. Khare.]

delude the public by calling it a National Government. I want to know how it will be a national government in the proper sense of the term within the present constitutional limitations, and I also want to know what magic wand they possess which will enable them to extract more good from the present constitution than the present Executive Council. No individual or a group of individuals can dispose of the future of this country. It is not their patrimony to be so disposed of. The whole nation is concerned with it. Such attempts can best be described as treachery against democracy and nationalism. It may be remembered that they refused the Cripps offer when Japan's stars were in the ascendancy; now they are ingratiating themselves in favour of Great Britain as her stars are fortunately in the ascendancy, but I do not blame them. They have a natural desire to get into power and they are angry on account of their failures so far and they are egotists because they maintain that they alone are patriots. Sri Krishna in the *Bhagavat Gita* says that desire and anger in an egotist create hypocrisy and the suppression of truth. They destroy mental peace and substantiate illusion or Maya, which overpowers even the sages.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Sir, some friends of the Finance Member told me that in my last budget speech I had given offence by the use of the word 'Jew'. I have very great respect for the Jewish race, who have produced financiers, scientists, artists and great thinkers and writers. I have one of my best friends in life a Jew. All the same, if I have given any offence I have no hesitation in withdrawing the word now, and expressing regret for having used it.

The Finance Member has great abilities; he is a very efficient man; he is a very patriotic Englishman and he does his duty. I am not asking him to give me a certificate either for ability or for efficiency; but I would request him to have imagination and to realise that I also love my country and I am doing my duty in my way and that in the issues which arise in this House there is nothing personal between me and him: we never had any personal contacts at all of any kind in life and I say there is nothing personal and if there are any hard things which I have to say, they are not addressed to him; they are addressed to H. M. G., i.e., His Majesty's Government.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): No apology is required.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I thought at one time that it was the general dictum which we have followed all our life, namely, that the control of economic and financial policy of this country is carried on through London, and that is what we have always resented. I thought it was that which upset him. Now, that doctrine is not a new one: it is not original with me: we inherited it from the great thinkers of old time—we inherited it from Romesh Chunder Dutt and W. C. Bonnerjee, from Mr. Ranade and Mr. Gokhale, from G. Subramania Iyer; I learnt it as a child and I have certainly throughout my life advocated that, because it is an indisputable fact. The Government is now making a corner in economists and journalists; but I venture to think that in spite of this cornering of economists, as long as the fact exists of control from London, that doctrine will be upheld in this country; and if there is a ballot vote, I shall get the vote of those economists whom the Government is cornering at present. That is a doctrine which has figured in the speeches of all the chairmen of the Chambers of Commerce all over the country, some of whom were knighted, some of whom became Members of the Executive Council, in Bombay, Bengal and in the Central Government—why, my friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar himself stressed the other day in speaking on the Finance Bill that English business interests were exercising overwhelming pressure on this Government in regard to the consumer goods policy and there was serious apprehension in the country as to the consequences on established industry.

I want to refer to my friend Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar—I am sorry he is not here. Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, speaking at the plenary session of the second Round Table Conference in 1931 said:

"As a member of the Legislative Assembly, as one who has seen how fast the prestige of the present Government in the centre is being lost, how impossible it is for your Finance Member at Delhi to rise to an emergency which your Chancellor of the Exchequer here has been able to do, I say: it will not be possible for you to delay the idea of responsibility at the centre."

This Dewan Bahadur Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, who at that time, was fighting for the just rights of India, has since then become a hide-bound bureaucrat. He mentioned the other day to me that I was bleating in this House. I am thankful to him for regarding me as innocent as a lamb. I will return the compliment by saying that he looked very much like a roaring lion; but he was a roaring lion only painted on the wall of the bureaucrat's house, incapable of protecting his own kith and kin, incapable of safeguarding the interests of India, incapable of doing anything when financial ruin was being brought to his country. This gentleman is the show-boy of His Majesty's Government. He is being sent to war conferences; he is being sent to represent India because he is a safe man. That reminds me of my most favourite film star, whom I loved, when I was addicted to film going, and this film star was Charley Macarthur: this Charley Macarthur is a wooden doll of a ventriloquist who speaks as his master teaches him. His is most cute and has got ready answers for everything and he is very cheeky, but he speaks with the voice of the master. Similarly, my Honourable friend will go there I at least was bleating in this House with my own voice and my own sentiments. My Honourable friend will go there and will speak with the voice of His Majesty's Government, the words which His Majesty's Government will put into his mouth. I hope he will be comfortable in his seat between Lord Hailey on one side and General Smuts on the other hand. Sir, we are concerned about the status of our country, we are very sensitive on this question of Status; and if this gentleman can extricate himself—which he cannot do without raising this country from the frustrated and humiliated condition to which it has fallen—we shall be very appreciative and we shall be very glad.

Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar went out of his way to pay a compliment to the Honourable the Finance Member. The cute Editor of *Roy's Weekly* who has seen successive Finance Members and their Indian satellites has detected a note of insincerity in this compliment. Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar said that the Honourable the Finance Member had worked in this country as if it was his own country. Now, Sir, let us get hold of certain fundamental ideas on this subject. The House will remember what was the defence of Warren Hastings when he was impeached. He said 'I served India, I worked in the interests of India'. The great Viceroy Lord Curzon also said that he gave the best years of his life to this country. What did Lord Linlithgow do? With his Sham about bulls and heifers, and cows, which he brought to this country, he produced more Papal Bulls or Ordinances than any tyrant who has ruled in any country. This Lord Linlithgow claimed that he had served India. Coming down to less exalted persons, every professor and every District Superintendent of police also claims that he has given the best years of his life to this country and has served India. There may be a sense in which this service is there but let us understand what that sense is. Sir, I have always relished examples of patriotism from other countries. I have read examples of patriotism from German, Japanese, Russian, Italian, American and other sources but for full blooded, indelible and unchanging patriotism, and other sources but for full blooded, indelible and unchanging patriotism, I give me the Englishman every time. He is a cent per cent patriot and I am a very great admirer of their patriotism. The English as a race are highly disciplined and they have a great sense of solidarity and on account of this they have been able to get through many difficult scrapes in their existence but this very trait makes the Englishman in his representative capacity ruthless towards others. He is ruthless wherever he thinks there is a conflict of interest between the interests of England and any other country. It makes the representative Englishman so ruthless. Even the Englishman who is a very good man in private life, even he, when it is a question of conflict of interest between his country and another country, will not do the kind act which is expressed by the English phrase—"helping a lame dog over the stile". Let us understand the service in this light.

[Mr. Manu Subedar.]

I want to speak about the military expenditure and with the pressing limitations of time it is not possible to do very much but I have here an extract from a paper which is owned and controlled by my friend Sir Joseph Kay in Bombay, who holds a position in Bombay similar to that of Sir Henry Richardson in Calcutta. This is from the *Commerce* of 10th March 1943. The paper says:

"While we do not question the integrity of the Finance Member, we feel that the share of defence expenditure charged to India's account is exceedingly heavy and it can hardly be justified if we apply the fair test propounded by the Finance Member himself in the concluding portion of his Budget speech."

Then he quotes the Finance Member:

"The proportionate distribution of the final burden among partners of widely varying capacity and of entirely different standards of living must be effected as equitably in the international field as modern systems of national taxation aspire to do in the domestic sphere."

Then the paper goes on:

"Considering the low standard of living and the relatively heavy burden of taxation in this country, as compared with other members of the British Commonwealth, there is, we must emphasize once again, little doubt that the load of defence expenditure weighs heavily on India."

This, Sir, is not the saying of an extremist of any kind. It is the considered opinion of a sane European in this country. We have asked for this country a ceiling with regard to the capacity of this country to bear the expenditure. The Honourable the Finance Member showed himself on such subjects as sensitive as a *prima donna*, as a temperamental *prima donna*, if I may use that word. He refuses even to convey to His Majesty's Government what is the view of this House or what is the view held by certain portions of this country and you see the confusion into which the financial administration has fallen merely because Government neglected to take such a precaution with regard to India. May I ask whether it is not true that such a precaution has been taken with regard to Ceylon and that a guarantee is given that beyond a certain fixed amount all excess will be borne by His Majesty's Government. May I ask whether we are getting our money's worth as completely as we should like. The expenditure on the army, navy and the air force in Japan before the war was only twice as much on the depreciated value of the yen and probably only 3 times as much on the normal value of the yen and Japan had an army, navy and air force which enabled it to take on two or three Powers at the same time. Here we have been spending so much for years. We are spending so much today and where are we? There is something fundamentally wrong with this military expenditure. I have got the Auditor General's report and plenty of extracts therefrom which, I am afraid, the limitations of time will not permit me to read. He speaks of waste and corruption, falsification of accounts and irregularities. He says that accounts continue to be in arrears, he speaks of the lowest ebb to which efficiency had fallen, that action was of doubtful constitutional propriety. He speaks of the low level of efficiency in respect of stores, and in respect of the expenditure of 93 crores of rupees on aerodromes. With regard to the denial policy he says: "He was not at all satisfied with the state of the accounts of the expenditure on these measures and feared that it would be impossible ever to get the requirements of audit satisfied". With regard to 3 crores, the sum spent by Bengal, he says "the liability for which the Auditor General had not found himself in a position to accept". Again, it is said that the disclosures made by the Auditor General in the Military Accounts Committee "gave rise to serious doubt that the money was actually spent for the purposes for which it was meant".

Sir, I may tell this Assembly an episode which I have been able to hear of at first hand and that is of a contract for the construction of aerodromes for 6 crores of rupees. This gentleman got a contract for six crores of rupees. He spent a crore and a half. Another crore and a half was distributed amongst all those who were concerned with this contract and he made a profit of 3 crores of rupees. As tax payers and as Members of this Assembly, we express our grave concern at these disclosures. Crores of money are mis-spent. They

are wasted and there is corruption galore. That is what we have heard. Under the circumstances, an apprehension as to the future, an apprehension as to where we are is perfectly legitimate.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Will the Honourable Member furnish me with some more details of the case he referred to?

Mr. Manu Subedar: I shall be able to give him whatever I have got.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I thought he had full details showing the amount of profits.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The amount of profit is three crores, which probably the Honourable the Finance Member will never be able to get at so far as income-tax is concerned.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Not if this House does not help me. Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: He must have been a very big military contractor. There are only a few of them.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Mr. Churchill spoke at one time there are more white troops in India than at any time before. Sir, this more or less corresponds to the time of peak of military expenditure reached in this country. We want to know more about what is being done. Under the plea of non-votable, no information is available to us, under the plea that it is not possible for security reasons, information is withheld from us. Under the plea that these measures are still in the course, they are in suspense, they are not brought to book, they are not brought to account. Under any one of these pleas great uncertainties are left, great gaps in the information open to this House, and we are being asked to be credulous beyond a degree. What the Honourable the Finance Member accepts us to do is to accept what he says, to accept it as gospel truth. With perfect faith and with full confidence and with gratitude, we must take what he has done, we must take whatever little crumbs of information he is able to give us and we must not raise any question. This, Sir, is not the proper attitude.

I find, Sir, there are concealed a lot of items of military expenditure. In the atmosphere of corruption and waste which I dealt with now, there are many items which we are not told about at all. There is no finality about the figures which the Honourable the Finance Member has given us. There are many things hanging in the air. For example, I have been chasing round all the books with regard to an item of about 45 crores for military lorries which I am told will fall on the railways. It must fall on His Majesty's Government. I have not been able to find out where it is accounted for.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): What is this item of 45 crores?

Mr. Manu Subedar: In respect of lorries which are not found in several financial statements, which I have not been able to trace as to who will pay and who will receive payment. Sir, there are other troubles with the so-called financial settlement. In speaking on the Budget, I already referred to the financial settlement, that it was all one sided, that it was imposed on us; that it was not with our consent, that it had never been worked out and it was, in its operation, most inequitable. The first terms became principle that was extended, that was deviated, that was distended and misapplied, this was distorted and tortured to suit whatever the Government wanted to make of this financial settlement. In this financial settlement there are four parts. If I had the time, I would have dealt with all the four parts. I shall confine myself by taking up the third part which treats of war measures as purely Indian liabilities by reason of their having been undertaken by India in her own interest. This is a nice formula and it has been improvised for the purpose of including in this financial settlement not only all the things which were intended but all the things which war brought on, but many new things which arose from time to time. Sir, I have got 40 quotations from the Honourable the Finance Member's own words from his own speeches which would conclusively go to show that the suspicions and apprehensions which were entertained with regard to the financial settlement are entirely justified. If I were to read all of them, it would take this House till tomorrow this time. I would therefore content myself with mentioning a few of the salient depar-

[Mr. Manu Subedar.]

tures which I want to bring to the notice of the House. First of all when the Chatvold arrangement was made, it was protested against from all parts of India that it was not satisfactory. What did the Chatfield arrangement do? It imposed upon India the burden for her external defence. In other words, the words used here at that time were that the boundaries of India were now extending from Singapore to El Ammen. This external extension has involved us later on with additional charges in respect of non-effective charges to be borne by India on account of the war. In other words, as the war has come, older arrangements have got to be revised and additional charges have got to be put in and these have been arbitrarily fixed at the figure of £1,300,000 a year and His Majesty's Government felt, why not have a little advance payment in cash and so they took a lump sum of £15,000,000 and agreed to reduce India's liability by £400,000 in consideration of advance payment. In other words, the Honourable the Finance Member calls upon this Assembly, calls upon this country to be grateful to His Majesty's Government for the arrangements which they have offered.

With regard to land troops, it was very clear at one time that only for those regiments which were in India and for Indian defence the cost of recruitment and training should be borne by India. This salutary rule was departed from and it was subsequently provided that all regiments which were raised in India must be regarded as a joint measure. In other words, they are a burden on India. This is very clearly a departure from the original arrangement, even though we assume for the time being that the alleged financial settlement was a sound and equitable one, binding on this country.

With regard to the navy, the departure was to lump further all measures, they are also measures whose immediate purposes, says the Finance Member are joint in character. In other words, if the immediate purposes are joint, but if these measures do not permanently lead to any good to us, even then let them be regarded as Indian liability. He himself speaks of difficulties having been experienced in dealing with such joint measures as have been put into force in accordance with the principles of the financial settlement.

With regard to air, it is still worse. The departure from the original understanding here again is to the extent that all the aerodromes charges, all the ground charges have been thrown on India. Charges with regard to maintenance of air craft and air personnel are also thrown on India. I shall read only a small portion:

"It is however, considered essential in India's interest to arrive at an understanding regarding the maximum forces which should be considered as strictly necessary for the defence of India. . . . Pending the determination of this issue an arbitrary amount equivalent to half of the total estimated capital and recurring costs in question has been provisionally included in the revised and budget estimates and the balances taken for the time being to a Suspense Account."

This is what he says in the 1943 Budget statement. In 1944 Budget statement we find that the half which was taken to suspense account was broken up in the proportion of 9 : 1½, that is 8.98 : 1.84 and 8.98 was thrown on India. It was thrown on India according to the arbitrary dictum that the estimated recurring and provisional charges taken under suspense became distributable because the air forces strength eventually prescribed turned out to be less than the estimated strength of air forces for 1943-44. In other words, Sir, a ceiling is put in by the Commander-in-Chief not on the total expenditure as we have been requesting, which would be a fair and proper action, but on the personnel. The Commander-in-Chief was compelled, honest Englishman that he was, he was aghast at the ceiling which he had himself put; and in the following year he was compelled to diminish that ceiling.

Sir, it is not merely in the matter of land, naval and air forces that this settlement has been brought in. It has been brought in with regard to supplies. The first position was that the Eastern Group Council was put down and we were called a 'participating' country on the basis that all the countries will pool their common resources. That arrangement for some mysterious reason—no doubt prejudicial to Indian interests—was done away with after

1941-42. Up to 1942 the Finance Member used to give us figures of total expenditure, including both Capital and supply expenditure, incurred in India; and told us how much was the share of India and how much was the share of England. That salutary practice he abandoned. After 1943, in his budget statements he has not told us what the total outlays are; and he has not told us what is most important, how much money India has laid out which is still being held in suspense against somebody, which is not yet brought to account and which therefore is hanging like a sword of Damocles on this country, in addition to all the formidable military figures which he has given in his Budget.

Sir, His Majesty's Government has to pay for the remainder of all general defence and supply expenditure incurred by India, subject to separate post-war negotiations. In other words, there is a liability which is still hanging on us—concerning the liability for surplus war stores in India acquired in the common interest. We acquire in the common interest. The amount of supply put down in the last year's budget is exceeding 104 crores of rupees. These supplies, like those hundred thousand boots which were capable only of being worn on the left foot, these derelict, out-of-date and broken supplies will be left to India and the liability is still hanging on India as to what it will be; it will be a post-war negotiation!

Sir, this alleged financial settlement has been brought to do duty for many things. The Finance Member says "Expenditure on supply, in its widest sense, the production of guns, ammunition, armoured cars, clothing, and war-like stores of every description, (some sixty thousand items)—was so closely related to direct defence expenditure that it also was covered by the financial settlement". Now, Sir, that was never covered by the financial settlement; but he thinks, where we want to put in something everything is included in the financial settlement and everything is brought in and allotted to India. Nobody is there to ask, they are ignorant and they are poor. Not only that, but with regard to reciprocal aid—a point which my Honourable friend Mr. Neogy has been trying throughout the Session to get cleared—the same issue arises; and I shall read from the Finance Member's own statement in 1943. Mark his words:

"It was first necessary to decide whether the expenditure on reciprocal lease-lend fell within the financial settlement or not, and if so, how it should be allocated in some simple and broadly equitable way."

And then he goes on to say:

"In short, in the absence of a direct mutual aid agreement between India and the United States of America"—(the reasons for which I have never been able to understand)—"the problem of reciprocal aid to the United States forces in India bristles with difficulties."

Then we come to the fine conclusion:

"In the meanwhile reciprocal lease-lend to the United States forces in India has been shown in the defence estimates as a charge to Indian revenues."

Q.E.D. It has been proved that India is liable for this reciprocal aid. May I inquire with whom this reciprocity is? It reminds me again of the partnership and the reciprocity between the Admiral and the stoker down in the engine room or the partnership between the General and the camp follower. Sir, President Roosevelt—and I hope there is somebody in this House somewhere who will convey this as our deep feeling on this subject—would be terribly upset to realise that India has been saddled with what are known as reciprocal charges and reciprocal aid when there is nothing which we receive from the United States directly. With regard to these charges which are thrown on us, they are brought in the settlement. First the question is, are they in the settlement? Well, there is little doubt that the matter is bristling with difficulties, but we are debiting them to Indian revenues. Sir, about 124 crores have been already spent by this country in this reciprocal aid, and we are told that India is receiving lease-lend benefit. But receiving lease-lend benefit from whom? From the United Kingdom; we have no direct arrangement with the U. S. A.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is untrue.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I shall be very glad if the Honourable Member will tell us what is the direct arrangement.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have said that we do have direct relations. We may not have a formal agreement but we have direct relations with the United States. It is merely one of a large number of untruths which the Honourable Member has uttered, but I feel that I cannot let that one pass.

Mr. Mann Subedar: We are told that 515 crores of rupees worth of benefit came from America, but these benefits were jointly for India, China and the United Kingdom. The Honourable the Finance Member said to us the other day that the benefit to India was of the order of 150 crores, but he never gave any details; and none in this House, I venture to say, has the slightest idea or information with regard to this.

Then, Sir, who decides this allocation? The Auditor General and his staff. That touch with regard to the staff, which the Finance Member gave in reply to one of our questions, is a very nice touch. The Auditor General and his staff decide how to allocate these crores of rupees of expenditure between England and India. Then, Sir, when we raised this question the Finance Member turned round and said, "Oh, you are not at war; you do not agree with this war." Is that the position that he takes that every man who questions the propriety of any expenditure thrown on this country is not at war, that he has no right to question it unless he accepts all the philosophy and all the implications of the political and other issues involved in this war? If that was the position, there would be no criticism of any kind whatsoever and he would get scot-free. But I hope that is not his position. I hope he is willing to justify what he has done, on its own merits and without the evasion which is involved in raising the question that there is no common ground, and that unless you agree that there is war in which you are involved this matter cannot be discussed.

Sir, I want to raise one very important issue at this stage, and it is this. If everything is in order, then let us be satisfied about it. If everything is in order, then let it be seen. In the name of common humanity, in the name of the coming generations of India who are going to bear these burdens, I appeal to all Members of this House and all Indians here and all Indians outside to press for an inquiry or a commission to go into this matter, to determine first the legality, the propriety and the equity of the so-called financial settlement and to determine whether at each time when new situations arose, new adjustments were made, the system was extended, whether the allocations were made correctly or not. Sir, I want this committee or commission to sit as early as possible, and I am sure that if matters are all right the Finance Member would be able to give them satisfaction. My own idea of the personnel of such a committee is, the three Leaders of the Opposition Parties here and Mr. Husain Imam of the other House. I feel that if things are all right you should not shirk placing before these four representatives all the facts. They are not people of whom you need be afraid on the ground of security. Place all the facts before them and justify what has been done. If not, we are entitled to feel that His Majesty's Government, being unable to get hold of the monies of this country, being at the end of its tether in many directions, has imposed this arbitrary burden on us. My own feeling is that sums of the order of 200 to 500 crores over the last three years are involved and that they could be saved to this country if this matter was carefully and properly looked into. I say even if the money has been already spent away, whether we get the money as money or not, there is the moral side of it. What is your stewardship? Is this trusteeship, is this not what I described last time as 'stealing candy from a child's hand'? Have you not imposed this? We are called 'participating country', we are called 'part of the Allies'.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Nobody makes that mistake about you.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Sir Olaf Caroe said yesterday that India's position as one of the Allied Nations was undisputed and could not be questioned. If that

so, then these allocations behind our back, these burdens thrown on India in excessive amounts are unjustified, and are without any justification and without any clarification and information and I say this merits the other description which I gave and that remark is directed against His Majesty's Government. I say that this is no better than "cheating at cards in a club," in a club because you say we are in it, we are one of the participating nations and our status as an Allied Nation is not disputed. If we are then part of this club, there are certain rules of common decency which should be observed by the partners.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: You don't observe them.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Sir, it is no use appealing to an Englishman's sense of justice. It is always a disappointment. He always blames it on the other man. But may I mention that there are certain permanent interests of England which are also involved. Sir, I have got quotation here from the Chairman of the London Chamber of Commerce and from the Chairman of the Federation of British Industries which, if I had time, I would have read, but I will read a quotation from the *London Times*:

"Anti-British sentiment, if not replaced by a better understanding, may attain a pitch at which it will imperil that close, co-operation between Britain and India in the world after the war upon which the future of both these countries, and indeed of general security, so largely depends."

Sir, if these common interests between these countries now and after the war are imperilled by methods of finance I have pointed out very briefly, then may I appeal, not to the Englishman's sense of justice but to his real and permanent self-interest that there is something wrong here which needs looking into and which needs putting right.

Sir, to illustrate what I have been saying, I would like to give you a series of figures with regard to this item—India's war measures. It has risen from 3 crores in 1939-40 to 355 crores in 1944-45. Apart from that a new capital head—this is concealment of expenditure—was created in 1941-42 and the capital expenditure incurred in 1944-45 was 59 crores. Apart from that there is the rise on civil expenditure—pointed out by my Honourable friends in the European Group—from 37 crores to 127 crores, but in this rise the bulk of it is concealed military expenditure. We have got 'Miscellaneous Expenditure connected with the war'—26 crores; we have got 'Expenditure connected with the war 1939 at 31 crores and schemes connected with the war 1939, 5 crores. In other words, there are charges running into about 541 crores in the year 1944-45 which are loaded on this country, which I maintain are unjustly loaded which this country cannot bear, and if there is not a serious check, a serious enquiry of the kind which I have suggested, I fear that the future is very dark indeed.

Sir, the Finance Member has been in a hurry to pay out when India has to pay it. He paid out the Chatfield debt—a debt is created by some one on India and as soon as somebody settles that India must pay as much, he pays that—and he paid out to the U.N.R.R.A. six crores ninety lakhs of rupees as a contribution.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have not paid out six crores and ninety lakhs. I have only made budgetary provision for it. Can't you represent something rightly, and not misrepresent everything?

Sir, the Honourable Member's continuous misdescription of financial transactions is such that it will be quite impossible to traverse them, but the Honourable Member is quite conscious of what he is doing.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Sir, this U.N.R.R.A. which is providing food and medicine for Greece, for France, for Belgium,—to which this country is made to contribute,—this U.N.R.R.A. is not approached by this Government for food and medicine for this country. When I asked...

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Did not the Honourable Member just say that the Finance Member hurried to pay out seven crores—did he not say that? He has changed his ground.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I said that the Finance Member did not object to making heavy payments from this country to other countries, such as the £1 million non-effective grant. He has paid out many other sums, but he has not collected, for example, the ten-and-a-half crores which is clearly a liability of the Allied Governments for the explosion in Bombay. For this ten-and-a-half crores, he has raided the Insurance Fund which has been created, and he has deposited it for the time being into the revenue.

Sir, then, with regard to sterling.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): On a point of information. Does not the Honourable Member propose to pay to U.N.R.R.A.?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I have made budgetary provision for it. I created a fund amounting to 8 crores because that was the total liability which we expected we would have to meet in the years in which we make any payment. And the Honourable Member knows that.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If I had time, I could have dealt with the question of inflation.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member has now spoken for 43 minutes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I will have two minutes more, Sir.

I will read from my friend, Mr. Yusuf's article which appeared in the *Dawn* on the 18th March 1945:

"The sterling balance which represents the purchases made in this country on account of the British as well as some other Allied Governments have been built up with the sweat and the blood of the poor agriculturist and the ordinary worker who were left with that unreal money in exchange for the fruits of their labour."

I should have explained this statement and dilated on it if there had been time.

Sir, the Finance Member is upset with me, I am very sorry about it. If he will read in cold print what he said on the last occasion, he will realize that there was an element of threat in that speech which was not proper and becoming from the Finance Member to any Member of this House or public. Sir, I would have been unnerved—any non-official Member would have been unnerved—with this attitude of the Finance Member followed up by the attack of Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar; but, Sir, I have seen the hand of death not only outside in India but the shadow of death in this House itself. There is one final price one pays. It is the *Akhri Anjam*—I am willing to pay that when the occasion comes. I say, Sir, that the last word which will be on my mouth when I die will be the demand for financial justice to this country, and the last action which I will take will be to uphold the notions of right and wrong which all the prophets and the moral teachers of mankind have laid down for the common good of humanity.

Mr. Hoosainbhoy A. Lalljee: We know very well the position of the Treasury Benches. So many speeches have been made with regard to their position and so much has been said in the country as to how we are placed that I do not propose to go into those things. I propose to go into our position as a business man. I know very well that even though my friends on the other side were on the Treasury Benches under the present constitution they would give very little more satisfaction than what we have been getting and I must say that I do feel that it is but right that we must first and foremost point out quite clearly the position of the Government, of the Treasury Benches and of the future position of this country.

My friend Mr. Neogy and Mr. Krishnamachari brought before the House the position of this country in the international world. I believe, Sir, it is high time that we should study this position very carefully. We all wish and desire that our present position must change and therefore the first care for us should be our international position. In the international position I also include our position with the British Government in England.

My friend Mr. Neogy has pointed out certain agreements to which I do not wish to refer but I only wish to say that it would be better if it was within the knowledge of the Treasury Benches because many things are happening and are being done without their consent or approval. But I would certainly appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member to tell us something which he knows, provided he is not restricted from doing so. We are entitled to know the arrangements made with different countries with regard to lease-lend, because the huge sums of money that we are now giving to Americans and even to other countries must be explained.

[At this stage Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Up to now we were under the impression, and rightly too, that the monies that we paid for the requirements of the American troops in India were being given on credit. But it is surprising that the exports that are being made to America for the purpose of business there and for the purpose of that Government are not to be paid for in cash. We would like the Honourable the Finance Member to tell us only the amounts that are involved in these two transactions—one, the amount of money that we spend on their behalf in India for their food and other requirements, aerodromes included; and secondly, the amount of money that we demand for the exports that have been made from this country to that country.

With regard to international agreements I must tell you that some of us who have travelled outside India and have stayed in many of the colonies—all supposed to be backward countries—know a little as to how international matters are arranged. It is seldom that an agreement that is published or made known to the public is the only agreement. Every agreement has a counter-part—confidential arrangements—it has existed and I do not know whether the confidential part of all the agreements that are being made with foreign countries by the British Government as representing the whole British Empire is being sent to India. I remember very well that there was a time when certain arrangements were made to divide the whole of Africa between four important nations with special rights to Belgium. The Italian Somaliland was created. German East Africa was created. British East Africa was created and so was the Belgian Congo. West Africa was formed for British interests. The arrangements were that so far as these people were concerned, goods from those countries to those places were to be on equal lines, but as India and some other countries were not in the pool, they were not treated as equals. This has been the position many a time.

A lot has been said about the League of Nations. A good deal is correct. But, Sir, I happen also to have been a Delegate Member in the International Labour Conference and what have we found there? When I was there in 1935 there were 48 nations at that conference. I believe that was the last labour conference in which Russia, Japan and America were present. We found that every Government had two representatives. That every Government had allowed one delegate for the employer and one for the employees. But every Government, except this Government, had more than four advisers. At times there were as many as fifteen advisers in common not only for the Government delegates but also for the employers' and workers' delegates. It is now ten years that the Indian employers' delegates and the workers' delegates have been begging of our Government to allow them more than one adviser but that has been refused and refused on the score that we cannot afford to pay. If you look at the figure that we contribute to the League of Nations, you will find that we are almost fourth or fifth. But still our Government cannot in the interests of employers or workers allow a delegate more than one adviser.

I will give you one instance. Once it happened that there was an important labour question and there was our worker delegate and his only adviser. I offered as an employer to work as an adviser in two important committees for the workers. In those committees many of the European nations had tried

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to put the workers of Africa on quite a different line from the workers in Europe or in India or for the matter of that even in Japan. There was no rule or regulation about working hours or any benefits whatsoever. The objective was that although slavery was abolished by the British in 1833 (they have done a great act for humanity) here was an occasion when including the Britishers all the other foreign nations tried to get African labour as slave labour and with that labour they produced and dumped many articles in India and elsewhere to the detriment of the workers and Industrialist in India and even of England.

Another instance that occurred was that Indian seamen were to be treated in a different way from the European seamen. Even the Labour Government of the United Kingdom had almost become a party to that and we protested against that. Such important questions do arise and still this Government have never seen fit to send more than one delegate and one adviser so far as the representation of this country was concerned and yet we pay almost 1/4 of what the greastest power pays.

Some time back in 1935 when Aden was being transferred to Colonial office, after 95 years that it had been with Government of India we were told that all the expenses that the Government of India had incurred to make it a great port would be paid back to India. An estimate was made which amounted to about 50 lakhs a year for 95 years but this sum was never paid. I find from records that right from 1839 at Aden in 1841 at Hongkong, in 1886 in Somaliland, in 1845 in Natal and Durban, in 1885 in Mombasa not only Indian troops were stationed there, not only we paid all the costs of it there, but the whole administration charges of those countries and many other places from 50 to 100 years have been borne by this Government. May I ask the Honourable the Finance Member (he is not present here) whether these sums have been collected or they stand as in the case of Aden. The Indians who invited the British to establish an administration there were often and often promised all equal rights there and I ask whether it is not a fact that Indians are being driven out from all these places and whether it is not a fact that in 1917, during the last great war, the Viceroy of India on more than one occasion declared that the position of Indians in those places and all over the Empire would be of equal status. In 1921 when I first led a deputation of East African merchants to Lord Chelmsford on the 23rd July (I have got his reply) His Excellency the Viceroy with the concurrence of the Secretary of State assured us that so far as East Africa, Zanzibar, Uganda and Tanganyika was concerned there will never be any sort of discrimination, in view of the great sacrifices that Indians had made in that Great War and specially in driving out the Germans from German East Africa, which was later on taken over as a mandated territory by the British Government by a treaty. So far as East Africa etc., and South Africa are concerned I find that right from 1920, when the Member in Charge was the Honourable Mr. Muhammad Shafi, the Indian Government have been doing their level best to bring to the notice of His Majesty's Government the injustices that are being undergone by Indians and which prevail even today more. So far the endeavours of the Treasury Benches have been to bring the grievances to the notice of His Majesty's Government. Let us now ask these Treasury Benches as our agents (or as my friends would like me to call them Post Office) to tell His Majesty's Government that we are told the Viceroy has left this country only yesterday for the main object of discussion of making this country a base to fight further in the Pacific and to recover Burma (as had happened before when we recovered it from Burmans for Indians). But now we must have clear pronouncement, and an honest assurance with it that they would carry it out. We do not want an Atlantic Charter with a reservation or a confidential document called arrangement. Be fair to us. His Majesty's Government have not yet been free and frank with us and it is because of that that a large population in this country are justified in suspecting that they will not carry out

the words they give us. Let us make our Treasury Bench to tell in unequivocal terms to His Majesty's Government that unless and until they can tell the people of India that there are no reservations and we will be treated as equals, that is what they mean and they will honestly be carried out, I feel that all the good work of co-operation, making appeal to all the sides in India (and probably by reason of those appeals the other side may also be tempted to come to this Treasury side), etc., will do no good. This is so far as our position outside India and the war is concerned. We now demand before anything else is done, before we are committed further, and wish to see what results we will get for our sacrifices so far made or what they will bring. It is right time that we should now insist upon His Majesty's Government (when with our aid the Germans are being defeated or are almost defeated) to carry out their pledges given to this country, during all these years of war.

Sir, I am usually a little more concerned, as a business man, with the Commerce and Civil Supplies Departments. I have made a little study of that Department. I do not find the Honourable the Commerce Member, but I do not blame him at all. It is nearly four days since I have been getting up from my seat many times. He has been often good enough to ask me when he should expect me, but I had invariably to say I could only get a chance if my friends on the opposite side would allow. I feel, Sir, and feel very bitterly, that individual Members here this side, elected representatives of constituencies which are as big or bigger than the constituencies which many of the Honourable Members on the other side represent, are not shown any regard, because they are not party members. Sir, if this is going to be what we are going to receive in future, let me tell them honestly and sincerely that whatever they may say or preach they will not carry most or a great majority of the intelligentsia with them, leaving aside the most honest people who form a great mass. Let me also tell them I have been too on your side and was also a member of your Congress Party and a member of the other Party the Muslim League for years, and I know all about them.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Why did you desert us?

Mr. Hooseinhoy A. Lalljee: Now, do not pull me further, I know great deal I do not wish to say about it. Let me tell them honestly and sincerely that they should give the same consideration to an elected Member here on this side as they would like to be given themselves, if it is going to be a fair play.

As far as the Commerce Member is concerned, I would only say that our Government has tried its level best recently—I say recently—to see that exports are very well regulated. There was a time, Sir, at the beginning of the war, when people had a lot of complaints. There was a time at the beginning of the war when the country's commerce and industry was not the concern, but the carrying on of the war successfully was all the concern of our Government. But I am sorry to say that that was not the policy of Great Britain or America. Even with regard to food we have come to know that these countries always thought—and perhaps rightly too—of the local need and consumption, and then of the war, or as much of the war as of local essential needs. But here in India it was not so. Anyhow, better late than never, and for the last two to three years I may say that so far as regulation of exports and imports is concerned, it has been very satisfactory. But, Sir, let me tell the Honourable the Commerce Member that very soon the war in the west will end, and that there is no risk whatsoever to our trade and commerce being continued and revived (which is more in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea); as Sir, efforts are being made to conquer those markets, and that now the Commerce Department must buck up; and that they should not carry out all the orders and mandates given by His Majesty's Government without scrutinising and discussing. I cannot say they should challenge; I know their position, their pitiable condition; but I am sure they ought now to take some courage and see that our trade and commerce, our exports and imports through the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea and the Red Sea, are

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restored to us, as they existed before the war; and that when specially not only U. K., but also U. S. A., are endeavouring to capture these markets, no unnecessary handicaps are placed on us, but full encouragement and due help is given.

Sir, there is another very important thing, and it is this. There has been a certain class of monopolies created—of course when I say monopolies, I do not mean that they will not exist hereafter—by which certain persons here, exporters and importers, have been given quotas. Sir, that time also has now passed—that time which was necessary only so long as there was no tonnage available, and restriction was necessary. Now, I will give one instance. A year and a half ago we were shouting in this House for foodstuffs to be brought from Australia or other places, and the only difficulty that was placed before us was shortage of tonnage. That scarcity does not prevail for the last six months. Very recently, Sir, it is a surprising thing that East African Government sent offers to business men to supply *jawar* and *jawari*—not at their ports—*e.i.f.*, *i.e.*, at our ports, arranging their own tonnage. Well, that message came to us in November, and we communicated it to the Honourable Food Member, believing that it was an important piece of news we were giving to the Government of India, and that the Government of India would jump at it. The reply to that, Sir, has only now been given to the public—in the month of March—that they could import these articles of *jawar* and *bajri*. Even now many of the orders with regard to import and export from Red Sea ports and East Africa are based upon orders that were once issued in 1942 and 1943 by the Mid-East Command, when there was real shortage of tonnage. Now steamers are coming in large numbers, they come almost empty and they beg for freight. But upto now our Government has not moved to ask His Majesty's Government to allow them to relax the orders for allowing necessary export as also imports into this country. I am sure, now that the attention of our Government has been drawn to it, they would certainly move in the matter.

I must congratulate the Honourable the Commerce Member since he has come for one very important thing. If I had said it four days ago, I might been criticised for it, but, Sir, I am now in a position to say that he has been taking action and correct action with regard to what is going on in my city with regard to buying over banking and insurance concerns. So far as banking concerns are concerned, we know very well that they can look after themselves but so far as life insurance companies are concerned, we feel very much that some action must immediately be taken, and I do now know why immediate action is not being taken, why so much delay has taken place, when so many Defence of India Ordinances are every day being passed. It may be that the Honourable the Commerce Member does feel, that he must be careful in dealing with business men, but, Sir, where poor people are concerned, when business men themselves have already realised and agreed that life insurance is a great necessity, I cannot understand why he is not taking action in the shape of ordinances. It may be that action may be a little strict, but when we find so many ordinances being issued for so many things, why is he hesitating to take action against what is going on in Bombay and Calcutta, especially in Bombay, when certain people are buying over life insurance companies, not with the object of promoting life insurance, but with the object of using the 45 per cent. capital which has been accumulated there for the benefit of policyholders, to be used for their own benefit or for their own schemes. I hope and trust that the Honourable Commerce Member will announce to this House that he has already taken some action; but I shall not be satisfied if he says "It is under active consideration". I want him to announce to the House for the protection of all people who have insured, that he will say that he has taken the necessary action to protect them and that action would be declared or has already been declared.

As regards the condition of Indian seamen, it is well known that some endeavours have been made for the better treatment of our Indian soldiers and Indian officers. It has been said and rightly too that our present Commander-in-Chief has given assurances and he is acting in such a manner as to raise the position of the Indian soldier and the officer. There again we have difficulties and those difficulties are that constitutionally we are not our own masters. But the position of Indian seamen has been very pitiable. In 1943 I moved a cut motion requesting the Treasury Bench to take some action. There are not less than nearly 3 lakhs of people for whom nothing has been done. They have fought in the war with the same peril as the soldiers have done; they have undergone the same hardships as the soldiers, and their interests and welfare and salaries ought to have been the care of the Government. I learn—and I hope my friend the Commerce Member will declare to this House that he has been able to get better wages, much better even than the millowners are able to give to their labour, from the great shipping companies who have been making crores of rupees, including the Indian shipping companies and other companies. If you see the balance sheet of these shipping companies, you will find that they have made crores and they are making crores; but up to now nothing was done to increase the wages of the seamen. If, as I hear, my friend the Commerce Member has been successful in getting their pay raised and have got the liners and other conferences of shipping companies to raise their pay, I should like him to make a statement to this House and to assure us that they will be permanent, and that those companies who will not agree to make them permanent—their steamers will not be allowed to touch Indian ports. I must also take this opportunity to mention that so far as the Indian seamen's amenities are concerned, they are nil. It is only since last year that His Excellency the Viceroy from his own fund—that is the War Fund—has given about 20 lakhs of rupees to both Calcutta and Bombay. Let us hope that the Indian Seamen's condition will be improved and that due care and attention is paid to amenities for them; our Governor has also been now at it.

I come to the control orders that my friend the Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies and his department are issuing. It has been the policy of Government, and rightly too, to control the prices and to distribute the goods as required in various provinces. The Food Department has been doing likewise; but we have heard very serious stories with regard to one province. In fact my friend, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, laid before us certain stories—I will not say facts—and I do not know why the Commerce Member will not make bold to make use of directives which are within the power of a Member of the Government of India. The Honourable the Food Member did make use of those directive powers in the case of food in Bengal. If there is any truth in those stories, he must make use of those powers and he must tell us what is the true state of affairs. I do not wish to say that what has been alleged about the position in Bengal is correct; but from what we have heard and from the fact that it is necessary for the Government of India to supply cloth, as much as food, it is right and proper that the Commerce Member must not merely tell us he has been doing his level best to send cloth to every province from the surplus to deficit areas, but what action he has taken. He has invariably been saying that he does not want or it is not advisable that he should interfere with the internal management of the provinces; but that is not the question. It is not a question of interfering with the internal management. If the Government of India undertakes to provide a deficit province at fair and economical rates, surely it is the care of that Government to see that the distribution is fair and equitable; and if they find that smuggling is going on, it is their bounden duty to supply them with the cloth which they need.

One more remark about the Commerce Department, and it is this; we find that there exists in this country since 1923 what is known as the match industry. A Tariff Board inquiry was appointed by the Government of India, and those who have read that Tariff Board report cannot forget that the board

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warned the Government against a very powerful syndicate, a world-known syndicate, a syndicate which has captured no less than eighteen countries' trade, a syndicate which had the monopoly not only of match manufacture or sale but also had cornered all the match machinery, and also the chemical works and the paper works; and in fact in India from 1923 right up to the Tariff Board inquiry, for several years, they did their level best to crush the Indian industry in this country. I do not wish to take up the time of the House, but I would certainly request the Honourable Members on the other side as well as my friend the Commerce Member to kindly read a few of the paragraphs and recommendations of the Tariff Board, and they will be convinced that this is the last thing that ought to exist in India. This is the company on account of whom I was moving the other day an adjournment motion, that this company is having a monopoly in India to the exclusion of Indian manufacturers, that this company is having a factory in Bombay, that Indians having factories in Bombay are stopped from selling their matches in Ahmedabad. You will be surprised, Sir, and I am sure the House will be surprised to know the reason why this foreign syndicate has been having a monopoly in the Bombay Presidency and in a city like Ahmedabad, from where many well known persons on the opposite side come, including probably—I do not know whether that part of the province comes within the constituency of the Leader of the Opposition—in that city the Indian manufacturers are not allowed to sell their matches. And what is the charge against them? That they were charging or they wanted to charge higher prices and to create scarcity. This company for more than six years has a monopoly of 80 per cent. of the consumption of Ahmedabad goods. It controls the Ahmedabad market. Not only that. It has a system of rebate. It binds down the principal merchants, the intermediate merchants, the small dealers and what is more, even the *bidiwalahs* and *panwalahs*. If you see the balance sheet of this company, you will see lakhs of rupees lying as deposit from these poor people. Now, this is the company which has been given the monopoly to sell in Ahmedabad, because the prices are high. Those people, 4 or 5 Indian manufacturers who did not bring in 20 per cent., who have no rebate agreement, whose prices all along have been 2 to 3 annas less per gross, are stopped and even today, throughout India, including Bombay, the prices of the Wimco, which is called the Swedish Syndicate are higher than that of the Indian manufacturer and has never been for the last 15 years lower than any Indian factory. It has always been higher by 2 to 3 annas per gross. Such is the position that I have to place before this House. I am very sorry that the Bombay Presidency is under section 93 and we have to come and appeal to my Honourable friend the Commerce Member who is also in charge of Industries and Civil Supplies. The other day he said that he did not have sufficient information. I am sure he has got it by now but I am prepared to prove it just now the prices of Wimco have never been lower for the last ten years. The Tariff Board has said that they had got 65 per cent. of the trade of India, that they had got the trade of 18 big nations, that they were a danger to India and that they have already captured 80 per cent. And who are these monopolists? They are Swedish people who even up to now have been neutrals and during the greater part of this war, they have been indirectly helping the Germans with their industries. Such foreign companies have been supported in India. They dump their goods as against our own people, against the policy laid down by the Government and against the warning given by the Indian Tariff Board. I was really pained to see my friend, the Commerce Member, when he said that he had no information and that he would get it from the Bombay Government. I say that the Industries Department must keep a watch on what the foreigners do in this country. My Honourable friend the Finance Member knows it more than anybody else, because he collects the match excise duty and he will tell you that although he gets crores by means of the excise duty, the prices are fixed and everything is done by the Wimco Syndicate. Now 90 per cent. of the excise duty

is got from these people. It is not really from these people. Let it be understood it is really from you and me. They charge me two or three annas more than the market price. They pay not only income tax, super-tax and excess profits tax but they have made crores of rupees in the last three years and may I know whether the Director of Civil Supplies has made any inquiries about this. Their shares cannot be had even for Rs. 400. They have built up crores of rupees as reserve fund. This is what is going on in India. Sir, I do not want to speak much but I do wish to say that so far as the Indian match manufacturers are concerned, they do not even get wagons for raw materials, such as wood. They do not even get wagons for sending out their goods to the different parts of India. They have got to wait for 3 to 6 months. So far as exports are concerned, there have been circulars that 5 per cent. or 2 per cent. may be allowed to them but so far as the Wimco is concerned, there is no rule. There is no priority for them, probably because they are paying crores of rupees to the Finance Department by way of excise duty from the money that they get from me and from my poor people. This is the position in India.

There are many industries that have been created by the Supply Department for the purpose of helping the war. I am sorry that the Supply Member is not here but I can point out to him that there are industries which have been created with our monies for producing the requirements of all. The cost price of the materials produced have been the prices charged for war purposes not only in India but also for Eastern Group countries and for overseas. And in those calculations they have not taken into consideration that a large amount of machinery will have to be scrapped after the war and the value of them in crores of rupees would have to be written off. In the consideration of the prices they have charged, they have never taken into consideration this factor. It has been the policy of the Finance Member to keep a financial expert in every department, as my friend pointed out, to check the expenditure I think it was quite fair so far as the requirement of the Indian army in India was concerned. It may be quite fair so far as even the war requirements were concerned but I say it was not justified at all with regard to the supply of the Eastern Group and the world at large in allowing them the goods at prices which were checked by his financial experts to give them 5 per cent. 10 per cent. or 15 per cent. and not more. Even calculating the wear and tear, even calculating that a large part of the machinery will have to be scrapped, I tell my Honourable friend the Finance Member that at the end of the war he will find the disposal value to be less by crores of rupees. On top of that, we have been charged with profiteering. But may I ask those people who lay the charge against us, whether, when the Government of India give orders for purchases of civil amenities or for war purposes or for motor cars or for railway material, there is anybody on behalf of the Government of India to check the prices.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has spoken for nearly 50 minutes.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Orders for railway materials worth crores of rupees have been placed. Who has placed the order? If the Honourable the War Transport Member were here, I would have said that the orders were placed by the American administration in Assam on their Government on their own prices and terms and we are going to make that payment. If the Railway Department has done that, there would be a question of check. It is not as if a private firm has done that, they can spend crores of rupees.

Now, I come to civil consumption. Who is going to check the prices?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is the Honourable Member concluding his speech?

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: I will continue my speech tomorrow. There are many points which I should like to refer.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[22ND MAR. 1945]

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There are many Honourable Members who are anxious to speak. I do not think it is fair to other Honourable Members that you should take so much time.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: I shall try my best to be fair to everybody as they have been fair to myself.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There are still many Honourable Members who wish to speak.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: I will conclude tomorrow as early as possible. I won't take long.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I understand, Sir, that it is generally agreed that the debate on the motion to take the Finance Bill into consideration should terminate on Monday, that the whole of that day should be reserved for speeches by Party Leaders and the Finance Member's reply and that questions should be dispensed with on that day.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I take it that that will suit the convenience of Honourable Members. I should like to suggest to Honourable Members who have not yet spoken and to Honourable Members generally to come to some sort of arrangement for tomorrow so that as many Honourable Members as possible who wish to speak tomorrow may have a chance. I suggest that no Member should speak for more than half an hour tomorrow so that as large a number of Members as possible can speak. Does this meet with the wishes of the House?

Some Honourable Members: Quite right.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As that is agreed to, the Chair will enforce the time limit.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 23rd March, 1945.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 23rd 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

PERMITTING REPATRIATED INDIAN TRADERS TO RESUME TRADE IN ADEN, ETC.

1289. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) When does the Foreign Secretary propose to raise the ban on Indian traders and others working at Aden, who had been repatriated to India compulsorily?

(b) When do Government propose to permit Indian traders and firms to resume their trade in (i) Port Said, and (ii) Ethiopia?

(c) Has any representation been sent to His Majesty's Government urging the desirability for these relaxations?

(d) Is it a fact that British firms interested in these localities are making arrangements for the resumption of trade, and similar opportunities are not given to Indian business houses?

(e) Have any applications been made for passports for visiting these countries for trade purposes?

(f) What percentage of such applications during 1943-44 and 1944-45 have been rejected by Government?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) This part of the question should have been addressed to the Commonwealth Relations Department, but I may inform the Honourable Member that the Government of India imposed no ban on Indian traders and others working at Aden. As a war-time measure necessitated by the military situation at the time, the Government of Aden caused a large number of Indians to be repatriated to India in 1940, and in 1941 imposed restrictions on entry into Aden. These, however, have been greatly relaxed and the number of Indians who have been allowed to enter Aden since 1940 exceeds the number that was compulsorily repatriated. The number is actually 1,756 entries against 1,679 evacuations.

(b) There is no prohibition on the resumption by Indian traders and firms of their trade in Egypt and Ethiopia.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government of India have no information on the first part; as has been said already, there are no legal restrictions on the activities of Indian business houses.

(e) Yes.

(f) The collection of precise information as to the percentage or rejections would entail a disproportionate amount of labour but it is extremely small; generally speaking, no application is rejected if the antecedents and financial position of the applicant are satisfactory and if, in the event of his wishing to travel to Aden or Ethiopia, he is able to produce an entry permit issued by the authorities of the territory concerned.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member inquire whether there are any difficulties not only with regard to passports but also passages for traders who were previously earning their livelihood in those parts and who intend to go back?

Sir Olaf Caroe: As regards passages there is actually no discrimination against Indian business men for any of these territories. In any case where it is shown that the person has sufficient reason for wishing to travel to them and in any case in which he holds valid travel documents, the department concerned, namely, the Defence Department, will be only too glad to do what they can to assist him.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee: Are Government aware that when Aden was transferred to the Colonial Office an undertaking was given that all Indians would have free entry there, as was the case for 95 years during which it was under India?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I shall require notice of that, Sir. I think the question has to be addressed to the Honourable Member in charge of the Commonwealth Relations Department.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have this Government any direct diplomatic contact with the Government of Ethiopia or do they have to go through the British Government?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The Government of India have no direct diplomatic contact with the Government of Ethiopia.

INDIAN MATERIAL SUPPLIED TO CHINA

1290. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state how much material was purchased in India for supply to China on behalf of (i) Government of India, (ii) Allied Governments, and (iii) Chinese Government, since the outbreak of the war and how the value of the goods supplied in this manner was paid for?

(b) How much of it is outstanding and in what form and from whom?

(c) What materials were received from China and which of them were used or retained in India, as part payment of goods supplied?

(d) Was it a barter transaction, or whether prices were fixed and, if so, by whom?

(e) Is all the material now being sent to China imported, or is any Indian material being sent and, if so, what is the system of accounting, and how do Government propose to recover the outlay incurred?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I lay on the table a statement containing the replies to the different parts of the question.

Statement

(a) (i) Some small purchases have been made by the Government of India to replace certain goods (e.g., copper, zinc slabs, brass rods, galvanised wire ropes) which had been consigned to the Chinese Government but were landed in India after the fall of Burma and were utilised by the Government of India for purposes of war production. Otherwise, no purchases are made for China on behalf of the Government of India.

(ii) Allied Governments also do not as a rule make purchases in India for China, but purchases have been made by the United States Army through the Supply Department for supply to the Chinese Forces operating in India. These were mostly of indigenous stores and were paid for by the Government of India under reciprocal Lease/Lend arrangements.

(iii) The Chinese Government have been making purchases in India partly on a cash basis but mainly against a Sterling Credit made available to them by His Majesty's Government. The cost of the materials purchased against the Sterling Credit is recovered by the Government of India periodically from H. M. G. through the India Office.

Full particulars of purchases made on behalf of China are not readily available, but I might mention that the total value of purchases made in India by the Supply Department on behalf of China from 1st January 1942 to 30th November 1944 amounted to a little over Rs. 19,00,000.

(b) I presume that the Honourable Member is referring to outstandings in respect of payments. If so, the figure outstanding at the end of February 1945, was Rs. 1,02,000 to be met by H. M. G. from the Sterling Credit.

(c) and (d). Raw silk has been obtained from China in return for cotton textiles supplied to that country. This was in the nature of a barter transaction. Prices were fixed after negotiation between the Government of India and The Pekin Syndicate, Ltd., on behalf of the Chinese Government.

We have also purchased tin from China through the United States Foreign Economic Administration.

(e) Supplies to China consist of imported as well as indigenous goods. As a matter of policy, indents for imported stores are discouraged, and the Chinese are asked, whenever time permits, to make their own arrangements for importing from overseas stores not manufactured in India. In specially urgent cases, however, Chinese demands for imported goods are met if the stores are available in India and can be spared.

The system of accounting has been outlined in the answer to part (a) of the question. The question of recovery of the outlay incurred does not arise.

IMPORTING AUSTIN CARS

1291. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state:

(a) whether the press report that about 2,500 Austin Cars are going to be imported from England, is correct;

(b) when they are expected to arrive;

(c) how they are proposed to be distributed; and

(d) the price fixed for them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), (b) and (d). The Honourable Member is referred to the replies given to parts (c) and (e) of Mr. Hegde's starred question No. 918 on the 12th instant by the Honourable the Supply Member and to my reply to Mr. Sinha's starred question No. 1035 on the 15th instant.

(e) The distribution among provinces will be on the basis of the existing car census in provinces as well as their actual requirements. Cars will be sold to essential users, official and non-official, on permits to be issued by the Provincial Motor Transport Controllers.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will these cars be given to Members of this House?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Applications should be made to the Provincial Motor Transport Controller concerned.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member reserve some cars for Members of the Central Legislature, who may be treated as living in the Centrally administered areas?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think applications will have to be made through the ordinary channel.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: When do they expect to invite applications?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I suppose there will be some publicity when the cars actually arrive, but it is not yet known at all when they will arrive.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Is the Honourable Member aware that the provincial authorities regard us as having essential work in Delhi and so they say they are not concerned? Has it been considered that a major part of the essential work of the Members of the Central Legislature has to be done in the provinces?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is a very nice point.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Do they expect to import any heavy cars also?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: We are examining the possibility of getting some higher-powered cars.

INDIAN AND EUROPEAN RUNNING ROOMS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1292. ***Lala Sham Lal:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two kinds of Running Rooms exist on the North Western Railway, i.e., (i) Indian style, and (ii) European style;

(b) whether any important distinction exists in the equipment of these Running Rooms; if so, whether it is based on racial discrimination;

(c) if the reply to the last portion of (b) above is in the negative, whether the Honourable Member proposes to lay on the table of the House a list of equipment in an average Running Room of each style referred to in (a) above; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to have the same kind of equipment in the Indian and European Running Rooms except in regard to the cooking utensils; if none why?

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

(b) I would draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (b) of Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's Starred Question No. 399 asked on 15th March, 1940. The difference in equipment in no way imply racial discrimination.

(c) The required information will be found in the statement laid on the table of the House in reply to part (a) of the same question.

(d) I lay on the table of the House a list of additional items of equipment which the Railway Administration propose to make available for Indian Running Rooms in order to improve the standard of equipment provided therein.

List of additional items of equipment for Indian running rooms.

Items.	Number	Items.	Number
Clock	1	Table Cloth	12
Lamp for kitchen	1	Pan fry	2
Lamp for bathroom	1	Sugar basin	2
Grating for bathroom	1	Jug for milk	2
Stand Towel	1	Jug for water	2
Table Dining	1	Spoons table	12
Chairs without arms, plywood seat	6	Dinner plates	12
Teapots	4	Tray for tea cups	2
Chairs easy	4		
Nawar Beds (ir liou Munj)	6		
Table Dressing	1		

MAXIMUM DISTANCE ON TRAIN CONTROLLER SECTION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1293. *Lala Sham Lal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the maximum distance on the train controlled section on the North Western Railway is over 200 miles? If so, where, and is it proposed to shorten the length of the working section to about 100 miles? If so, when, and if not, why not?

(b) Is it a fact that loud speakers had recently been removed from Control Offices on the plea that new telephone equipment was being installed? Is it a fact that the new equipment has not yet been installed and there is a great strain on the employees working without loud speakers?

(c) Is it a fact that during the last three years no less than one dozen Assistant Controllers were declared unfit at one Control Office at Karachi? If not, how many were declared unfit, and for what reasons?

(d) Is it a fact that the Controllers declared unfit in the Karachi Control Office were found quite fit in other offices? Do Government propose to revise the conditions of work of the Assistant Controllers?

(e) Is it also proposed to review the case of such Assistant Controllers who had suffered on account of long distance control sections at Karachi? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Of the 22 Control Circuits on the North Western Railway, four viz., the Karachi-Pad Idan, Pad Idan-Khanpur, Khanewal-Sangla Hill-Shahdara Bagh and Jacobabad-Quetta-Chaman Circuits exceed 200 miles in length. The Administration is making arrangements to split the first of these into two sections, with Katri as the point of division, at the earliest opportunity. The other three sections are working satisfactorily.

(b) The loud speakers were removed by the Administration with a view to increase efficiency on Control Circuits. Their removal has not placed any additional strain on the Controllers.

(c) Apart from cases of removal, from the list of employees approved for promotion as Assistant Controllers, of the names of employees who did not come up to the required standard when tried in short term vacancies, two officiating Assistant Controllers were reverted to their substantive appointments for constant unsatisfactory work.

(d) Of the two Assistant Controllers referred to in the reply to part (c) above, one did not work in any other Control Office, the other had, prior to his posting at Karachi, worked at Sukkur for ten months. Apart from the change mentioned in reply to part (a), no revision is considered necessary.

(e) Government understand that cases of staff, including Assistant Controllers, who are reverted to lower grades or to their substantive appointments are

reviewed from time to time and all factors which may have resulted in their having been reverted are taken into consideration.

TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR CHIEF AND ASSISTANT DRAFTSMEN IN THE OFFICE OF CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1294. *Lala Sham Lal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether any technical qualifications are required for appointment to the posts of Chief and Assistant Draftsmen in the office of the Chief Mechanical Engineer, North Western Railway? If so, what are those qualifications?

(b) Are these posts now held by qualified persons?

(c) Is it a fact that the Chief Mechanical Engineer has protested against the employment of non-technical persons as draftsmen, specially on senior posts? What action was taken thereon?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (c). No particular qualifications have till recently been specified for the posts of Chief Draughtsmen and Assistant Chief Draughtsmen in the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office. The qualifications for the former are, however, similar to those possessed by other technical officers in the Department and in regard to the latter, it has recently been prescribed that the incumbent should have a sound general and technical education with preferably a University Degree in Mechanical Engineering; adequate knowledge of construction and design of rolling stock and ability to initiate and supervise designs. The present incumbent of the post of Chief Draughtsman possesses the required qualifications while the Railway servant officiating in the latter post does not, although he is the most suitable employee available pending the return of an employee at present serving with another Department of the Government of India on war work.

INTRODUCTION IN KARACHI OF "TOWN DELIVERY SYSTEM OF POSTS"

1295. *Lala Sham Lal: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the "town delivery system of posts" has been introduced in Karachi with effect from the 1st February, 1945;

(b) whether it is a fact that a notice was published only two or three days before the introduction of the new system; what steps had been taken to get the public accustomed to mark post office numbers on letters;

(c) whether it is a fact that, a large number of letters are being delivered late at Karachi;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the 'town delivery system' was introduced without obtaining accommodation for various sorting and delivery offices and without appointing extra staff to cope with the work; and whether it is a fact that the sorting and delivery work of most of the 'town post offices' is done separately in the General Post Office, Karachi; if so, the advantages of the new system;

(e) what steps Government propose to take to appoint more staff and to obtain necessary housing accommodation required for the 'town delivery system' or in the alternative to revert to the old system; and

(f) whether the Honourable Member proposes to lay a statement on the table of the House showing comparative figures for (i) staff, (ii) the number of letters handled, and (iii) the running mail sorters handling dak in trains for Karachi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Yes, as an experimental measure.

(b) It is not correct to say that only a bare notice was published. A few days before the introduction of the system, press notes were issued in all the local daily newspapers. Copies of the press communique mentioning the delivery areas of each of the delivery offices were widely distributed in Karachi Town and were also exhibited at public places.

(c) No. On the contrary, the public are getting their letters much earlier now and are able to reply to their correspondence on the same day.

(d) Extra staff to meet the requirements of the scheme was duly sanctioned as and when necessity arose. As regards accommodation the position is that five additional delivery offices were opened consequent to the introduction of the Town Delivery system. Of these two delivery offices were housed temporarily in the Karachi General Post Office. One has since been moved to the new building from 1st March, 1945 and it is expected that the other will be moved by the end of this month. As regards the last part of the question, the advantage is that the public are getting their letters much earlier now than before.

(e) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (d).

(f) The information is not available and cannot be collected without undue expenditure of time and labour which is not justified during war time.

PROSECUTIONS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY UNDER NATIONAL SERVICES
TECHNICAL (PERSONNEL) ORDINANCE

1296. *Lala Sham Lal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of persons prosecuted on the North Western Railway under the National Services Technical (Personnel) Ordinance, 1940, for leaving service?

(b) Is it a fact that certain employees of the Electrical Branch at Karachi were not allowed to resign service owing to bad health? If so, why?

(c) Were the persons referred to in (b) above recruited under any Technical Personnel Training Scheme at Government expense? If not, why their resignations are not accepted?

(d) Do Government propose to issue instructions that resignations of persons due to health reasons are to be accepted when offered and that no person who has not been trained under the Technical Personnel Training Scheme at Government expenses need be pressed to serve the Railway if he desires to leave the same?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) On Divisions other than the Karachi Division, three employees of the N. W. Railway have so far been prosecuted under the National Service Technical (Personnel) Ordinance, 1940 for leaving service. Information in respect of the Karachi Division is available only for the period from April, 1944, and shows that ten men were actually prosecuted, but the case against one employee was withdrawn, as it was learnt that the man was ill.

(b) and (c). The required information is being collected and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(d) No. In accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance, a railway employee included in the definition of technical personnel is released if a railway doctor certifies him to be physically unfit for the work or class of work in which he is engaged. The reply to the latter part is also in the negative, as the Ordinance applies equally to persons who have not been trained under the Technical Personnel Training Scheme at Government expense.

ASSISTANT AND JUNIOR CHARGEMEN ON RAILWAYS

1297. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that Junior Chargemen are Semi-literate and are promoted from workmen and the Assistant Chargemen are fully qualified mechanics from the recognised Engineering Institutions?

(b) Are the posts of Assistant Chargemen and Junior Chargemen of the same rank? If it is not so, under what rules and in what manner their seniority is determined for promotion to the posts of Senior Chargemen?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: On the assumption that the question relates to the North Western Railway, the reply is as follows:

(a) Junior Chargemen are promoted from semi-literate Mistries and the standard of literacy prescribed for the former is given below:

They should be able to (i) explain drawings and instructions on the drawings; and (ii) read Shop Orders and fill Memos. of simple nature relating to their work.

Assistant Chargemen are drawn from (1) Journeymen (Apprentice Mechanics), (2) Journeymen who possess necessary technical knowledge, experience and literacy qualifications and have been recruited direct as such by the North Western Railway Service Commission, (3) Journeymen who have been promoted from suitable daily-rated workmen possessing the necessary literacy and technical qualifications laid down for them and are selected for promotion as Journeymen.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the negative. As regards the latter part, Junior Chargemen are not considered for promotion as Senior Chargemen, save in exceptional cases if no Assistant Chargemen equally fit and deserving for such promotion are available. The question of comparing the seniority of Junior and Assistant Chargemen for promotion to Senior Chargemen, therefore, does not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Have these assistant chargemen got to have any academic qualifications or pass any examination? Or does literacy imply only ability to speak a few words?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I referred to "literacy and technical qualifications laid down for them".

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have any special steps been taken by the railway authorities to help these junior chargemen to become more qualified so as to be promoted as senior chargemen?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The railway does its best to educate young people attached to the railway, which is really the root of the matter.

SELECTION POSTS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1298. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) the designation of posts which are declared as selection posts on the North Western Railway;

(b) whether the posts of Mistry, Junior Chargeman, Assistant Chargeman, and Senior Chargeman are selection posts;

(c) if these posts are not considered as selection posts, how those posts are filled;

(d) whether or not orders were issued by the General Manager, North Western Railway, that senior men should not be superseded by junior men until they are put to work in higher grades and they are declared unfit by a competent authority after a reasonable trial, in the posts which are not considered as selection posts; and

(e) if reply to part (d) is in the affirmative, whether the same principles are applied in filling up posts referred to in (b)?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I lay on the table of the House a statement giving, up to date, the required information.

(b) and (c). The posts of Junior Chargemen and Assistant Chargemen in the Electrical Branch have been declared as selection posts. As regards the procedure governing the promotion of subordinate staff to non-selection posts, the Honourable Member is referred to Appendix II-A of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is already in the Library of the House. In the case of promotion of skilled workmen to the post of Mistry, a trade test and examination is conducted personally by the Assistant Works Manager concerned in the case of Workshop staff, and on Divisions and extra Divisional Offices by the Assistant Officer in charge of such staff.

(d) No such orders can be traced as having been issued by the General Manager.

(e) Does not arise, but the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the rules mentioned in the reply to parts (b) and (c) above.

List of Selection Posts

Category of Staff	Old Scale.	Revised Scale.
(a) Transportation (Traffic) & Commercial Branch.		
	Rs.	Class Grade Rs.
(1) Traffic Inspectors	320—15—380	III 5 350
	20—500	III 4 300
(2) Chief Controllers	400—25—500	III 5 350
(3) Dy. Chief Controllers	375	III 4 300
(4) Asstt. Controllers	260—10—300	III 2 230
(5) Station Supdts.	650	III 6 400
(6) Dy Station Supdt. and Station Masters Gr. VIII	425—25—500	III 5 350
(7) Station Masters Gr. VII	360—20—400	III 4 300
(8) Station Masters Gr. VI	320—15—350	III 3 260
(9) Station Masters Gr. V	260—10—300	III 2 230
(10) S. M. & A. S. Ms. Gr. IV	200—10—250	III 1 200
(11) Dy. Supdts. Telegraphs	320—15—380	III 5 350
	20—500	III 4 300
(12) Telegraph Traffic Inspectors	200—10—300	III 2 230
	15—390	III 1 200
(13) Yard Foremen & Supervisor Grade VIII	360—20—400	III 4 300
(14) Yard Foremen & Supervisor Grade VII	320—15—350	III 3 260
(15) Yard Foremen & Supervisors Grade VI	260—10—300	III 2 230
(16) Goods Supervisors	250—10—300	III 2 230
(17) Litigation Inspectors	200—10—270	III 1 200
(18) Advertisement Inspectors	215—15—275	III 1 200
(b) Transportation (Power) & Mechanical Branch including Electrical		
(1) Loco Inspectors Gr. III	675—25—700	III 6 400
(2) Loco Inspectors Gr. II	575—25—650	III 5 350
(3) Loco Inspectors Gr. I	425—25—550	III 5 350
(4) Electrical/Shed/Shop Foremen Gr. IV	675—25—700	III 6 400
(5) Electrical/Shed/Shop Foremen Gr. III	575—25—650	III 5 350
(6) Shed & Shop & Elec. Foremen. Gr. II	500—25—550	III 4 300
(7) Shed & Shop & Elec. Foremen. Gr. I	425—25—475	III 4 300
(8) Carriage & Wagon Inspectors Gr. II	500—25—550	III 5 350
(9) Carriage & Wagon Inspectors Gr. I	425—25—475	III 5 350
(10) Head Chemist	425—25—475	III 3 260
(11) Fire Master	300—20—400	III 3 260
(12) Oil Engine Inspector Gr. II	500—25—550	III 5 350
(13) Oil Engine Inspectors	425—25—550	III 4 300
(14) Mech. Boiler Inspector	500—25—650	III 6 400
(15) Train Examiners Spl. Gr.	360—20—400	III 5 350
(16) Train Examiners Gr. III	260—15—350	III 4 300
		III 3 260
(c) Office Establishment.		
(1) Office Spdt. (Headquarters) Gr. VIII	500—20—600	III 6 400
(2) Indent Supervisors Gr. VIII Headquarters	500—20—600	III 6 400
(3) Superintendents (including) Office Supdts. on Divns & Extra Divisions Gr. VII	400—20—500	III 6 350
(4) Asstt. Supdts. & Head Clerks Gr. VI	285—15—330	III 2 230
(5) Head Stenos. & Head Clerks Gr. V	215—15—275	III 1 200
		II 3 160
(6) Clerks Gr. IV	160—10—200	II 2 140
		III 5 350
(7) Labour Wardens	360—20—500	III 4 300
		III 2 230
		III 1 200
(8) Asstt. Staff Wardens	185—15—350	II 4 180
		II 3 160
		II 2 140
(9) A. Asstt. Chief Draftsmen (Mech.)	400—20—500	III 5 350
(10) Supdt. Engg. Drawing Office	350—25—500	III 5 350
(11) Head Estimator (Engg.)	300—20—400	III 3 260
(12) Head Estimator & Head Draftsmen Gr. VI	285—15—330	III 2 230
(13) Head Draftsmen & Estimator Gr. V	215—15—275	III 1 200

Category of Staff	Old Scale	Revised Scale
	Rs.	Class Grade Rs.
(c) Office Establishment—conold.		
(13) Computer Bridge Branch	285—15—330	III 2 230
(14) Draftsmen Architect	230—15—335	III 2 230
(15) Stock Clerk Operating Br. Headquarters Office	100—5—140	II 1 100— 10/2—120
(d) Medical Branch		
(1) Assistant Surgeons	200—15—425— 25—450	III 6 400 III 5 350 III 4 300 III 3 260 III 2 230 III 1 200
(2) Senior Sub-Asstt. Surgeons	160—10—200	
(e) Stores Branch		
(1) Sr. Depot Store Keepers	475—25—550	III 5 350 III 4 300
(2) Depot Store Keepers	345—15—450	III 3 260 III 2 230 III 1 200 II 3 160
(3) Sub Store Keeper Gr. III	285—15—330	III 2 230
(4) Sub Store Keeper Gr. II	215—15—275	III 1 200
(5) Sub Store Keeper Gr. I	160—10—200	II 3 160 II 2 140 III 1 200 III 4 300
(6) Head Stationery & Forms Inspectors	200—10—270	III 3 260 II 1 100— 10/2—12
(7) Landing & Shipping Inspectors	345—15—450	III 4 300
(8) Ward Keepers	100—5—140	III 3 260 II 1 100— 10/2—12
(9) Supervisor Clothing Factory	345—15—450	III 4 300 III 3 260 III 6 400 III 6 400 III 5 350
(10) Supdt. Track Depots	550—25—600	III 6 400
(11) Supdt. Creosoting Plant	550—25—600	III 6 400
(12) Dy. Asstt. Supdt. P. & S.	450—25—500	III 5 350
(f) Engineering Branch		
(1) P. W. Is. Gr. V	625—25—675	III 6 400
(2) P. W. Is. Gr. IV	550—25—600	III 6 400
(3) P. W. Is. Gr. III	475—25—500	III 5 350 III 4 200
(4) P. W. Is. Gr. II	400—25—450	III 3 260 III 5 350 III 4 300
(5) I. O. Ws. Gr. III	475—25—550	III 3 260 III 6 400 III 5 350 III 4 300
(6) I. O. Ws. Gr. II	400—25—450	III 3 260 III 6 400 III 5 350 III 4 300
(7) S. & I. I. Gr. III	625—25—675	III 3 260 III 6 400 III 5 350 III 4 300
(8) S. & I. I. Gr. II	400—25—500— 25—600	III 3 260 III 5 350 III 4 300 III 3 260 III 5 350 III 4 300 III 3 260
(9) Block Inspector Gr. II	400—25—600	III 4 300 III 3 260 III 6 400 III 5 350 III 4 300 III 3 260
(10) Bridge Inspector Gr. III	550—25—675	III 6 400 III 5 350 III 4 300 III 3 260
(11) Bridge Inspector Gr. II	400—25—500	III 6 400 III 5 350 III 4 300 III 3 260
(12) General Foremen Signal Shops	625—25—675	III 6 400
(13) Foundry Foreman	425—25—650	III 6 400
(a) Transportation (Traffic) and Commercial Branch		
Yard Supervisors Gr. V	150—16—190	II 3 160
Platform & Luggage Inspectors Gr. IV	210—10—270	III 1 200
Platform & Luggage Inspectors Gr. II	150—10—	II 3 160
Enquiry Clerks Gr. II	66—4—90	I 2 65— 5/2—85

Category of staff	Old. Scale	Revised Scale
	Rs.	Class Grade Rs.
<i>(b) Transportation (Traffic) & Commercial Branch—cont.</i>		
Asstt. Claims Inspectors Gr. III	100—5—140	II 1 100— 10/2—120
Asstt. Rates Inspectors Gr. III	100—5—140	II 1 100— 10/2—120
Traffic Investigators Gr. II	68—4—80—5—95	I 2 65— 6/2—85
<i>(b) Transportation (Power) and Mechanical Branch including Electrical</i>		
Asstt. Charge-man (Elec.)	175—10/2—195	II 1 100— 10/2—120
Junior Charge-man (Elec.)	100—10—170	II 1 100— 10/2—120
<i>Store Branch</i>		
Stationery & Forms Inspector	150—10—190	II 3 160
Ticket Printing Supervisor	215—15—275	II 2 140 III 1 200

MUSLIM PLIGHT IN MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT

1299. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to an article published in the Railway Section of the *Daily Eastern Times*, Lahore, dated 7th September 1944, under the heading "Muslim plight in Mechanical Department";

(b) whether any enquiry has been made by the Railway department into the allegation made in the paper; and

(c) whether the posts of Mistries in the Mechanical Workshops have been declared as selection posts and are filled on the recommendation of the Selection Board duly constituted in accordance with the rules; if posts of Mistries are not selection posts, whether any definite rules have been framed for the guidance of the competent authorities to fill posts of mistries in the mechanical workshop division?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). The allegations made in the article referred to by the Honourable Member are being investigated by the Railway Administration who will take such action as they consider necessary in the matter.

(c) The reply to the first portion is in the negative. As regards the second portion, the Honourable Member is referred to the reply to parts (b) and (c) of the preceding question.

MUSLIM RATIO OF JUNIOR CHARGEMEN ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1300. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state: if it is a fact that 62 per cent. posts of Junior Chargemen are reserved for Muslims on the North Western Railway?

(b) If the reply to part (a) is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please state whether the instructions issued by the Home Department of the Government of India and the Communal Rotation Order laid down by the General Manager are observed in the case of junior chargemen?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No. 50 per cent. of the vacancies of Junior Chargemen in direct recruitment is reserved for Muslims.

(b) Government have no reason to believe that the orders referred to are not being applied but the Railway Administration is looking further into the matter.

MILITARY TRAINS RUN

1301. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the number of military trains that were run during the year ending December 31, 1944; and

(b) the proportion of the military personnel to that of civil travellers during the same period, travelling in ordinary trains?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) During the calendar year ended the 31st December, 1944, 5,133 military personnel specials were run.

(b) Government have no information, as no record is maintained to show how train accommodation is occupied as between civilian and military passengers. I am sure my Honourable friend will appreciate that the maintenance of such a record is not a practicable proposition.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Could the Honourable Member give an idea of the proportion in ordinary trains that is usually reserved for military personnel?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have here a list of a number of trains—there seem to be about fifty of them—on which accommodation for the Defence personnel is reserved. On some of them one F.S.Q. and on others two F.S.Q. and in some cases one first-class compartment is reserved.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Would it be possible for the Honourable Member to instruct railway authorities to add extra carriages whenever they want to reserve any part of the ordinary trains for military personnel and not to reserve portions of the running rake for such purposes?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The difficulty is that we have not got the rolling stock to add extra carriages and, if we had, it would not be possible for the engines to pull longer trains.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I take it that the Honourable Member is aware that in the carriages reserved out of the ordinary rakes for military personnel only such number of passengers as have got their berths reserved in these compartments travel in them, with the result that in other compartments there is unnecessary overcrowding? If that is so, will the Honourable Member issue instructions that in such cases other passengers might be allowed to travel in the compartments reserved for military personnel?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will look into that aspect of the question. But, generally speaking, what we are trying to do is to increase the number of special mail trains for military personnel only so that they may be taken right off the mail trains—they will thus be kept quite apart from the civilian passengers.

NON-POSTING SUBSTANTIVELY OF AN INDIAN AS ASSISTANT STATION MASTER AT CERTAIN RAILWAY STATIONS

1302. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that no Indian has so far been substantially posted to work as Assistant Station Master on stations Barauni Junction, Samastipur, Muzaffarpur, Sonapur, Gorakhpur, Gonda, Lucknow Junction, Kathgodam and Bareilly City?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, is it not due to the racial discrimination of the late B. & N. W. Railway authorities and if so when and how does the Honourable Member propose to remove this discrimination?

(c) Is it a fact that no Indian Assistant Station Master has drawn a salary of more than Rs. 80 per month, while Anglo-Indian Assistant Station Masters with a service of about five years have been drawing a salary between 170 and 220?

(d) Are Government aware that Darbhanga and Chupra Special Class Stations on O. T. Railway have more trains to pass, start and terminate and more goods and coaching traffic to handle than Sonapur and Muzaffarpur stations?

(e) If the answer to (d) is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please state why the Assistant Station Masters of Chupra and Darbhanga are paid Rs. 80 only or less while the Anglo-Indian Assistant Station Masters of Sonapur and Muzaffarpur are paid anything between Rs. 170 and Rs. 220, and why no Station Master of Chupra and Darbhanga has been so far paid more than Rs. 200 when the grade of Sonapur and Muzaffarpur Station Masters is Rs. 300?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.
(b) The reply to the first portion is in the negative; the latter portion does not arise.

(c) Yes, due to no Indian having been so far appointed as Assistant Station Master of a station carrying a higher rate of pay.

(d) and (e). Government are informed that while Darbhanga and Chupra do not pass, start and terminate more trains as compared with Sonapur and Muzaffarpur, the former have to handle more goods and coaching traffic. Muzaffarpur and Sonapore are, however, more important than the other two stations owing to the fact that Muzaffarpur is the headquarters of a Civil Division and Sonapur is a district headquarters of the Railway. Higher rates of pay for Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters of these two stations are justified on grounds of importance.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: In view of the reply to part (e) of the question, may I know why no Indian has ever been appointed as Assistant Station Master? Are there no senior Indians available?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I cannot tell you. It is only recently that the O. & T. Railway has come under Government control, but the position now is that all promotions are made on merits and seniority without regard to community.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: This will mean that Europeans and Anglo-Indians will, for many years to come, be having the lion's share and no Indian will ever have any share at all. If seniority is determined on the appointments which have been given in the past to Europeans and Anglo-Indians—and not to Indians—the turn of Indians will not come for a very long time to come.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That does not necessarily follow, but the Honourable Member will appreciate that the Government had no control over these matters before they took over the Railway.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: If the O. & T. Railway had not been observing the rules laid down by the Government of India since 1934, why should the Government take over all the personnel? Was it incumbent on the Government to take over all the personnel which the O. & T. Railway had at the time when the Railway was taken over by the Government?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is merely a supposition.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it a fact that all these Station Masters are mostly the relatives of the Company-managed railway officers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I require notice of the question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the present policy of the Government?

(No reply was given)

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

INDIAN AND EUROPEAN RUNNING ROOMS AT CERTAIN STATIONS ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY.

1303. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that separate Indian and European Running Rooms for the Running Staff have been provided by the Oudh and Tirhut Railway at Kathiar West, Barauni Junction, Sonapur, Chupra, Narkatiaganj, and Bhatni stations;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, why electric fans are provided at Barauni Junction and Sonapur and pull *pankhas* at Narkatiaganj, Chupra, Kathiar West for European Running Rooms only, while no electric fans or pull *pankhas* have been provided at any of these stations for Indian Running Rooms;

(c) why no electric fans or pull *pankhas* have been provided for the Indian Running Rooms at Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Savan, Gonda and Benares Cantonment which have major Indian Running Rooms;

(d) whether it is a fact that in reply to such questions asked in the Local Railway Advisory Committee, the Administration has remarked that the Indians have no *pankhas* in their homes and are not accustomed to the same high

standard of living as Europeans and therefore *pankhas* in any form have not been provided in the Indian Running Rooms; and

(e) if the answer is in the affirmative, when the Honourable Member proposes to remove the distinction between the European and Indian Running Rooms?

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

(b) and (c). In the case of European running rooms, electric fans have been provided where the power of the electric generating plant is sufficient and in other cases pull *pankhas* have been provided at the request of the staff. No request for this amenity has hitherto been made by the staff using Indian running rooms, but the question will be pursued.

(d) The Railway Administration has no information in the matter.

(e) This does not arise in view of the replies to the preceding parts of the question.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: In view of the Honourable Member's reply to part (e) of the question, may I know why no electric fans or pull *pankhas* have been provided for the Indian Running Rooms at Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Savan, Gonda, Benares Cantonment, and other stations? Are there any pull *pankhas* in the Indian Running Rooms at these stations?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. There are not electric fans everywhere. There are two stations where the power position permits of the introduction of electric fans and at these two stations, at the request of the European running staff, fans were installed in their two running rooms. As I understand it, at other places, the European running staff asked for pull *pankhas* and got them. So far as I understand, there has been no demand yet for pull *pankhas* for the running rooms used by the Indian staff. So far as I understand, that is the case, but, as I have said, the question is being pursued.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Will the Honourable Member issue instructions that at least pull *pankhas* should be provided, if power is not available for the installation of electric fans in the Indian Running Rooms at the stations mentioned in the question?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have said that the matter is being pursued.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: It should be sympathetically pursued.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: If no demand has been made by the Indian running staff, we are making this demand here.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know why this discrimination is maintained in these running rooms? May I know whether the Government will remove this discrimination and maintain common running rooms for staff?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is precisely what I have said. I have just explained that this Railway has only recently come under Government control. This is the first time that the situation has been brought to the notice of the Railway Department and we are pursuing the matter actively.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I take it that such discrimination does not exist on the State-owned Railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, discrimination does not exist.

JOINT HINDU AND MUSLIM RUNNING ROOMS AT CERTAIN RAILWAY STATIONS

1304. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is not a fact that joint Running Rooms for Hindus and Muslims have been provided at Samastipur, Darbhanga, Narkatiaganj, Muzaffarpur, Sonapur and Savan, etc.?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please state why no separate cooks and servants are provided for the Muslim staff?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that the meals cooked by Hindus are against the taste of Muslims and on these stations the Muslim staff have to wash used plates themselves as the Hindu servants refuse to wash the plates in which Muslims have taken food?

(d) Does the Honourable Member propose to see that these Running Rooms and also other Running Rooms on Oudh and Tirhut Railway are provided with Muslim cooks and servants?

(a) Is the Honourable Member aware that most of the Muslims do not take food cooked by Hindu cooks?

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

(b) and (d). Government are informed that separate Hindu and Muslim cooks and servants have been provided in running rooms where demanded and Government expect that similar demands will receive due attention.

(c) and (e). I am aware that such difficulties exist.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Will these difficulties be removed? Will the Honourable Member issue instructions?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have said that Government expect that similar demands will receive due attention.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Why 'due attention'; these difficulties should be removed.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: This is the state of affairs which has existed in the past, apparently without complaint. When any complaint is made, it receives attention.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member remove this difficulty *suo moto*, without waiting for any further demand?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Unless a demand is made, it is rather difficult for the Government to anticipate the desire of the people.

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

RADIO SETS REMOVED FROM PRIVATE RESIDENCES

1305. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) if a large number of radio sets were removed by the Department or other authorities, from private residences in the latter part of 1942 and 1943, and the reasons for doing the same;

(b) if under the terms of the license such removal is warranted; and

(c) if any compensation was paid for the radios taken away, and whether the amounts due to licensees for the unexpired portions of their licenses were remitted to them?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) A certain number of wireless receiving sets were confiscated by the Provincial Governments under the Defence of India Rules for security reasons.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As regards the first part, no information is available. As regards the last part under Condition 5 of the license, no refund of the license fee is admissible in the event of cancellation of the license.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (c) of the question, may I take it that these radio sets have been snatched away by Government and that the owners are not entitled to any compensation?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Compensation is a matter for the Provincial Government to decide. It is they who have taken away the sets, not the Central Government.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I take it that the authority of the Provincial Government comes from the Central Government and may I also take it that the Central Government is now helpless in the matter, having delegated the authority to the Provincial Governments, even when their authority is being abused by the latter?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I do not agree that it is being abused. That is a matter of opinion. The Provincial Governments are acting under rules framed under the Defence of India Act and as such it is in their power to take such action as they consider necessary.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that the authority for taking action is delegated by the Central Government to the Provincial Government under the Act or do they have that authority *ab initio*?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I think they have the authority under the rules themselves.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will it not be an abuse of power if the Chief Commissioner of Delhi takes away the Honourable Member's car and then says that he has done it under the authority of the Government of India?

(No reply was given.)

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly look into the matter and at least restore the radio sets?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am afraid I cannot do it.

INADEQUATE WAGON SUPPLY FOR TRANSPORT OF LAC TO MIRZAPUR

1306. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state:

(a) if he is aware that Mirzapur in the United Provinces is an important shellac manufacturing centre and that the shellac industry there is suffering for want of wagons to bring raw lac from Bihar and the Central Provinces; and

(b) if he proposes to allot more wagons for the transport of lac to Mirzapur?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government is aware that Mirzapur in the United Provinces is a manufacturing centre for shellac. The reply to the second part is in the negative.

(b) If the Mirzapur manufacturers require more wagons for the transport of lac to Mirzapur for essential purposes, they should place their demands upon the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Calcutta West, who will deal with such requests on their merits provided that the movements proposed are from areas which do not involve uneconomical transport.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Controller of Priorities has been applied to by the Shellac Industries Association at Mirzapur, to which no reply has been vouchsafed and, further, in view of the fact that 21,000 maunds of shellac are lying in the Province of Bihar and C. P. requiring 70 wagons and also in view of the fact that about 4,000 workers are out of employment in Mirzapur and that Mirzapur entirely depends upon this industry for its existence, will the Honourable Member kindly help from this end?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: This is a difficult problem at the present time. I understand that this shellac lies in South Bihar and for the most part probably has to go over the Central India Coal fields section of the East Indian Railway, the transportation position over which is extremely difficult. The shellac can, I understand, be manufactured in factories in Bihar and from the point of view of the general benefit, it is better from the transport angle that the shellac should be manufactured on the spot. At the same time, I realise that it raises difficulties for the Mirzapur manufacturers. I understand that they are not entirely dependent upon rail transport from that area. They can also get their raw lac from Rewa State and the Naini-Jubbulpore section of the G. I. P. Railway. This matter has been under the careful consideration of the Regional Controller and I am sure he will give it sympathetic consideration so far as he can.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly request the Controller of Priorities to send at least a reply to this Association?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, I will certainly do that. When was the letter sent?

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I am sorry I am unable to give the date.

MUSLIM TELEGRAPH MASTERS AND TELEGRAPHISTS.

1307. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Telegraph Masters, and the number of Muslims as it stood on the 1st January, 1945, all over India, and the percentage of Muslims to the total strength;

(b) the total number of Telegraphists to be promoted to the rank of Telegraph Masters this year;

(c) the total number of Telegraphists declared qualified, and the number of Muslims, circle-wise; and

(d) the total number of Muslim Telegraphists taken or recommended to be taken as Telegraph Masters this year?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The total strength of Telegraph Masters on the 1st January 1945 was 266 out of which six (or 2.3 per cent.) were Muslims.

(b) One hundred and six.

(c) It is presumed that the Honourable Member is referring to the results of the written portion of the Telegraph Masters' examination, 1944. 198 Telegraphists, of whom 16 are Muslims, qualified in the written examination. I lay on the table a statement giving the communities to which those who so qualified belong, Circle by Circle.

(d) Nine Muslim Telegraphists have been selected for promotion as Telegraph Masters this year.

The circle-wise and community-wise distribution of the 198 telegraphists who have passed in the written portion of the Telegraph Masters' examination 1944 is as follows:

Communities.	B. & A. B. & O. Bombay.	Central. Madras.	Punjab & N. W. F.	S. & B.	U. P.	Total.
Hindus	32	8	11	3	7	83
Muslims	1	2	1	2	7	16
Anglo Indian and Domiciled Europeans.	5	2	11	6	28	94
Indians	1	..	..	1	..	3
Christians.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Parsis	..	..	..	Nil.	..	..
Sikhs	..	..	..	Nil.	..	..
Other communities.	..	..	2	..	..	2
Total	37	12	26	10	38	198

Part (d)—Out of the 182 non-Muslim Telegraphists who passed, 97 have been selected.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Is it a fact that 16 Muslim candidates have been declared qualified to be promoted to the posts of telegraph masters in 1944?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir, nine have been selected and they have to undergo practical training before they can be appointed as telegraph masters. They have been selected as a result of the written examination and interview.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: How is it whereas 16 had been declared qualified only 9 have been selected?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Because there is a selection board which, after the written test, makes further selections for the post of telegraph masters. There is a *viva voce* test and the selection board interviews all those who have qualified in the written examination and selects suitable persons from among them.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: In view of the very low percentage of Muslims in the telegraph masters posts, may I know if the Honourable Member would ask the Selection Board to reconsider the matter?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir. Promotions are not made on communal grounds. I may tell the Honourable Member that the selection boards consisted of a European Chairman, one Hindu officer and one Muslim officer in every case.

RESERVING COMPARTMENTS SPECIFICALLY FOR CIVILIANS

1308. ***Mr. Frank R. Anthony:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether he proposes to consider reserving compartments specifically for civilians as is at present done for military personnel; and

(b) whether he proposes to consider reducing the proportion of first class carriages reserved for military personnel as many of these reserved military carriages either remain unoccupied or are occupied by British Other Ranks who are not supposed to travel first class?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No.

(b) No. I have no evidence to warrant the assumption that many of the reserved military carriages remain unoccupied or are occupied by personnel not authorised to travel in them. It has, however, been possible to reduce the accommodation reserved for Defence Services on ordinary trains over certain sections and on the days on which the heavy incidence of military movement has necessitated the introduction of additional military specials.

Sir Frank R. Anthony: With reference to the answer to part (a) of the question, is the Honourable Member aware that under the present system, as there is no specific reservation of compartments for civilian passengers, these civilian compartments are usually crowded out by military personnel?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: A special army order was issued which says that no service passenger will be allowed accommodation in the civilian part of the train until the Defence compartments are filled to capacity.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member aware that British Other Ranks frequently travel in the civilian first class compartments?

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

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: With reference to part (b) of the question, will the Honourable Member accept my evidence, because I am continually travelling, that while civilian compartments are overcrowded with civilian passengers and military personnel, the military compartments are very often empty or are occupied by B. O. Rs. who are not entitled to travel first class.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am quite prepared to admit that the Honourable Member has seen certain cases.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Is the Honourable Member aware that under the present system civilian members of this House, civilian members of the Viceroy's Defence Council, and others are often subjected to indignities?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: By whom?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Military personnel.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That question must be directed to the War Department.

INDIAN DELEGATION TO SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE

1309. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Honourable the Foreign Secretary please state:

(a) whether India will be represented at the next peace conference to be held at San Francisco, U. S. A., on the 25th April, 1945; and

(b) who will nominate India's representatives, and who will prepare their brief for the conference?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the *Press communique* on this subject which appeared on the morning of March 12th.

(b) The Government of India in both cases.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether in view of the very strong feelings in the country Government will reconsider their decision, that is, appoint fresh delegates in consultation with the Leaders of the Opposition Parties?

Sir Olaf Caroe: No.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether in view of the fact that the position of the International Labour Organisation in the Security Organisation will be considered at the San Francisco Conference, will Government consider the desirability of including some Labour representatives in the San Francisco Delegation?

Sir Olaf Caroe: That question should be addressed to the Labour Department.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will Government consider the appointment of substitute delegates also?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I am afraid I do not understand what 'substitute-delegates'

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whom Sir V. T. Krishnamachari represented at the San Francisco Conference?

Sir Olaf Caroe: He has been chosen by the Crown Representative as he has experience of Indian States. But that is a matter within the purview of the Crown Representative, and this is not the proper forum to discuss it.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: If the status of the Indian Delegation is questioned, they are to make a claim that India is a sovereign state?

Sir Olaf Caroe: It seems to me that this continual harping on subordination is not going to do any good to India in the eyes of the world.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: This is not a reply to my question whether if the status of the Indian Delegation was questioned, they are to claim that India is a sovereign state.

Sir Olaf Caroe: They will claim that India is one of the great powers who have taken a leading part in the war.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of his continual harping that India is not in a subordinate position, how does he justify Crown Representative nominating the members of the Delegation and giving them a brief?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I never said the Crown Representative has given any brief.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member state what precautions Government of India have taken in case objection is taken in that Conference that India not being a sovereign state is not eligible to take part?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I think, Sir, that question may be left with the greatest confidence to the Delegates of the Government of India.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

COST AND LIFE OF THIRD CLASS COMPARTMENT

103. Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

- the normal cost and life of a third class compartment;
- the normal cost and life of a third class compartment made in war time;
- comparing both, what the proportion of price between them is; and
- the depreciation allowed on these carriages?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) It is presumed that by the term 'compartment' the Honourable Member means a carriage. The normal life is taken to be 30 years. The average pre-war costs were approximately Rs. 27,000 for a broad gauge bogie carriage and Rs. 21,000 for a metre gauge bogie carriage built in Railway workshops.

(b) The similar war-time average costs are Rs. 48,000 for a broad gauge bogie carriage and Rs. 42,000 for a metre gauge bogie carriage. The carriages built so far are according to pre-war standards and as such their normal life is 30 years.

(c) A broad gauge bogie carriage costs roughly 78 per cent. more than in pre-war days and a metre gauge bogie carriage 100 per cent. more.

(d) 3.3 per cent. per annum.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Information promised in reply to part (c) of starred question No. 458 and parts (a) and (b) of starred question No. 459, asked by Mr. Amatendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, on the 16th March, 1944

COAL SUPPLY TO PETTY CONSUMERS

No. 458 (c).—The prices mentioned in part (c) of the question were in force at the D. G. M. P. dump at Shalimar up to the 31st December 1943. They were revised from time to time on the basis of the f.o.r. prices notified by Government plus railway freight stockist's remuneration and other incidental and overhead charges.

Loading charges are not compulsory; they are levied only when the customer uses the coolies of dump agents for transporting coal from the dump to his conveyance. The loading charge at Shalimar dump is Rs. 2-12-0 per ton from dump to road conveyance or river craft. The reference to loading charges of annas 0-4-0 to 0-6-0 per ton in the question is not understood as even the pre-war rate of loading charges was Rs. 1-12-0 per ton.

COAL SUPPLY TO MOHINI MILLS BY MESSRS. ANDREW YULE & Co.

No. 459. (a) Messrs. Andrew Yule & Co. have a number of sidings and from these taken together they could load more than 100 wagons a day. But it would not have been possible for them to load from any one siding 50 wagons in one day for the Mohini mills at Kushtia, except at the expense of a large number of other important industries. It might have been possible for the Mohini Mills to handle 100 wagons a day at the Kushtia station, but the Railway authorities could not handle this number of wagons on any one day. Moreover, on account of restrictions on bookings via Naihati an allotment of 50 wagons on any one day for the Mohini Mills, out of a total of 240 coal wagons then sanctioned via the Naihati route, could not be made.

(b) As soon as normal transport conditions were restored, priority sanctions, abruptly stopped on account of the breaches on Railways due to heavy floods, were renewed, and consumers were allowed to take their coal under their priority sanctions and through ordinary channels.

Information promised in reply to Supplementary question to starred question No. 542, asked by Mr. Sri Prakasa, on 17th November, 1944

TIMINGS OF CONNECTING TRAINS AT JUNCTION STATIONS

During the period November 1944 to January 1945, the number of occasions on which trains from Benares and Jaunpur missed connection at Janghai for Allahabad is as under:—

During November 1944—Nil.

During December 1944—On 9 occasions.

During January 1945—On 12 occasions.

Arrangements have, however, been made to increase the authorised detention to the branch line train at Janghai from 10 to 20 minutes to minimise the chances of the connection being missed.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 58, asked by Mr. R. R. Gupta, on the 2nd November, 1944

EXPORTS AND MANUFACTURE OF GUNNIES AND HESSIAN

Statement showing production in and exports from India, for Jute manufactures (gunnies and hessian) during 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43 and 1943-44.

(Figures in thousand tons)

	Production*		Export per cent.	
	Hessian	Sacking	Hessian	Sacking
1940-41	487	565	464	445
1941-42	589	618	460	403
1942-43	509	658	273	331
1943-44	411	581	342	282

*Includes goods manufactured on Government account.

†Relates to goods exported from British India by sea on private account. Details of exports on Government account are not available.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 611, asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy, on 20th November, 1944

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPLY OF RICE TO COLLIERY LABOUR IN BIHAR

The Government of Bihar received complaints only from the Kusture Colliery authorities regarding the quality of the three thousand tons of Orissa rice supplied to them. The supply was however, withdrawn.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 640, asked by Mr. Sami Venkatachielam Chetty, on the 21st November 1944

DENIAL OF APPLICABILITY OF ARMY ACT AND ROYAL WARRANT PRIVILEGES TO INDIAN FORCES

(a) and (b): Government have now seen the letter referred to in the question. The statement in the letter that "V. C. Os. and I. O. Rs. are not governed by Royal Warrant and Army Act, but—I. A. A. should be read in its context with reference to the sections of the Army Act and the provisions of the Royal Warrant which were quoted in the petition to which the letter of 22nd June 1943 is a reply.

The legal position is that the provisions of the Army Act apply to His Majesty's Indian Forces subject to the modifications set out in section 180 (2) of that Act particularly clauses

(a) and (h) thereof. The Royal Warrant referred to in the letter, dated the 22nd June 1943 is the Royal Warrant for pay, appointment, promotion and non-effective pay of the Army, 1940, which does not apply to such Forces, *vide* Preamble to the Warrant.

Information promised in reply to part (b) of starred question No. 8, asked by Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, on the 8th February, 1945
STUDENTS ATTENDING SCHOOLS IN TRIBAL AREAS

94 per cent. of the total number of students who attended the schools in tribal areas in 1944 were tribal born.

Information promised in reply to part (a) of starred question No. 38, asked by Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh, on the 9th February, 1945

PRESERVATION OF KHEDALA FORT ANCIENT MONUMENTS

(a) The fort at Khedala was declared to be a protected monument in a notification dated 26th October, 1922.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 72, asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy, on the 9th February, 1945.

HIGHER PRICES CHARGED FOR RICE IN BIHAR COALFIELDS

The Joint Food Supply Pool have since informed their members that a rebate of Rs. 2 per maund would be allowed on supplies issued from 1st November, 1944. The original price was fixed by them due to the doubt as to the cost of the supplies made.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 119, asked by Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, on the 10th February, 1945

CONGRESS BUILDINGS SEIZED BY GOVERNMENT

So far as the Chief Commissioners' provinces are concerned the information is as follows:

- (a) Eighteen.
 - (b) Yes. Fourteen buildings have so far been returned to the legal owners. Ten in Ajmer, two in Coorg and two in Delhi. The return of one more building in Ajmer is under consideration.
 - (c) The buildings have not sustained any damage requiring repair.
 - (d) Government have not made any use of the buildings so far.
- They will be returned to the owners as and when the Government are satisfied that they will not be used for unlawful purposes or by an unlawful association.

Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 327 and 328, asked by Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan, on the 19th February, 1945

WOMEN WORKERS IN MILLS AND FACTORIES OF DELHI PROVINCE

No. 327.—(a) The total number of women workers employed in the mills and factories in the Delhi Province to which the Factories Act, 1934 (XXV of 1934) is applicable was 1308 in 1943. This figure includes women workers employed in threadball factories. Figures for 1944 are not available, but it is believed that there was no appreciable change in the number of women workers employed in that year.

(b) Yes; legal action was taken in 1944 against the owners of two factories employing women but this does not relate to the contravention of the Act in which the interests of the women workers alone were involved. The authorities of Delhi Province are considering taking legal action against the occupiers of the threadball factories employing women workers only.

(c) No woman Labour Welfare Officer has so far been appointed for the Delhi Province.

WOMEN WORKERS IN THREAD BALL FACTORIES IN DELHI

No. 328.—(a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative therefore the second part of the question does not arise.

(b) In 1943 the provisions of the Factories Act, 1934, applied to 32 threadball establishments and the number of women workers employed in these establishments was 924. Figures for 1944 are not available.

(c) Casual enquiries made during inspections under the Factories Act indicate that almost all the women workers in threadball factories are paid on piece rates. Though no dearness allowance is paid yet there has been an increase in the piece rates to meet increased cost of living due to rise in cost of living.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 363, asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy, on the 19th February, 1945

NON-INDIAN BANKING COMPANIES IN BRITISH INDIA

(a) There are fifteen non-Indian banking companies operating in British India—7 British, 2 American, 2 Chinese, 2 Dutch, 1 French, 1 Portuguese. Seventeen banking concerns incorporated in Indian States operate in British India.

(b) There are legal restrictions of this nature in the United States of America, Japan, Italy, Germany, Denmark and Norway. Government are not aware of any such legal restrictions in foreign possessions in India.

(c) As far as Government are aware, there are no legal restrictions in Indian States on the establishment of branches by British Indian Banks.

(d) The attitude of Government in this matter is indicated in clause 17 of the Banking Companies Bill, 1945.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 477, asked by Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan on the 22nd February, 1945

JUVENILE DELINQUENTS AND DESTITUTES IN DELHI PROVINCE

(a) The figure of juvenile convicted in Delhi showed an increase in 1942 and 1943, followed by a decrease in 1944. In general it may be said that there has been no marked rise in juvenile crime since 1940. No figures are available of the number of destitute children, but there is no reason to believe that it has increased. Indeed, the probability is that with the general increase in employment and the marked rise in wage rates, the number of destitute children has fallen.

(b) Apart from the Reformatory School, the Delhi Children's Aid Society maintains a home in which destitute children are received and cared for. The Government of India have in recent years made a substantial grant towards the working of the Society.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 488, asked by Mr. Ramayan Prasad, on the 22nd February, 1945.

LETTER BY MR. BUDHAN RAI VERMA, A SECURITY PRISONER

(a) and (b). A letter from Mr. Budhan Rai Varma to Sir Reginald Maxwell was withheld because under the Bihar Security Prisoners' Rules no communication can be forwarded which contains as this one did, matter prejudicial to jail discipline or false statements against the jail authorities. Mr. Varma was punished by depriving him temporarily of certain privileges because under the Bihar Security Prisoners Rules it is a punishable offence to make groundless complaints, not because the letter was addressed to the then Home Member.

(c) As the letter consists largely of personal abuse, Government do not propose to take any action on it.

Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 23, asked by Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, on 23rd February, 1945

FIRST AND SECOND CLASS BERTHS RESERVED FOR DEFENCE SERVICES AND OTHER PUBLIC FROM DELHI AND LAHORE RAILWAY STATIONS

Statement showing the number of coaches or compartments reserved exclusively for Defence Services on trains ex-Lahore.

	Upper class coaches in normal composition of the train.	Exclusively reserved for Defence Services.
35 Up Express (Lahore to Rawalpindi)	3	I Coach.
8 Down Mail (Lahore to Karachi City)	3	I First Class Coupe.
		I Second Class large Compartment.
44 Down/Passenger, 53 Up. (Lahore to Quetta)	2	I First Class large compartment.
		I Second Class large compartment.

Information promised in reply to supplementary question to starred question No. 605, asked by Mr. Sri Prakasa, on the 1st March, 1945

TREATING PROF. GOKUL LAL ASAWA AND MR. MOOL CHAND ASAWA AS 'C' CLASS

PRISONERS

Mr. Gokul Lal Asawa was given 'A' class in 1933.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[23RD MAR. 1945]

Information promised in reply to unstarred questions Nos. 71 and 72, asked by Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha, on the 6th March, 1945.

GRADE 'A' UNIFIED SCALE EXAMINATION IN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES

No. 71.—(a) The question is not clearly understood. Generally speaking, the examination, which is both competitive and qualifying, seeks to test the candidates proficiency in English composition and in technical departmental matters.

(b) Yes; but the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, was empowered to modify the syllabus to suit the special requirements of the Posts and Telegraphs Branch.

GRADE 'A' UNIFIED SCALE EXAMINATION IN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES

No. 72.—In view of the specialised and responsible nature of the work done by upper division clerks in the Indian Audit Department, government agreed that 35 per cent. of the existing number of upper division posts should be classified as Grade A posts for the purposes of the unified scale. The Departmental test was prescribed in order to select those upper division clerks best qualified for promotion to these posts.

Information promised in reply to unstarred questions Nos. 73, 74, 78, and 79, asked by Seth Sheodass Daga, on the 6th March, 1945.

THROWING OPEN DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATIONS TO TYPISTS OF DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI

No. 73.—(a) Typists who possess the educational qualifications required of candidates for recruitment to the higher grades are allowed to appear in the Departmental Examinations. As the typists in the Delhi office do not possess these qualifications, they are not permitted to appear in the Departmental Examinations.

(b) In view of the answer to (a) the answer is in the negative.

THROWING OPEN GRADE 'A' UNIFIED SCALE EXAMINATION TO LOWER DIVISION CLERKS OF DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI

No. 74.—Yes. As a percentage of the upper division posts in this office has been classified as Grade A, promotion to those posts has been restricted to the holders of upper division posts.

PROVISION FOR S. A. S. PASSED CLERKS OF DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI

No. 78.—Of the five, two have already been provided with Subordinate Accounts Service posts, one is on deputation, and the other two will be provided for shortly as vacancies occur.

ELIGIBILITY FOR GRADE 'C' UNITED SCALE OF TYPISTS IN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES

No. 79.—(a) Yes.

(b) Typists on the old and revised scales of pay applicable to typists are granted special pay neither in the Posts and Telegraphs nor in the other Audit and Account Offices.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

COLLISION OF TRAINS AT JUNGSHABI RAILWAY STATION

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received today notice of an adjournment motion to discuss an urgent, definite matter of public importance, viz., the tragic collision, owing to criminal negligence of Railway, of trains on N. W. R. Sind Section, on 22nd March 1945 at 3 A.M. at Jungshabi Station causing loss of life and property.

The Honourable Member says that the collision was due to criminal negligence of Railway. I do not know what he means by that.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Negligence in allowing one train after another on the same line, which has caused the collision. The Government of India is responsible because the Railway belongs to them.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Railway Member might be able to throw light on the matter.

COMMITTEE FOR WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

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The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): This accident came to our notice yesterday, and we immediately published all the information we had. The Honourable Member suggests that there has been criminal negligence. He presumably brings that charge against home signalman or pointsman, but on that we have no information. All the information has already been published, but we have no information on whose part there was fault. There is nothing in the information to bring home a charge of criminal negligence against any individual nor has it been established whether there was fog or not. All these matters will be subject to an inquiry. As regards action, everything possible seems to have been done to rush medical and other aid and to institute an inquiry immediately. I am prepared to publish further details as they arrive, and to pass on to Members of the House, particularly to those from Sind or any one else who is interested, all the news as it arrives. But, Sir, I submit that an adjournment motion of this nature is not likely to elucidate much more in the way of facts. I submit, Sir, that this is not a matter of such urgent public importance as to take up the time of the House when an important debate such as that on the Finance Bill is on. I will, therefore, ask my Honourable friend to withdraw.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The unfortunate accident occurred on the Railway in Sind resulting in loss of life, but as I have pointed out before that is not a good ground in itself for adjourning the business of the Assembly. There must be facts forthcoming to make out a *prima facie* case for holding the Railway authorities or the Government of India responsible for the accident. There is a general allegation that there was criminal negligence on the part of the Railway, but the facts available so far do not bear this out. The Honourable Railway Member has promised to apprise the House of all the facts. The adjournment motion is disallowed.

AMENDMENT TO AJMER-MERWARA MOTOR VEHICLES RULES

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): I lay on the table a copy of the Notification No. F/22-3/III(CC) dated the 2nd January 1945, relating to an amendment to rule 61 of the Ajmer-Merwara Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940.

ORDERS BY THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, AJMER-MERWARA NOTIFICATION

Ajmer, the 2nd January 1945

No. F/22-3-III (CC).—The Chief Commissioner is pleased to make the following amendment to rule 61 of the Ajmer-Merwara Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, published with this Administration Notification No. 1141/34-W/38-III, dated the 12th June 1940, the amendment having been previously published in this Administration Notification No. F/22-3-III (CC), dated the 14th September 1944:—

"In rules 6.1 (a) of Chapter VI—Control of Traffic—for the figure and word "5 tons" in line 4 substitute the words "eight tons in the case of a six-wheeled vehicle and six tons in the case of a four-wheeled vehicle" and for the figure and word "3 tons" in lines 5 and 6 substitute the words "five tons in the case of a six-wheeled vehicle and four tons in the case of a four-wheeled vehicle."

By order,

M. S. CHAKRABARTY,
Financial Assistant to the
Chief-Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

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 the Honourable the President may direct, five non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Department of War Transport is concerned, other than those within the purview of the Standing Committee for Roads, during the year 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, five non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise

[Mr. President.]

on subjects with which the Department of War Transport is concerned, other than those within the purview of the Standing Committee for Roads, during the year 1945-46."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Combaratore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted."

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

"That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted."

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have no particular objection to raising the numbers. The original number suggested was three from this House and two from the Council of State. We then raised it to five from this House and three from the Council of State. Within the last week the Council of State has passed a resolution to nominate three members. So if this is raised in this House it would be necessary to pass another resolution in the Council of State. If my Honourable friend wishes to press the matter I will certainly take the necessary steps.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Why should you have gone to the Council of State first?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Let it be "eight" instead of "ten".

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If it is so desired, I am prepared to take the necessary steps. The figure "eight" may be substituted for "five".

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 Department of War Transport is concerned, other than those within the purview of the Standing Committee for Roads, during the year 1945-46"

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I move:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, one person from among their number to sit on the Central Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India."

I might explain that this Association receives a certain amount of grant-in-aid from Central Revenues. It has a Memorandum of Association and a body of rules and regulations and the rules provide for the constitution of the Central Committee and for a Member of the Assembly being elected by this House to represent it on that Committee.

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

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, one person from among their number to sit on the Central Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India."

I think there is an amendment by Mr. Deshmukh.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): I do not wish to move the amendment.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): My Honourable friend, the Secretary of the Department of Education, Health and Lands, has pointed out that this Association receives financial assistance from the Government of India. In view of that fact, may I enquire what are the functions of this Association? Is it one of the functions of this Association to recommend financial assistance to the Tuberculosis centres which exist in different parts of the country? In this morning's papers I read that the Government of India have refused assistance to the Tuberculosis centre working under the Municipality of Delhi. My question is this: Has the Tuberculosis Association recommended any assistance to this body? I should like also to know whether this Tuberculosis Association supervises the work which is done in the different Tuberculosis centres in the country.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): As far as I know the function of this Committee is for Members to go and sit in Viceregal Lodge. No work is entrusted to any member. I happened to be a member of this Committee on one occasion but the Committee entrusts no work to any particular individual. I therefore think that it is no use for this House sending a Member to this Committee just to sit at Viceregal Lodge and do nothing else.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): I rise to oppose this motion and let me make it quite clear that my opposition is an opposition on principle of the Legislature being represented on voluntary organisations. I have nothing against this particular Association at all. It may be doing very good work. What I feel, Sir, is that the Legislature should not accept representation on these organisations. The Legislature is a supreme governing organisation in this country and it is not consistent with the dignity of the Legislature that it should allow itself to be treated as one of the ten organisations which may be represented on this Tuberculosis Association or any other voluntary organisation in which the Legislature is asked to send its representatives.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: But the Government financially assists this organisation.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I proceed? My Honourable friend, the Leader of the Nationalist Party, says that we give financial assistance to this organisation. Therefore we should be represented on it. This is not the only voluntary organisation to which we give financial assistance. We may be giving monetary aid to hundreds of voluntary organisations and we do not either accept representation on the committees of those organisations or are we offered a representation on those bodies. I think, Sir, that the Legislature lowers its dignity and lowers its position by accepting a sort of representation on these voluntary organisations. There is a social service league in Delhi. Tomorrow they will say that the Legislature should send a representative. The social service league may be receiving Rs. 500 grant. Are we going to be represented on the Committee of the Social Service League? This is a matter of principle. I do not like that the Legislature should allow itself to be lowered by being treated as one of the hundred voluntary organisations in this country.

There is another point. Even when we do send representatives to such organisations, we do not get a report from those representatives.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I tell you that they do nothing.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: One of our representatives who was on that Committee says they do nothing. I feel that this method of representation of the Legislature on voluntary organisations is unsatisfactory. If the Legislature wants to exercise its control over the voluntary organisations to whom we pay contributions that is a different question to be dealt with separately. We have our officers who have a responsibility. We should ask for reports from them. We should ask these organisations to submit reports to the Legislature but that the Legislature should be treated in this way is wrong. It lowers its prestige and its representation is nominal. I know that there are Members who would like to be on some of these Associations because some high personages are connected with them. But let us not consider the case from that aspect. Let us consider whether we shall accept representation on any other voluntary organisation if it asked us to send a representative. A high personage may be connected with the Tuberculosis Association and we may consider it an honour to be on the Committee of that Association. Shall we accept a representation from a humbler organisation to send our representative? I feel this is an unsatisfactory thing; the Legislature lowers its dignity and the method of representation is an unsatisfactory method. I therefore oppose this motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is an amendment in the name of Mr. Deshmukh.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I am not moving it.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): I do not want to go into the broad principle mentioned by Mr. Joshi and I do not want, on this issue, that this point should be taken, because it involves a very

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

big principle and a very big issue. The question here is about tuberculosis, one of the things which have been attracting the attention of the whole country. The whole of India is concerned in this and we are taking great interest that this evil should be eradicated from this country and all possible steps should be taken to see that this evil is minimised as much as possible; and when we have been taking interest in it, I think our representative must be on this Association to see with his own eyes how much these people are working. These associations expect a kind of inspiration from the Members who go from this legislature; and if the members do not take any interest, it is no use blaming the association; the fault does not lie there; the Association at least is composed of people who understand their work, and if our representatives go there they will only act as a check and see the work of others there. Certainly if our experts, those who do know something about it, go there, they will take more active interest in the matter than those who do not know this work at all. If some medical practitioner who has got the ability and activity to understand and take proper action goes there, his suggestions will not be ignored; and I think Members of this House will be a great asset to associations like these. I have found that Members have exercised good influence on different associations, and their presence has been greatly appreciated by the associations.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Men like Dr. Deshmukh, for instance.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Certainly, he will be a great asset; if a person like Dr. Deshmukh can spare time for this, his personality will be such that he will command respect.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural):—What about Dr. Dalal here?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I do not want to go into personalities; it is very difficult to talk about personalities; but I think we should send people who take an active interest in this, and I do not think that this House will be any loser. On the contrary the country will be the gainer by sending our representatives on this association.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Sir, on the general question that has been raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi, I should hesitate to express any opinion; but I should like to inform this Honourable House that the provision in the Articles of Association for representation of the Central Legislature has existed since the association was founded.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: It is very kind on the part of the Association to say that the Legislature shall be represented.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: For some years we did not come to the Legislature and ask them to elect a representative, for we felt that as no money was given from central funds to the Association, this Honourable House might entertain rather the feeling that my Honourable friend has expressed, that it had no particular interest in the matter. But for the past few years we have been giving a grant-in-aid—noted grant—from this House; and my own feeling is—and I am glad that I have the support of Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan—that where money is being voted by this House to an Association of this kind, and where the Association has invited this House to be represented on it, and to watch its work and if necessary to inform the House what the work is, we should take advantage in this House of that offer. I hope therefore that this House will be of the opinion that we should not spurn the offer of the Association to have a representative on its Central Committee.

As regards the duties of the Central Committee, I should explain that the Central Committee is a body of about twenty people who may be found fairly readily in the Delhi area; but it has also representatives of all the provincial and state Associations, and I believe it only meets once or twice a year; a good deal of work is done by two sub-committees, but they do have at least one annual meeting and they publish an annual report. As regards Dr. Banerjee's question whether they have any hand in recommending particular institutions for support I do not think that the Central Committee handles that matter.

It is a matter, I think, between the provincial committees and their respective Provincial Governments, and the particular case that Dr. Banerjee has mentioned, will not, I think, have been reviewed by the Central Committee at all. I do not think it goes into matters affecting, shall I say, the centrally administered areas any more than it goes into matters of detail affecting Bengal or some Indian State. I hope that the House will accept my motion and elect a member to this useful body.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, one person from among their number to sit on the Central Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have also to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following Committees, namely:

	Date for nomination.	Date for election
(1) Standing Committee for the Department of War Transport	26th March	2nd April
(2) Central Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India	26th March	3rd April

The nominations for both the Committees will be received in the Notice Office upto 12 Noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose. The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon of 21st March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the External Affairs Department, eight nominations were received. As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, Major Nawab Sir Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu, Sir F. E. James, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan and Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal to be duly elected.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have further to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon of 20th March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Planning and Development fourteen nominations were received. Subsequently four members withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava, Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni, Seth Sunder Lal Daga, Sir Henry Richardson, Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury and Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon to be duly elected.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Assembly will now resume discussion of the Finance Bill. I think Mr. Hooseinbhoj Lalljee is in possession of the House.

I would remind the House that last evening the Members agreed that there should be a time limit today for all speeches; that is to say, no speech shall exceed thirty minutes. I hope this arrangement will be carried out.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I assure you that I would not take more than a few minutes. I am very much obliged to the Honourable the President for giving me this opportunity to speak on behalf of eight districts comprising 18 lakhs of poor Muslims. Yesterday I was mentioning some of the monopolies that were existing in the country to which I drew attention of the Commerce Member.

I will only draw the attention of the Honourable the Food Member to the monopolies that are existing, not for the purchases for the civilian population but for the purchase of military supplies which have been going on for years. Times have changed and as a great business man at the head of the Department he will kindly see that these monopolies do not exist and that people of all castes and communities and specially business men are given a chance to offer their services and to tender for them. In fact it is found that the army requires many things, such as ghee for Indian soldiers and often these people holding monopolies have not been able to give them the requirements which they want. So much so far as the Food Department is concerned.

So far as the Agricultural Department is concerned, I only request that agricultural implements and manures may be provided. I am sure, Sir, that the Honourable the Supply Member has now been exerting himself and I hope that the Agricultural Member will be able to give some implements for agriculturists, for my province as well.

Then the next thing that I want to point out is with regard to the ordering of machinery and other things. The system has been that the recommendations come either from the Food Department or the Supply Department or the Commerce Department and then they are referred to the Planning Department. It would be much better and easier and fair to all if these applications are in the first instance sent to the Planning Department and they should get the opinions if necessary of these Departments, and then dispose of them. The applications have been hanging fire for 3 to 6 months or more and now particularly those who were not, in the business have taken to the business and there is no need to keep up monopolies and it is further necessary in the interest of the country that all applications should be disposed of quickly.

Then, Sir, I do not understand why there is discrimination being made with regard to the employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department by granting extension to superannuated persons, and so far as the dearness allowance and cheap grain shops are concerned, as against the employees of the Railway Department. The Posts and Telegraphs Department are also making huge profits.

So far as the Bombay housing problem is concerned, I entirely agree with all the remarks that have fallen from Sir Cowasjee Jehangir and I would only add that so far as the poor people are concerned their position is also very very precarious. So far as the city is concerned, I do hope that the Defence Department and other Departments will now release some of the houses for the permanent citizens of Bombay; the health department of Bombay has also pointed this out.

Then, Sir, out of the War risks amount of nearly 36 crores of rupees, I do not know why the Honourable the Commerce Member whose department has very well managed it allowed a portion of it, 10 crores, to be given for Bombay explosion. It is a well known fact that so far as this explosion is concerned, the Government of India or the people of India are not responsible for it. In fact the ammunition was brought in an American steamer and was meant for operational uses beyond India. It was a type of ammunition which was intended to be used beyond the frontiers of India and I say, Sir, that in all fairness it is due to the people of Bombay and of India that fair and adequate compensation should be given to people. A great number of people have lost their lives and property, for no fault of theirs. It was the War Department which wanted to bring the ships into the harbour Docks which was against all rules and against the safety of the people and city.

With regard to the war risks amount of Rs. 36 crores, I do appeal to the Honourable the Commerce Member that this fund may be kept up for some time. Really, what is needed in India is a Lloyd Company by many of the insurance companies as in England with a large reserve fund. We should not force the Indian companies to go out and re-insure. Fortunately the Government of India have collected 32 crores of rupees and I hope that the Honourable the Commerce Member will look into it, and more so to make this country independent of re-insurance business.

Finally I would make an appeal to the Leader of the House. We are thankful to Government for having appointed committees for all Departments. It is also essential that there should be frequent Sessions of the Assembly, even if they be short Sessions. Since the war is coming to an end, great developments are taking place and it is only fair and right that Members should ask Government to provide for short and frequent Sessions, especially because my friends on the other side are attending the House in full force.

Finally, Sir, I would say a few words about the Honourable the Finance Member. I must say that from my contact with him for the last 20 days I have found him a sincere gentleman. When we know how the Treasury Benches are working these days, I think this gentleman has done his best for this country and he has tried to do all within his power to see that the financial position of India remains as stable as possible in the circumstances.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): I am in a little difficulty being in charge of two very important departments affecting economic controls of commodities, trade and business that I have to give my replies within a short time, but I shall try to condense my remarks in reply to the numerous points which the Honourable Members have raised in the course of the debate which I have very carefully either heard or read. If I do not reply to some of the points, it is not because I am not prepared to do so but because the time at my disposal is very short.

Sir F. E. James referred to the Government Grocery Shops both in the Centre and in the Provinces. While I am not prepared to admit everything that he has said, I am proposing to have this question immediately examined after the Session. But I do hope that Honourable Members will realise that we have a duty to a vast number of Government servants distributed all over India who have to work under war conditions, under conditions of great stress and difficulties, without holidays and also long hours and it does happen that in spite of their best efforts they cannot find time to go out for their own purchases within the usual shopping hours. Any way I am going to have this question re-examined.

Mr. Ayyangar said that we are sending a person in the industrial mission against whom there was a conviction. Let me say categorically that he is not going along with the deputation of industrialists.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan and a few others referred to the difficulties of the Moslem Community in getting cloth for burying the dead bodies. I am deeply distressed at this. I am looking into this question and I am trying to take immediate steps to see that some supply arrangements are made for this purpose at least in important cities and places where there might be some organisation or other.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): What about the kafan?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is what I am referring to. Mr. Lalljee referred to the racketing which has been going on in the insurance world today. Let me say here and now that we are taking prompt steps to check this and to make it impossible. We cannot allow the insurance business to become the chess-board of speculators and I can assure this House that we shall soon take adequate steps to check this and if there is anybody who is still in pursuit of this game, he will soon find that he has burnt all his fingers.

Sir, my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, among others referred to the need of textile research and he suggested a small Committee to

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consider the foundation of a large scale and well planned institute. This scheme has my fullest sympathy. It is because I consider the great value of researches in industrial life of any country that immediately after my assumption of office, I took steps to appoint a Committee under the presidency of Sir Shanmukham Chetty to recommend measures that may be necessary for a proper organisation and co-ordination of researches as between Government research institutions and industrial bodies. Sir, the House is well aware of the fact that it was at our instance that the Honourable the Finance Member was able to provide in his budget last year a sum of a crore of rupees for the establishment of a few national laboratories. What sometimes makes me wonder is as to why measures like these should always be left to the initiative and responsibilities of Government, even when industries are well organised and earn a good profit. Why have not such industries, like other countries in the world, tried their best themselves to organise such institutions. I am sure the reason was that men like my Honourable friend have always looked more, in the past, to profit and dividend gained than to the interest of the country or the interest and welfare of the industry as a whole. I am glad to say that it is only recently and after we have decided to impose a cess on textile export with a view, among others, to develop textile research, that this has been realised, and I heard only last week that a substantial sum of a few lakhs has been contributed by some textile organisation for the purpose of starting an institute like this. This was the report from Ahmedabad. I am glad to see that people are now coming forward to support this work.

Sir, my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar again complained as to why we have not got information before us for the purpose of planning or for the purpose of measuring and estimating the development of industries in this country. Sir, all I can say is that in 1943, we made special efforts for the purpose. We issued a circular letter on 26th October, we placed a questionnaire before the Trade and Industry Policy Committee of the Reconstruction Committee. We tried to get information, as much as we can, we asked not only for facts and figures, most of which are unobtainable from statistical publications and official sources, but we called for information for future re-orientation of industries. We asked for the co-operation of the industries, we pleaded for the closest association of industries, we assured them that the information will be treated confidential, we issued a press note, we circularised a questionnaire to the industries, but I very much regret to say that the response was very very meagre. Now, it does not lie in the mouth of any industrialist today to say as to why we have not got the information at our disposal when I took all the steps that we did in this matter. Well, Sir, this is now within the portfolio shall be very happy if he is in a better position than myself to get materials from the industries. But it is not the fault of ours. We tried our best, but we could not succeed.

As regards the Industrial Statistical Act, we already addressed the Provincial Governments, but we have just found out that the Act is defective, and yet we have taken all possible steps, and we hope that within the next few months we will be able to begin our work of collection of proper data for this purpose.

I have been asked as to what we have done for Indian Seamen. Soon after my arrival in London in April 1942, as the High Commissioner for India, I received various representations about the inadequacy of wages of Indian seamen and the conditions of accommodation in the United Kingdom ports. After visiting a number of places in the United Kingdom, I took up the question of accommodation, amenities and other requirements of Indian seamen in various ports in United Kingdom. Within a few months, a magnificent hostel was constructed at Birkenhead and thereafter hostels, welfare centres, clubs, etc., were also established at other places in the United Kingdom, at the instance of shipping companies.

I also took up the question of wages of Indian seamen at London. After a few months discussion with various persons and authorities and later after my discussion at a conference with Lord Leathers, Minister of War Transport, Mr. Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labour and Mr. Amery, Secretary of State for India, I sent a memorandum to the Government of India in December 1942. In fact one of the reasons why I decided to return for a few months to India in March 1943, was to take up this question further at this end. Anyway as Commerce Member it has been my privilege to deal with this question here, but I had to meet with a number of difficulties. The Indian seamen draw their wages from shipping companies and to have the demands of the seamen properly adjusted to what the shipping companies were prepared to agree was a most difficult matter. The wages of Indian seamen had also to be considered in relation to the general wage structure of this country. This involved long drawn discussions and took much longer time than my original anticipations.

I am glad to say that in December last an increase in the wages of Indian seamen was announced by the shipowners with twelve months retrospective effect. This increase and specially the retrospective effect have been welcomed by Indian seamen throughout India. I pay my tribute to Mr. Amery who right from the time I brought up this question before him in June 1942, till this question was finally settled in December 1944, took special interest in the cause of Indian seamen, nor should I forget here to express my gratitude to Lord Leathers who took a keen interest to have the wages of Indian seamen suitably fixed. Mr. Bevin has all along taken most active interest in improving the amenities and welfare of Indian seamen. And, here the shipping companies have to be specially thanked for their ungrudging support. They will have to pay for all increases and I should take this opportunity to specially thank them for this increase of the wages of Indian seamen. I cannot speak too highly of the efforts of the Calcutta Liners conference for all that they did in this connection. Representing as they did the shipping companies in United Kingdom, the ultimate decision must largely be due to the views of their agents in this country and to their firm support.

Sir, to understand the effect of the present increase in terms of money, I may quote certain figures. An average Indian seaman of the lowest rank received about Rs. 22 to Rs. 25 before the present war. He will now be getting five times that amount. Instead of Rs. 22 he will be getting Rs. 110 and instead of Rs. 25 he will be getting Rs. 125. A man who was getting Rs. 33 before the war, will now receive Rs. 165. But any one whose pre-war wages were higher than Rs. 33 per mensem will, under the present increase, receive an additional increase of Rs. 66 plus 200 per cent. increase which he was getting just before the increase. Before the present increase, every one was drawing three times the pre-war wages; a seaman who was drawing Rs. 50 before the war was drawing Rs. 150. With the new increase he will be drawing Rs. 216. A ceiling of the present additional increase has been fixed at Rs. 66. The shipping companies have also agreed to give retrospective effect for one year to the present increase. Any seaman who was in service after the 31st December 1943 will get the benefit of the new increase. In order that every seaman may also be able to save a part of his money and learn thrift, half of the additional increase will be funded to his credit as post-war credit. A man who will be getting Rs. 125 as his wages under the new scale will actually be drawing Rs. 100 in cash with Rs. 25 as post-war credit. I have tried to calculate all these in terms of the different categories of seamen. A carpenter in the pre-war period received Rs. 120; before the present increase he was getting Rs. 360 and with the present increase he will get Rs. 426. Before the war a cook used to get Rs. 70; before the present increase he was drawing Rs. 210. Now he will be getting Rs. 276. A serang in the pre-war period used to receive Rs. 60; before the present increase he was getting Rs. 180 and now he will draw Rs. 246. A seacunny was getting Rs. 55 before the war, he was getting Rs. 165 before this increase and now he will get Rs. 231. A pantryman and a second cook were getting Rs. 40 each before the war; each of them was getting Rs. 120 before this increase and will get Rs. 186 now. The first tindal was getting Rs. 37 and

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his pre-war wage. Before the present increase he was getting Rs. 111 and at present he will draw Rs. 177. Others who were getting between Rs. 22 and Rs. 33 were getting three times that amount before the increase and will now get five times his pre-war wages. In other words, there will hardly be anybody who will not be drawing Rs. 125 or so. Taking the pre-war wages of Indian seamen as the basic or standard, their present basic wages are double their pre-war wages. The total emoluments are five times subject to a ceiling of 200 per cent. increase plus Rs. 66.

We have also taken steps to provide better amenities and comforts for seamen in this country. Two Amenities officers for Indian seamen have already been appointed, one is posted at Calcutta and the other at Bombay. A strong welfare committee composed of officials and non-officials has been established at each of these ports; other ports have not been neglected. The jurisdiction of the Amenities officer at Bombay has been extended to cover all ports on the west coast and that of the Calcutta officer to all ports on the east coast including Chittagong.

Better arrangements for clubs, institutions, canteens, etc., have been provided and Indian seamen are now allowed facilities of the Indian Troops Amenities Shop and Canteen in Calcutta; special arrangements have also been made for the issue of free cinema tickets to them, a club has been started with radio sets, gramophones and facilities for games; food and refreshment are also available at concessional rates. Sailors homes are being provided. Clinics for treatment of venereal diseases have been provided. Funds have been placed at the disposal of Principal Port officers to provide relief to distressed and shipwrecked seamen on arrival at these ports. We have made arrangements for amenities of Indian seamen in U. K., United States, South Africa, Ceylon and Australia and a Welfare Officer for Indian seamen has recently been appointed at New York. Three Welfare officers are working in the United Kingdom ports. A similar officer has just been appointed for Australia and the question of other ports is now under active investigation. We have just created a welfare directorate in the Commerce Department with a Director who will be responsible for planning and development of these amenities throughout India; and two Deputy Directors, one of whom will concern himself with British and Allied seamen and the other with Indian seamen, are being immediately appointed.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Why this distinction? Cannot the same person do it?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, it is not possible, because if my Honourable friend will examine the habits of life of these two categories he will find that they have their own methods.

Apart from this there are other important problems, namely, unemployment, Medical examination in ports, training, care of disabled and injured men, pensions and compensation paid to dependents of deceased seaman with a view to see that they are regularly paid and timely provided for. The care of children is also another matter we are looking into. The question of sickness insurance, old age pension, National Maritime Board, are matters which are being immediately taken up in a separate section of the Commerce Department within the next few weeks. I am sure Honourable Members of the House will therefore realise that we are doing our level best for these seamen, and we propose very soon to have a pamphlet ready showing the valour and the services of the Indian seamen in this war. Theirs is a heroic record and India as a whole can well be proud of the seamen who have kept the life-lines of the Commonwealth open, bringing services and supplies and played a noble part in the war. They have lost their lives, they have shown their valour and heroism; they have suffered the utmost privations in the present day sea life. And in the steps we have taken and propose to take I am anxious that in the years to come their services should not be forgotten, and we are taking all

these steps to do only a little which can tangibly express our gratitude for their achievements and valour.

I have now to say a few things about the cloth position. Let me say at once that I never said anywhere in my speech or statement that I do not realise the difficult conditions in the country, at least in some of the places. Under our present scheme we hope that the distributive system will be in proper working order within the course of a month or so; but for the time being we are immediately placing in charge of looking after the whole distribution question one senior officer for the eastern zone and one for the north-eastern zone. Our difficulty is that we do not know how this distribution problem is being tackled; and in order that there may be contact with the provinces we are immediately appointing an officer. But here again the real problem is to get the suitable personnel. I may assure the House that we have already taken steps to rush in emergency supplies to Bengal, and we propose to take such steps wherever we find there will be need and necessity for it. I hope it will also be realised that there were tremendous difficulties which the Government of Bengal had to face in the last two years. Following the food famine they are now in the midst of a difficult distribution problem. I have my utmost sympathy with them in their efforts and I am trying my best to help them as much as I can in order that the distribution system may be perfected. I have seen a statement this morning made by the Honourable Minister of Civil Supplies Bengal at a press conference. I have no intention candidly to be drawn into a fruitless controversy at a time when the situation demands that all our efforts should be directed to remedying the defects. I do not want, therefore, just at this stage to open out any controversy as between central and provincial responsibility, when our only objective should be to ensure supplies for those who have to pay the penalty of all mistakes and mishandlings, whether by the Centre or by the Provinces. I am just now, therefore, reviewing the whole situation and within the next few days I hope to inform the House as to our decisions. For myself I am quite clear on one point and that is that the provinces and States should be entirely free to arrange their own distributive machinery, to make arrangements for equitable distribution within their areas and to take steps for conserving their supplies. I am also trying to devise a method of isolating all those factors which impinge on civilian consumption, such as Red Cross, hospitals, army shops, etc. I am also proposing to isolate the special needs of cloth required for burial and funeral purpose.

Sir, as regards the question of standard cloth we made a scheme to supply 2,000 million yards annually, and it was on the basis of indents that we were to supply. Unfortunately the actual position was that though we made a scheme to supply 2,000 million yards per annum, I do not think in 18 months we received orders from the provinces for more than 900 million yards. Our scheme is entirely dependent upon the factor that this standard cloth will be able to tone the prices and check the maldistribution, but somehow or other the provinces did not indent. As I said, if I had the time I would have been able to explain all the details; but I claim that it is the very success of the standard cloth, success of reduction of the price, that is responsible for bringing the present defect in the distribution organisation. When we reduced the prices of the fine cloth there was very little difference between the prices of the standard and the fine; and human nature being what it is, every one was anxious to get more fine with large purchasing power in the country. And we found that there was so much demand for it that the provinces also did not indent for standard cloth. But, as I say, even today I am doing my best to send as many thousands of bales as possible to Bengal of standard cloth which we have got, otherwise the other varieties. But our policy has been and will be that so long as even one province wants standard cloth we shall continue the policy, in spite of the fact that continuous pressure has been exercised upon us by the industry to stop the scheme and revert to ordinary cloth or fine

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cloth, whatever you may call it. We have considered this very carefully. We feel that this scheme must continue as a stabilising factor and steadying factor, not only in the supply but also the price structure of cloth.

Sir, I am very sorry that I have to rush through these things within the time at my disposal, but there are one or two matters which I should like to refer to. Here I might say that we have tried our best to increase production of cloth and we have succeeded in doing it. We could do more, but we have to remember that coal is a limited factor and we cannot get as much coal as we can consume. The result is that our production has to go slow; and having regard to the fact that the all-India coal position is equally difficult, we have to make an adjustment and do the best we can.

Arguments have been made that for agricultural implements iron and steel have not been supplied. This is not a fact. About 7,000 tons was given for this purpose in the third quarter of 1944 and 13,000 tons in the fourth quarter. In the first quarter of 1945 we propose to give 25,000 tons and in the second quarter we propose to give 32,000 tons. In the third quarter we hope to give about 40,000 tons of iron and steel for the purpose of making agricultural implements.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What percentage of the total needs of the country does that meet?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I said, I am quite prepared to reply to all these points, but for the time being I have to rush on. I may say here that this supply is in addition to the supply for organised manufactures like the Agric Department of Tata's or Messrs. Kirloskars or Cooper's Engineering.

Sir, as regards the question of electric bulbs, that typically represents the difficulty of what we have to face. Sir Vithal Chandavarkar raised this question of electric bulbs, and I think he has helped me by at least showing the difficulties under which we have to work today. We are importing a certain number of electric bulbs from outside; I think the number is about 8 to 9 million bulbs. The total production for the whole of India is about 8 to 9 million bulbs. We are trying to get the maximum possible of this quantity which is available. The total consumption need for India is about 16 to 18 million bulbs, which my Honourable friend has admitted; and my Honourable friend still says that I am hurting the industry by importing it, when he knows that the railways are without electricity, that the municipalities are without electric lights and every household is without electric bulbs. My Honourable friend wants that I, in charge of the Industries and Commerce Department, should stay my hands and depend upon 9 million bulbs and allow the people to suffer.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): This is nothing but misrepresentation.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The Honourable Member did it and I am trying to rectify it.

He has said exactly the same thing about cycles. Has my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar tried to find out how many hundreds of cycles are being used nowadays when the offices close here, and what is the demand or cycles? Though the production capacity of India is 70 to 80 thousand cycles we have never succeeded in getting more than 30 thousand. I do not blame the manufacturers. We are trying to help them; we are trying to get materials for them from abroad. But the fact remains that we cannot get more than 30,000 from local production. Does my Honourable friend want me to import no more cycles for the people who have to put up in Karol Bagh and come to attend their office in New Delhi, for people who have to come many miles to their places of work—factories and mills? Is that what my Honourable friend wants me to do? I feel that I have not only to look to the industry, but to the interests of the people at large. So long as I am here I take

a firm stand that so long as I do not in any way affect the industrial development of the country. I feel that it is in the interest of the country that I should import these commodities.

With regard to fine cloth, what is the complaint that my Honourable friend has made. We are importing only 20 million yards of cloth and 5 million pounds of yarn when people are not getting enough to cover their dead bodies, and here my Honourable friend comes and seriously suggests that I should not import these twenty-million yards of fine cloth.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: I never said that; I only said that we were not consulted as stated by the Honourable Member.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: What is the meaning of consultation?

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Honourable Member's statement is wrong.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I say, is it my duty or of every Member of the Executive Council to consult my Honourable friend in each and every matter? I have to do my duty; where is the fault in importing twenty million yards of fine cloth? I feel that by importing 20 million yards of fine cloth and another 5 million pounds of yarn—and not only 5 million pound, but as much as we are able to get—I will be doing a great service to the cottage workers and poor workers in this country, and I do hope that we will succeed in our efforts.

Sir, I do not think I have much time at my disposal—I am sorry that I had to rush you—but I will only say that in the matter of export trade we are trying our best to see that the export market is retained as much as possible. But some times, I am puzzled—I can tell you frankly that I am puzzled when I am given advice and I am criticized. My Honourable friend, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, said the other day, "Look here, why not take off your export control?" Perfectly good and sound. Free traders would welcome it, but people who are now depending on the inflationary price to get as much profit as they can will immediately collect together everything that we have—textiles, sugar, etc.—and smuggle out to the Middle East countries.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Do you want to encourage them?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sometimes it is difficult to find out who is who.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is the policy of the Government.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am carefully watching the situation. I admit that everything which we are exporting can be utilized within this country, but you have to look to future interests; we have to keep ourselves in touch with these export markets. For instance, we want a very large amount of African cotton. Quite a number of our first class mills in India cannot go on without the African cotton. That being so, am I to say to those countries, 'Give us this and give us that, but when you need something from India we will not give you'. Is that the attitude which can reasonably be taken by this Government? It is a question of international understanding and compromise, and in that I can assure my Honourable friend that we are doing our best. The moment I know that the interests of Indian industries are being affected by any of our rules, we shall modify the rules. We have helped the established traders, we are helping the evacuee firms, and we are trying to bring in new enterprise in the business. But very often it is difficult for me to find out what exactly is the wrong which we are doing. I deny the charge that our efforts have in any way resulted in or that we have done anything to make any distinction between Indians and Europeans, or that we have in any way favoured the Europeans. I say it frankly—and I say it openly—that it is our duty to help Indians in every possible way; we must help the Indian industry, Indian trade, and everything Indian. Certainly, standing here, as I do, I cannot allow myself to be a party to anything which adversely affects the interests of Indians.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why don't you encourage handspinning?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Put a question later on.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Then, Sir, as regards imports, I have made the position quite clear. Sir, in the midst of this Budget Session, as soon as the Assembly hours were over, we have been discussing for days—we, the Member for Planning and Development, Finance Member, Supply Member and myself—we have scrutinized every item of the list of consumer goods which we are now importing, and I can assure the House that we will not be a party to import anything which we know is going to affect the Indian industries in any way. I may declare it here and now that if there is any item in that list which affects the Indian industry in any way, I shall be quite prepared to have it reconsidered again and revise the list. Nothing is sacrosanct in life. We are dealing with exigencies, with evils of the hour, but when the hours are in our firm command, I can assure you that I will not be behind in placing my best at the service of my country's industrial development.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Why are you importing goods secretly?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If I had done it secretly, then I would not have wasted half an hour of this House to explain and to give a reply today.

I agree that in our control measures we have a most difficult task to do. We cannot claim cent. per cent. perfection. No human institution can do it. But at the same time it is not desirable that economic factors should be judged by political considerations. You cannot discuss this from political angles.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What are the political considerations?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The political angle is that you don't agree with me if you don't like me.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: It is economic angle, not political angle.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, on every step during the last two years I have tried to place the materials at the disposal of the people. In connection with the U.K.C.C., in regard to which there was a complaint, I went out of my way to discuss the matter with the representatives of the Indian Chamber. All the materials with regard to the U.K.C.C. was placed at their disposal and my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, knows it; I have not kept anything secret. If there is anything wrong, I am open to conviction.

In our economic control, we have had many frictions and difficulties; delays are there, and sometimes vagaries also in the administration. We have to suffer—but we are trying our best—but the difficulty in this matter is this: That in any scheme of distribution of short supply commodities, every one thinks for himself and no one else—that has been our trouble. The individual forgets that in five-hundred-thousand cases that there may be, he constitutes one. But if he is not satisfied and if he does not get paper, or if he does not get newsprint, or if he does not get a film, or if he does not a medicine, then the whole system is wrong and the Government is rotten. My trouble is to deal with individual cases. But here I appeal to the Members of this House that with your co-operation I am prepared to go into individual cases of abuse, wherever they may be,—and I will go into those cases very carefully—if anything is brought to my notice.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: We want you to see to the general questions.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I can say that in general questions I am safe on my ground.

Sir, I will finish in one minute. Sir, I shall ask in conclusion if it is my fault that I am not a part of the National Government. It is not my fault. But I can assure you that we are doing our best. At least we have proved to the world that our countrymen are fully competent to rise up to the height of an emergency and deal with the greatest and most gigantic economic problems in the midst of this world war and we have shown it once again that we have done it successfully. We are doing all

that, so that those who will come after us may not find the country economically unsound, weak and helpless and an unfortunate victim of post-war competition. If in spite of all this we are told what we do not deserve I shall be glad to surrender, my place. But for the time being, today and tomorrow, when I am here, I am happy if I know in my conscience that I have done my duty.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, out of a vast variety of topics which can be discussed in the course of a Finance Bill debate, I have, on the present occasion, chosen a subject which always occupies an uppermost place in the thoughts of Muslims and every year for three or four months entirely engrosses their thoughts. I mean the Haj policy of the Government of India. I had the good fortune to participate in the last Haj and have thus had an occasion to add to my knowledge of the conditions which prevail, the arrangements that are necessary, the grievances which the pilgrims have and the requirements of this sacred journey. When on account of war conditions and the dangers which beset a voyage to the Hedjaz, Government proclaimed its inability in 1942 and again in 1943 to allow and arrange sailings from India to the Hedjaz, there was great excitement amongst the Muslims all over India; and the numerous protest meetings, resolutions representations and other steps taken by the Muslims to induce Government to make arrangements for Haj sailings, as well as the resolution on that subject unanimously passed in this House in 1943 by all the non-official parties are matters of recent history and do not stand in need of being referred to in detail. After keeping the Haj sailings suspended for two years, Government did the right thing in connection with the Haj pilgrimage of 1944 by making the necessary arrangements for the sailing of Indian pilgrims to the Hedjaz. The very first announcement that the sea route for the Hedjaz would be opened and sailing arrangements would be made not only eased the tense situation which had existed for over two years but actually created feelings of gratitude towards the Government and particularly towards the Honourable Member in charge of the Commonwealth Relations Department, who had promised to do his best in the matter and had been as good as his word. But when it came to the actual carrying out of the good intentions of Government, certain things happened to mar the good effect of the wise step. The very first thing in this connection was the compulsory realization of Saudi dues and conveyance charges from pilgrims before a steamer ticket was issued to them. The pilgrims objected most strongly to this innovation but the demand was made at a stage when there was no time to take any effective steps to resist the demand and willy-nilly the pilgrims had to pay. This was not all. The conveyance charges and Saudi dues had been enhanced. We were told that the increase was 25 per cent. On top of all, the dues were to be paid in *rials* and the value of *rials* in terms of rupees and annas was overstated. It was said that a *rial* was worth Rs. 1/11. This was wrong and the true position was brought to the notice of the Government of India in very good time. In addition to objections voiced in the press, Mr. Guzdar, Chairman of the Port Haj Committee at Karachi, then Home Member of the Government of Sind, sent a detailed representation to the Government of India pointing out and proving that the demand in terms of rupees was excessive. But the Government sent a reply to Mr. Guzdar to the effect that they were powerless in the matter and would approach His Majesty's Government to get the difference adjusted later on. When the Honourable Dr. Khare was asked certain questions about this matter in this House he had to admit that if the excess was about seven annas per *rial* then as much as Rs. 7 lakhs had been realized from the Indian pilgrims in excess of the amount due and that is a matter, Sir, which is not of small moment. It is very interesting to note that in answer both to our objection to prepayment in India of conveyance charges and Saudi dues and to the over-charge on the basis of a *rial* being considered equivalent to Rs. 1/11, the Government of India replied that other Muslim countries had accepted the system of prepayment as well as the rate of exchange. We have no information, authentic or otherwise, as to what the other Muslim countries have agreed to.

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nor do we feel bound to follow their example, nor again do we know the reasons which may have led those countries to consent to this arrangement or to the overcharge. They may have agreed to what in their peculiar circumstances suits their interest and there is no reason why we should follow them blindly. The feeling in India is, I may say, Sir, that the Government of India has to obey directions or hints conveyed to it by His Majesty's Government and that the latter are anxious to please the Saudi Government and submit to all exactions of that Government. The matter is perfectly simple. The Saudi Government can realize its dues from the pilgrims when they land at Jeddah or at any other place in its territory. Conveyance charges can also be paid by the pilgrims in Arabia. Why should the Government of India act as the tax collector of the Saudi Government, collect these amounts for that Government at bloated exchange rates which cannot fail to be discovered and get the odium of acting as a broker in an unconscionable bargain? In the Hedjaz we found that a one-rupee note fetched anything from 16 to 19 *qursh* (one *rial* being equivalent to 22 *qursh*) and that on an average a *rial* is not worth more than Rs. 1/4. The Government of India certainly charged seven annas in every *rial* in excess of its true exchange value. The Government of India could easily keep its hands clean by following the established practice which all long has been that the dues of the Government of Arabia, whether Turkish, Sharifian or Saudi, have always been paid by the pilgrims after landing in Arabia. I must here sound a clear note of warning. On many occasions Government has created the impression that it is in its heart of hearts hostile to the institution of Haj and being unable to prohibit it wants to make it as difficult as possible by putting obstacles in its way. The controversies which raged round the question of Kamaran quarantine, Kamaran dues, Jeddah conservancy dues, photos on pilgrim passes, and return tickets for ships showed in what light the Muslim public regarded these measures and it was very often said that Government really wanted to impose taxes on the performance of a religious and pious duty which could not be justifiable. The peremptory insistence on prepayment in India of charges which normally and invariably used to be paid in Arabia after landing there, has revived that impression and the extortionate rate of exchange has further deepened that impression. There is yet time for the Government of India to make amends, as regards the rate of exchange at least, by arranging to refund the overcharge. For the future the Government of India must abstain from acting as the *muhassil chaprassi* of the Saudi Arabian Government.

One unfortunate slip of the Government pen led to great consternation throughout Muslim India. I have called it a slip of the pen only euphemistically. If I may be allowed to coin a phrase, it was a slip of the brain, as will presently appear. A press communique issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department on the 7th October, 1944, contained among other things the announcement that transport for a visit to Medina was not available, that it would not therefore be possible for pilgrims to visit Medina except on foot. Before I had read this announcement in *Dawn* I received an excited express telegram from an intending fellow pilgrim saying that a visit to Medina was essential and asking whether the Haj should not be postponed under the circumstances. I replied by express telegram that postponement was unthinkable and that we must hope for the best. Next morning I received a letter enclosing a cutting from *Dawn* and pointedly inviting attention to the situation created by this announcement. Later on when I went to Karachi and gauged the pilgrims' feelings on the subject I sent the Commonwealth Relations Department a telegram and wrote to the Honourable Dr. Khare a letter on the subject. In this letter I explained the conception of a visit to Medina as an important part of the Haj, which could be dispensed with only under exceptionally compelling circumstances. The same day I wired to the Saudi Government pointing out how the alleged lack of transport in Hedjaz for a visit to Medina had grieved the Mussalmans of India and requesting that arrangements may be made and sent a copy of this

telegram to the Honourable Dr. Khare. The Finance Minister of Saudi Arabia promptly wired back to say that there was no lack of transport and I wired the text of this reply to the Commonwealth Relations Department. I got no reply to my telegrams and letter and we sailed in a state of doubt and suspense on the point. From Kamaran I sent wireless messages on this subject to Dr. Khare and His Excellency the Viceroy requesting that orders be communicated to me through the Indian Vice Consul, Jeddah. No reply was received on arrival at Jeddah or anywhere else in the Hedjaz throughout our sojourn in the Hedjaz. It was not till I had landed at Karachi that I got through the Port Haj Committee, Karachi, a small slip dated the 2nd November, 1944 from the Superintendent, Commonwealth Relations Department. This purported to be a copy by post of a telegram sent to me at Karachi and said that Jeddah Minister had been addressed in the matter. The telegram of which this slip purported to be a copy never reached me. After landing at Jeddah we discovered that there was neither lack of transport for a visit to Medina nor any disposition on the part of the Saudi Arabian authorities to in any way stand in the way of a visit to Medina. In fact the Finance Minister of Saudi Arabia challenged any one to prove that his Government had intimated such lack of transport to the British Minister or any other authority. To many a visitor the British Minister, a very pleasant and courteous gentleman, whom I also had the pleasure of meeting, freely said, "That piece of information was given by mistake. I was away to Cairo. The boys in my office got panicky and informed the Government of India to that effect". Of course all the intending visitors to Medina got cars, buses or camels according to their need and choice. So that the excitement caused by this short passage in the communicative of the Commonwealth Relations Department was due to the slip of the panicky boys' brain. The moral of the tale is that Government have got to be very cautious about publishing information of this kind or basing its announcements on information received even from apparently authoritative sources.

In this connection, Sir, I have to add one thing more and then I have done. The sailing arrangements made on this occasion were excellent and left hardly anything to be desired but the arrangements for feeding the pilgrims on the ships were not uniformly good. I sailed on *S.S. Khusro* on my outward voyage and I found the food arrangements on that steamer to be quite good. I was the Amir-ul-Haj on that steamer and had to deal with this matter. I was all along in touch with the pilgrims and received very few complaints indeed. Some of the complaints were such that I could easily explain them to the persons who made the complaints and all pilgrims were, generally speaking, quite satisfied with the food arrangements.

In my return voyage I sailed on *S.S. Akbar* and I found that the food arrangements on that steamer were just the reverse of what they had been on *S.S. Khusro*. Of course the shipping company was the same, the Moghul Line. The food arrangements purported to have been made by the company itself. There was no contractor or caterer employed and all the persons in charge of preparing and distributing the food were employees of the Moghul Company. But the difference was so startling that I could not understand what had happened. On the very first day I found that though I was a first class passenger, the food which was served to us was third rate. Well, I gave that arrangement 24 hours' trial, and finding it unsatisfactory, in fact unbearable, I gave up that arrangement, and ordered my food from the European catering and gave that arrangement a longer trial, but after three or four days, I P. M. continued to do so till the end of my voyage back to Karachi. Others many of them had to come to the English dining table and had to give up that so-called first class food. Food for deck class was equally bad, in fact on the very first night I detected the case of a man who had been seized with cholera. Happily he did not succumb to the disease, but he had quite a number of motions and also vomited several times. When I asked him the reason why he had

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that complaint, he said the rice which was served to him had not been completely cooked. This and other complaints were brought to the notice of the Captain who, I know, tried his best to remedy the defects but it turned out that the *atta*, rice and other things which had been purchased were bad. Nobody could understand why they were bad, but perhaps the explanation is that the purchase had been made from old stocks which had been lying in some Government controlled shop without any examination. Actually in the prepared loaves there were worms. I call the attention of the Government of India to all this so that they may see that complaints of this kind do not recur on pilgrim ships and pilgrims do not suffer. Obviously, while on the steamer, they have no other source from which they can feed themselves, they have no provisions with them, they have no utensils, there is no bazaar where they can go and buy their food. There is only one arrangement—and it is a compulsory arrangement—for feeding on the steamer, and it should therefore be such as to give them food which is at least fit for human consumption. These are the only points which I have to bring to the notice of the Government.

One point I forgot, and my Honourable friend Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan reminds me of it. The shipping companies are compelled by law to have a doctor on every steamer, and sometimes they just contrive to get a doctor who is not a doctor at all. The doctor on *S.S. Khushro*, during my outward voyage was a superannuated individual who had no energy left in him, and who did not like to move down to the hatches to examine patients, whose cases were reported to him. He had no sympathy—as far as I could judge, and as far as my fellow passengers were able to judge—with the suffering pilgrims, and in my report as Amir-ul-Haj I put down a very strong note against him. I said that a man of the type of this man should not be employed on pilgrim steamers. I just restrained myself from suggesting that, if at all, he should be put on a troop ship so that if lives of soldier patients are lost, he may be held responsible for their loss, because nobody cares for the lives of civilians travelling as Haj pilgrims. Actually several deaths took place, and some of them appeared to be due to his negligence.

In conclusion, Sir, I oppose the Finance Bill.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): Mr. President, my Honourable friend who just now resumed his seat, was referring to the hardships of Haj pilgrims, and it was desirable that the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations who took such an aggressive attitude in the House the other day should have been present in his seat. It is a pity indeed that while such important matters in which so many people are so vitally interested, matters dealing with the welfare of pilgrims who have to perform a long and arduous sea-voyage in response to the call of the faith, are being discussed, the Member of the Government of India in charge should be absent from the House. This attitude has been very much pronounced in this Session. I can say, Sir, that barring the Leader of the House and the Honourable the Law Member, and some times the Finance Member, the other Members have been very often absent when their Departments were being discussed. The Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations and the Honourable Member for Commerce and Industry were speaking of the difficulties which they had to face. I know, Sir, they will face difficulties, they will cheerfully face public criticism, they will even face jeering by the people of this country, they may even face defeat after defeat with equanimity on the floor of this House, and, if the necessity arises, I hope, Sir, they will even go before a firing squad, but there is one thing which the Members of the Government of India will not face, *viz.*, the people of this country. They are mortally afraid of them. They are never prepared to face their own countrymen.

Sir, I will frankly state that I have not read the Finance Bill which the Honourable the Finance Member has presented to this House for the year

1945-46, nor have I any desire to read any other Bill which will be presented this House by a Member of the irresponsible Government which we now have this country. Sir, I hope that this is the last Finance Bill which will be so presented. The only thing which I saw about the Finance Bill—I could not avoid seeing it—was the head-lines in the morning paper. I did not try to read the contents of it. This is my attitude towards the Finance Bill which the Honourable the Finance Member has presented, and this is going to be my attitude towards all other measures which are brought up by the other side of the House. Sir, I hope that this will be the last Finance Bill which this Honourable House will be called upon to throw out, and I hope and trust that goodwill and good sense will dawn upon those who are running the Government of India and their masters at Whitehall in Great Britain, and that before the next financial year comes we will have a Government in this country which will be responsible to the people of this country. It is high time, Sir, that this farce of an irresponsible and irremovable executive were brought to an end. Here we have a Government set up by people who trot about the world as the champions of freedom and democracy, but who have set up the Central Legislative Assembly here which out of 140 members 39 are nominated. I think perhaps people outside this country have no idea of the type of constitution which we have been ending and the type of Government which we have had to work with all these years. It is a pity, Sir, that Hitler of Germany and Tojo of Japan did not come to that school of politics where such a system as we have in India evolved. They could have with equal justification set up similar Governments in Burma, Malaya States and all other islands in the south-east of Asia which have been over-run by Japan or in the countries which were over-run by Germany in the continent of Europe.

The Honourable Member for External Affairs was upset when he was reminded that this Government is a subordinate agency of the British Government in England; and he asked us on this side of the House to get rid of that notion. This is the type of Government with which we have to work. Day after day defeats have been administered to this Government and to the Treasury Benches—sometimes twice or three times every day; and yet what do we see? The position of the Government of India reminds me of something which I used to see when I used to go out for my morning walks in any frontier station. In our part of the country we have, even in normal peace time cantonments where soldiers are taught how to practise with the bayonet; and it is common sight in any of these frontier cantonments to see dummies stuffed with sand or clay or straw, hung up from poles. Recruits are taught bayonet practice and the art of using bayonets on these dummies. The successive defeats which have been inflicted on this Government of India are exactly like the bayonet thrusts of soldiers practising in the cantonments on the north-west of India; the bayonet has pierced the heart of this Government many a time but what do we find? We find that there is absolutely no life in it; we have found that it is just straw, lifeless clay or perhaps sand. We do not want a Government of the type we now have; we want a Government that will have a heart, that is pulsating with life, a heart which will respond to the desires of the four hundred million people who inhabit this country.

It is a very strange thing—it is not perhaps just a chance coincidence—we are inclined to see a certain amount of design behind this. The Government of India and the Governor General in Council have nominated a delegation to represent this country at the World Security Conference which is going to have its sittings, we are told, from the 25th April 1945. Is it not very strange that a matter of this magnitude involving the destinies of this country, and not only our destinies but the future shape of things in the whole world, that such an important matter should not be discussed in the House? Why should the Government not allow this House to debate and to register its opinion about the action of the Government on such an important measure as the sending of a delegation to San Francisco? What do we find? We find that the Council of State

[Mr. Abdul Qaiyum.]—it so happened—was allowed to debate this matter. I am told that in the Council of State the voting was 16 to 26; and I am told—speaking subject to correction—there may be a mistake of one or two—that all those who voted against the Resolution were nominated Members of the Government of India and probably the news, was flashed out that the House of Lords or upper chamber in India had approved of the composition and sending of the delegation by the Government of India to San Francisco. Why do you not bring this matter up before this House? Why do you plead lack of time. Bring this matter before the House. Consult us and find out at least what we, on this side, who represent the people of this country, think of this action of yours. I say therefore that there is something of a design behind it, and I demand from the Leader of the House that before this Session comes to a close, a special day should be set apart so that we on this side of the House can discuss this very important matter, namely, the sending of a delegation to San Francisco.

An Honourable Member: He dares not!

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: And if he is not going to do so, I would like him to explain the reasons for this attitude which the Government of India have taken up.

Now, I wish to draw the attention of this Honourable House to certain observations which fell from the lips of the very much external Secretary for the External Affairs Department of this country. He does not belong to this country. He stated in the other House—he was nominated just for one day there to go to that House and to state certain things which were probably flashed across to the different corners of the world—this is what Sir Olaf Caroe stated—I am quoting these extracts from a newspaper—“He wished there were responsible Government here also”. I want to know what he and his countrymen have done to translate that wish of his into action. At every step and at every turn they have taken advantage of some of the differences which exist in this country and have tried and have seen to it that a Government responsible to the people of this country was not set up in this country. He proceeded to say he was amazed why the other side of the House should demand that non-official opinion should be associated with this delegation which was being sent out to San Francisco; and talking of the Opposition he said:

“The opposition party should not be allowed to say—we had nothing to do with the Government of India but we wish to represent India on the international stage.”

Now, has anybody tried to find out why we do not have anything to do with the Government of India? There was another gentleman, either an official or a non-official, who stated his name was Mr. M. N. Dalal:

“Were the leaders of the opposition prepared to go as a delegation with a brief from the present constitutional government?”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member ought to bear in mind that any debate that goes on in the other place should not be repeated here. But if there is any announcement of policy made there by Government, that is another matter.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I bow to your ruling; and I will confine myself to what is strictly relevant. We were not allowed to debate this matter in this House; but I think I am in order in referring to Sir Olaf Caroe's announcement on policy.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not know what the Honourable Member means when he says he was not allowed to debate this matter. If he is referring to the adjournment motion, that is another matter altogether; that was my responsibility and I disallowed it. I understand in the Council of State it was by means of a private resolution that this matter was debated.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: But Sir Olaf Caroe made an announcement of policy.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is a different thing.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I am referring to that. Perhaps the Member for External Affairs wanted to know whether the opposition would like to have a brief

from the present Government of India. It shows the sort of mental make-up in which the present Members of the Government of India have developed. Why should we have a brief from you? Who are you, may I know? Why should not this Government be dislodged? Why should we not have a Government which will be responsible to this House, which will be responsible to the people of this country? Why should we take a brief from a Government which consists of people who are not better than permanent paid officials of His Majesty's Government in New Delhi? Their position is no better than permanent paid officials: they are there at the sweet will of their masters and not because they represent anybody in this country.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How has this Caroe come here?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: That is another mystery for which we will have to find a solution. It is a fact that the San Francisco conference will arrive at decisions which will have a great effect on the course of events in this world—that is obvious from a reference made by Mr. Anthony Eden, the British Foreign Secretary. Speaking at Glasgow, he said—and these words are very important—

“There can be no freedom in the world unless smaller states can be joined with great powers in the protection of their common interests.”

May I know from the British Foreign Secretary—who was responsible for creating the small states on the continent of Europe after the first world war of 1914-18? The smaller states were set up because it suited British policy then—states like Estonia, Czechoslovakia and others were set up because it suited British policy; and now perhaps it does not suit British policy to have smaller states. But the words are very very important and full of meaning. He says: “There can be no freedom in the world unless smaller states can be joined with the greater powers”. This means that we are back again to the age of power politics, when we have properly speaking three big states in the world—Russia led by Stalin, America under Roosevelt, and Great Britain under Churchill—and all the smaller and weaker states even though physically large will have to choose between one or the other of these three states, if they wish to survive even physically in this world. There is no question of freedom at all.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Will they live for ever, these three men?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: If they do not, there will be others to take their place.

Then there is one other subject about which I wish to speak, and that is the attitude of the Anglo-Saxon races towards the coloured people of the world. And here, Sir, I can say without fear of contradiction that the attitude of the British self-governing dominions and colonies and also of the United States of America is one and the same. What has happened to the Immigration law which came up before the Immigration Committee of the House of Representatives in the United States of America. This Immigration Bill was seeking to secure the rights of citizenship to a few thousand Indians who happen to live in the United States of America and at the utmost to enable about 100 Indians to enter the United States of America every year under the quota system. It is really strange that while the Chinese are allowed to enter the United States of America the people of India should be shut out. This shows the typical attitude of racial arrogance and of race hatred which is at the back of the policies which are working in the United States of America and in the self-governing dominions which have been set up all over the world by Great Britain. I will here quote some of the words of Representative Leonard Allen who was responsible for the postponement of the Bill. His words are very interesting. He said “Our Immigration law says that we would not permit Asiatics to come into the country. I want to stand by that law”. He added: “China is our ally and an independent nation. India is not independent and the political situation there is very unsettled”. It is really news to me that the political situation in India is more unsettled than the political situation in China. We know what terrible differences exist in China. We know of the acute difference of opinion which still divides the Kuomintang and the

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Communist parties in China, who have independent armies of their own and have been fighting among themselves. India is being denied this right because India, it is stated, is not a free country. Let us hope that India will be free some day and that India will have the strength to retaliate and hit hard and drive some sense into these arrogant nations which are actuated by racial prejudice and which discriminate between man and man.

Then, Sir, I come to British imperialism and here I will come nearer home. I will take the House to about a few miles away from here—Okhla—where people go out for fishing. I am told that there is such a thing as the Delhi Anglers' Association, the membership of which is about 20, out of which 18 are European and about 2 are Indians. It may be that these people are rendering some service to that association. The other Indians have not yet been in practice allowed to become members of Delhi Anglers Association. And I should like to be contradicted by some spokesman on behalf of the Government—Government have a way of contradicting everything. But we know to our cost how the laws of racial discrimination work in practice, though on the statute book it may appear that there is no racial discrimination of any kind. I am told that certain portions of the river Jumna—not the river Thames or the Mississippi or any of those rivers which flow in those countries where people are actuated by racial pride—certain portions of the river Jumna have been earmarked for the members of this Association who are mainly Europeans and that even in the matter of parking cars there are two parks. The inner park is reserved for the members of the predominantly European Association and the outer park is the place where Indians are allowed on sufferance to park their cars. This is what is happening right under our eyes in the capital of India—India which has been promised equality and freedom and a national Government as soon as the war comes to an end.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): I am answering a question about the Okhla business later in the week but my information is that the Anglers' Association is not predominantly European.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: I have taken a lot of pains to find out the facts. I was told that out of 20 persons who are members, 18 are Europeans and there are only two Indians one of whom happens to be the Secretary or some petty employee. What do we find on the question of race hatred in other parts of the British Empire? What is the plight of the Indians in East Africa? We know how our nations are being treated in South Africa. I was told by an army officer, who had fought side by side with the British in liberating the Italian colonies in East Africa, about the type of treatment which was meted out to them. Two big cities—I forget the names—were liberated in Italian East Africa and I was told that so much was the tender regard of the British for their enemies, the Italians, that the Italian portions of the town were declared out of bounds to Indians. Indians were not allowed to go there. These were the Indians who had fought for them and shed their blood for them and who, according to their own admission were mainly responsible for the defeat of Italy in North and East Africa. What happened in North Africa in the Colony of Tripolitania and Cyrenaica. I have been told that even after this colony was liberated racial discrimination still prevails there. Yet, these are the people who say that they are fighting for freedom and self-determination. The Arab is still looked upon as an enemy and the defeated Italian, who was an enemy and who actually fought against the British, is given preferential treatment as against the Arab who was sympathetic to the cause of the Allies. I want to state here and now that if the British Empire is ever going to pieces, it will founder on the rock of racial arrogance in which these people are steeped through and through at present. I am not bothered about the dollar pool. I am not worrying about what you do to my sterling balances. I do not care how you dump your consumer goods into this country. I do not care how you manipulate our currency and exchange. I do not care how you rob my country but I do feel that in my own country I should be treated as an equal and as a human being. Let me repeat that the people of this country

are not going to tolerate any more the European racial arrogance in this country. It is this rock on which the British Empire will go to pieces. I warn you to mend your ways and to mend your manners before there is a mass upsurge in this country, before the flood or the deluge comes in which all of you will be washed away out of this country.

One thing more I should like to touch briefly. Those are the remarks made by the Honourable the Home Member, Sir Francis Mudie. I know that his speech was couched in a much more conciliatory tone. I am glad that he did not talk as Sir Olaf Caroe did, who had the effrontery to say the other day that he was going to continue bombing the Pathans into submission. I wish to remind Sir Olaf Caroe that he and his ancestors have been trying to annihilate the Pathan race. Many Olaf Caroes will come and go away but the Pathans will live and live honourably as they have done. Has he forgotten the days when our kinsmen across the border in Afghanistan completely annihilated a British invading force in Afghanistan? Only one man, Dr. Brydon survived to tell the tale of Pathan heroism when they liberated their country from the British yoke. The same spirit is at work in the Frontier province and all over the borderland. If you don't desist from this nefarious and dirty work of bombing, I can assure you there will be trouble for you. A member of the Government of India had the audacity to say that he will continue bombing the Pathans. This is the gentleman who has served that province, and may do so again in future. There will be nothing but trouble in the Frontier if officers of the mentality of Sir Olaf Caroe are placed in charge of the destinies of the North-West Frontier Province. This is a danger signal. I warn all those who have the destinies of this country in their hands and who are at present responsible for the administration of this country, that when we wrest power from their hands we shall see to it that these dangerous ideas are given the decent burial which they deserve.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can 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. Abdul Qaiyum: Mr. Deputy President, when the House adjourned for Lunch, the point which I was going next to deal with was the question of subvention to N. W. F. P., and something about the administration of the tribal area. From the year 1932, a sum of one crore per annum is being given as a subvention to N. W. F. P., and it is as a result of this subvention that the provincial administration is able to carry on. In the year 1936, to be more exact, on 6th April 1936, Sir Otto Niemeyer in his award discussing the question of subvention for N. W. F. P. stated that—

"after examining the past and prospective budgetary position of the Province, my recommendation is that the existing subsidy of one crore should be supplemented by approximately ten lakhs per annum, in so far as the assistance may take the form of subvention under section 142, it should be fixed for a period of five years after which it should be subject to revision in the light of the then existing circumstances".

I may add that Sir Otto Niemeyer suggested that the first subvention should be a sum of 110 lakhs. Now, what has been done in actual practice is this. Only a sum of one crore is being given as subvention to the Frontier Province. Two attempts were made by the Minister of Finance in the last Ministry to obtain a higher subvention for N. W. F. P. The situation there is bad indeed; because of shortage of money, the Provincial Government has not been able to raise the pay of teachers who are receiving pre-war wages with the result that 6,000 of the teachers are on strike and the Provincial Government is powerless to sanction the much needed increase in spite of the fact that the cost of living has gone up to about three or four times the pre-war level. I am sorry that the Government of India has turned down the suggestion made by the Provincial Government for increase in subvention. The

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plea advanced probably was that there was not enough money with the Central Government. But I wish to remind the House that even now as a result of artificial division of that area into two portions, namely the Province proper and the tribal area, the Government of India is keeping control of the tribal belt in its own hands which is being administered through the External Affairs Department. I do not know how many people are aware that vast sums are being spent every year on the administration of the tribal area. In the latest estimates, we find that the amount required in the year ending 31st March 1946 for the tribal area is Rs. 3,04,33,000. Now, Sir, most of this sum is spent not on beneficent activities, namely education, development of agriculture, providing of employment, and development of cottage industries, but it is being mostly spent on what is known as the Frontier Watch and Ward,—constabulary and militia, South Waziristan scouts, Chitral State scouts, levies, khassadars, Kurruin militia, Tochi scouts, Baluchistan levies and Zhob militia, Mekran levy corps. In the latest estimates you will find such items as entertainment charges, the actuals of which for the year 1943-44 amounted to the tune of Rs. 4,64,269.

An Honourable Member: What are these entertainment charges? Who is entertained?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: It is not described here. We only know that entertainments take place at our expense. All these sums are non-voted grants. Now, Sir, the expenditure for the tribal areas,—the budget estimates amounted to Rs. 2,63,52,000 for 1944-45. That is much more than what is being spent on the province proper, which is a properly administered area. The revised estimates for 1944-45 show that actuals of Rs. 3,26,30,000 have been spent. That is something like an addition of 53 to 54 lakhs in the expenditure of that area. I am surprised that if the Honourable the Finance Member can find an additional fifty lakhs for expenses in the tribal area, why was he so very stiff in the attitude which he took up when the Minister for Finance of N. W. F. P. paid two visits to New Delhi in the last two or three months to secure a revision of the subvention. The situation there is very bad indeed and I am really surprised why the Frontier Area should be cut up into two artificial units. Our people have always pleaded, and I plead on the floor of this House that it is a wrong thing to keep the tribal areas and the Province separate. The sooner these two areas are amalgamated, there is sure to be a saving of a substantial sum. Why do you keep the tribal areas in the unsympathetic hands of the External Affairs Department? Why don't you hand them over to the responsible Provincial Ministry which consists of people belonging to the same race, speaking the same language, people who are in a much better position to appreciate the difficulties and to understand the situation in that unfortunate tract. You are not going to get over the problem by bombing them. In this connection, I wish to inform the House that the first Member who was sent to this Assembly from N. W. F. P., the late Sir Abdul Qaiyum in his speeches described the two areas, the province proper and the tribal areas, as the two wings of one and the same eagle. Why do you keep them in two strictly water tight compartments, why so much money is being wasted? I do plead that these two areas should be at once brought under the same administration and that the control of the Political Department which has not succeeded in solving the frontier problem should be brought to a speedy conclusion. I would even go so far as to say that there is absolutely no point in having three administrations in these frontier areas. You have a responsible Government functioning in N. W. F. P., you have tribal areas administered by the External Affairs Department of the Government of India, the activities of which are all shrouded in mystery. Then you have the province of Baluchistan where the people are not even allowed to have an elected Municipal Committee or a District Board. Why do you have a Chief Commissioner in Baluchistan and a Governor in N. W. F. P., and a Resident for the Tribal Areas with all the paraphernalia of attendant officers and clerks—so much of duplication. Money which should have been spent for development

of the country is wasted. After all the development of the country is of much greater consequence. If you want peace and order in those areas, it will not be by recruiting more people to the Frontier Watch and Ward, but giving these people the education which they need, starting cottage industries in those areas and trying to improve the economic conditions of these people. Sir, it is a scandal indeed that in spite of the fact that there is a paucity of funds and that subvention for N. W. F. P. cannot be increased, the Government of India should have three full fledged administrations functioning in a country which is after all one natural unit. Therefore, Sir, I hope and trust that all these areas will be brought under one administration and that the benefit of responsible Government which now prevails in N. W. F. P. will be extended to these other areas also.

I have said all that I had to say. In conclusion I will say one thing more. Mr. Amery in the course of his speech the other day said that people should not expect that as a result of Lord Wavell's visit something dramatic is going to happen. Sir, I wish to assure Mr. Amery that we in this country know all about him and know much more than we should know or it is desirable for us to know. We have set no hopes that anything of consequence is going to follow as a result of Lord Wavell's visit. Probably the visit is connected more with the intensification of the campaign against Japan and the exploitation of the wealth of this country in a more intense manner. But I wish to give a warning to this Government. After all we are trying constitutional methods in this House, the constitutional method of inflicting defeats on Government. You have proved to us that this method is of no avail. But I have noticed a tendency in our new and rising generation that they do not possess the same faith in the doctrine of non-violence which our older generation did. And therein there is a warning for this Government. If you do not hand over the Government to the popular representatives of this country, I assure you that you will soon be face to face with a revolution in this country on a much larger scale than you had in 1942. Therefore it is your duty to strengthen our faith in democratic instructions by acting in a constitutional manner and by transferring power as soon as you possibly can to the people of this country.

Sir, I oppose the Finance Bill.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Sir, it is a habit with certain Members of this House to mistake me for my Honourable colleague who sits immediately in front of me. It is very flattering to me, no doubt, but I wish to make it clear that if I make a passing reference to a topic which has just been mentioned by the Deputy Leader of the Congress Group, I speak as Secretary of the Department of Education, Health and Lands and not as Sir Olaf Caroe. I am not here to defend in any way racial discrimination at Okhla or anywhere else. But as I intervened before Lunch to correct my Honourable friend on the question of the composition of a body called the Anglers' Association, I should like to let the House have the figures that have been supplied to me. The club consists of between 40 and 50 members of whom 10 or 12 only are Europeans; the rest being Indians. The President and Vice-President are Europeans, to judge by their names; the Secretary is an Indian.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Why is the Honourable Member unable to give the exact number?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Because I got information about this association in connection with a forthcoming Assembly question before the point was raised here today, and I have not been able to get more exact figures at short notice.

Sir, in my remarks this afternoon I propose to deal only with food production, both in its short-term aspect and in its long-term aspect, being provoked so to do by the speeches respectively of Mr. Hegde and Mr. Lawson. And I will start with the short-term aspect.

Speaking on Monday on this motion, the Honourable Member for West Coast and Nilgiris, Non-Muhammadan Rural—if I heard him aright—said that "the Grow More Food campaign has only been on paper: last year we were given figures to show that the country produced three million tons more food;

[Mr. J. D. Tyson.]

these figures are all false and did not relate to the real state of affairs". I am sorry that he should have said that we had supplied false figures. I hope I may assume that he does not charge my Department with deliberately misleading the House or the country. What evidence did Mr. Hegde produce of the falsity of the figures? All that I heard him say was that if they were true, the quantity of food in rationed areas in south-west India would have been raised from 12 ounces to one pound. In other words, because he did not see any increase in the amount of food available in his own constituency, he does not believe those who say that more food, and a great deal more food, has been produced in India than was produced before the war. Sir, south-west India has gone and is going through a bad time and we must make allowances for Mr. Hegde on that account when he jumps to conclusions about what is happening all over India from his experience of one corner. We had Sir Cowasjee Jehangir also expressing similar views on this subject with equal emphasis, but perhaps a little more politely, in the last Session. What I think my friends opposite and on my right allow themselves to forget is that as against peace-time when we could import wheat from Australia and rice from Burma in any amount that we required and could readily move it to any part of India when we had got it here, we have now no external source of supply for rice at all, we have a shipping bottle-neck as regards supplies of wheat and we have an over-loaded transport system to hamper the free movement of food within the country. With these handicaps we have to feed a larger military population than ever before and a steadily increasing civil population. If we had not grown more food, and a great deal more food, than was grown in India before the war and before we lost Burma as a source of supply, most of us would now be starving. I think it is generally admitted that while we are not yet out of the wood and we certainly cannot do without imports, we are better off than we were last year or the year before. As regards the availability of food in the country; and that is due to rationing, to imports and to the Grow More Food campaign. At the risk of provoking Mr. Hegde to further feats of incredulity, I reiterate the claim that in the eight principal cereals of India nearly two million tons more food than the average of the three immediately pre-war years was produced in 1942-43, and nearly 5½ million tons more than that normal figure was produced in 1943-44. It is too early yet to have figures for 1944-45, but the wheat acreage is up, and so far as rice goes, in which we had a record area of 79.9 million acres last year; we set out to try and beat it this year, and the indications are that we have beaten the figure of acreage, though I am bound to confess that the quality of the crop has not been so good as the record crop last year. An indication—I do not put it higher—that in fact the food position is easier this year than last year comes from an area next-door to Mr. Hegde's constituency, where I understand, in Travancore and Cochin, the cereal ration has been raised now from six ounces a day to one pound a day.

I pass now to Mr. Lawson. He was more concerned with the long-range problem, with the race between population and food supply. He pointed out that so far as the Grow More Food campaign depended for its success on the stimulus of unusually high prices for food crops and on the method mainly of increasing the area under food crops, as opposed to increasing the yield per acre, there was no guarantee that we could repeat our success—if Mr. Hegde will permit me to use that word—over a period of years. Population, he said, was increasing more rapidly than home-grown food production before the war; and he wanted to be assured that Government were alive to the existence of this problem and had plans for meeting what looks like a permanent process of "population increase" by an equally permanent and corresponding process of increasing food production. There is no question, Sir, as to the importance of the problem to which Mr. Lawson has drawn attention, and I hope I shall be able to satisfy him that we on this side recognise its existence and its importance and that we have plans to solve it.

There is just one important point to which I ought perhaps to refer and that is the obvious one that in peace time you can feed the population of India without necessarily producing all the food within the country. Before the war India was not self-sufficient even to the inadequate extent to which her people were fed. It will be for the Government of the future to decide whether, in the matter of foodstuffs which she can grow, India should make herself self-sufficient cent per cent. I mention this not with any idea of taking shelter behind such a possibility. I conceive it is our duty, after our experience of 1943 particularly, to plan now so that the future Government will be able, if it so desires, to work for cent per cent self-sufficiency in the elements of a proper diet for the whole population. In my opinion we must start working for that object right away, if only because, even on the basis of our present population it has been calculated that at least 30 per cent. of our population are habitually underfed in normal times. We have much lee-way to make up, even if our population were static. We have therefore been planning for the future with three main objectives in view: To end a situation in which one-third of our population are underfed; over and above that, to improve the quality of our diets so that the still greater number that are faultily fed should be enabled (and educated) to obtain a balanced diet; and, thirdly, we are planning to achieve both these objects, first for our population as it is and secondly for our population as it will be.

I think the answer to Mr. Lawson's inquiries about planning for the future, with our increasing population in view, will be found set out in this paper which I have in my hand—copies of it will be found in the Library of the House—"A Memorandum on the Development of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in India," by the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. And I should just like to quote about four lines which will be found on page 19, as to the possibility of making India self-sufficient even for a rising population:

"Those connected with farming can only point out that the scope for increasing its production in India is so great that it could provide food and other necessities on an adequate scale for a population which is 30 per cent. more than its present figure and that for this purpose the necessary goods, services and facilities should be made available both on the technical and on the economic side. An immediate all round increase of 15 per cent. in production will meet all urgent requirements, including those of a population increasing at the present rate of 1½ per cent. per year."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): What is the date of this Memorandum?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The 24th November, 1944.

Now, Sir, as Mr. Lawson has pointed out, we shall not do this simply by bringing more land under food crops. We may get new land under food crops as the result of large scale irrigation projects; because they may supply water to land which is by nature fertile but which at present cannot be cultivated for lack of water supply; we may get more land under food crops by the use of tractors for deep ploughing to get rid of those deep-rooted grasses which in some parts of India—Central India especially—prevent any cultivation at all. But it is quite clear that there are obvious limits to the increase of the area under food crops. We want more land for village forests, though very much. I hope that we shall get that from what is usually called "uncultivable waste". It may not be possible to utilise "uncultivable waste" for food crops, but if properly developed it will give us the small timber which the villager wants so badly for fuel and other village uses. But that is by the way. We want more land for the production of "protective foods" of one kind or another, and India's economy may require the placing of more land under cash crops too and the raw materials of industry. We ought to be producing, for our present population only, four times as much milk as we are producing at present. For that we may be able to improve the quality of our cattle, but there is no question that it also means more land under fodder, of one kind or another. We could do very well with half as much again of land under fodder crops and four or five times as much as is now under the crops that produce oilcake.

[Mr. J. D. Tyson.]

The Memorandum which I have already quoted shows how our food production can be stepped up by a great variety of methods designed to improve yield, and this was Mr. Lawson's point of view. First of all, undoubtedly, comes the supply of more water. Now, large scale irrigation is not the subject of my department but I think it is generally agreed that it is absolutely necessary to have more irrigation facilities by canals and other large-scale schemes, dams on rivers or across valleys, tube-wells, surface wells and tanks. Allied to irrigation is drainage, especially in areas like parts of the Province to which I myself belong and in waterlogged areas elsewhere. In East Bengal much can be done to facilitate the production of rice if you can get the water-level down early in the season and there is ample scope for improvement in the United Provinces and Punjab in their waterlogged areas. Then, again, bunding will conserve water in areas where rainfall is inadequate or precarious. Where water is available, probably the next most important thing is the supply of fertilizers—both organic and inorganic. The proposals in this Memorandum include the setting up of depots for fertilizers and also of course the setting up of seed stores for the selling of good seed with a high yield suitable to the locality where the store is. I have already alluded to the possibility of introducing tractors in certain areas to break up the land. Fungicides and insecticides have their part to play in preventing damage to crops. There are also great possibilities, I think, which have not yet been fully explored in India,—we have been trying to get some of the provinces interested—in growing root crops in certain places instead of grain crops—potatoes, for example, give 100 maunds per acre where a wheat crop could give only 10 maunds, and potatoes are a very useful food.

I am merely giving a list—I have not time to do more. The way in which, and the extent to which, these various lines of advance can be undertaken are set out in some detail in the Memorandum to which I have referred. That has been sent in an earlier edition, with the blessings of the Policy Committee on Agriculture, to Provinces and States for opinion and criticism and, if accepted, as a guide to their post-war development planning. Plans are in fact coming in which show the influence of this Memorandum—and that is quite natural as it was drafted by the Advisory Board of which all the provinces are represented. I must, however, emphasize that however well this planning may look on paper, we shall only get it translated into reality by "a long pull and a strong pull and a pull all together" by the Provinces and the Centre. I think we are getting the schemes all right: we now want performance and for this, as an essential preliminary, we all (Centre and Provinces) want trained staff. And one thing more,—and it is a very big and,—it will have to be made worth the cultivator's while to work his land more intensively and extensively. He must be assured of a market and of an attractive price.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is just the point.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I should like to conclude by showing how our admittedly transitional Grow More Food campaign will merge and is merging into post-war development on the general lines which I have already indicated. When we first inaugurated the Grow More Food campaign in 1942 it was primarily a stop-gap. We wanted to supply, in any way we could, and by any crops we could produce, the rice deficit caused by the loss of Burma. The Report of the Foodgrains Policy Committee in 1943 demonstrated that even the short-term problem was in fact greater than that. From the Budget of 1943-44 we have been financing Grow More Food schemes in Provinces with substantial grants and loans but planning was still on a year to year basis. Experience has shown that it is necessary to take a longer view and in May of last year it was decided to put Grow More Food planning on a three-year basis. This has helped planning in a number of ways—enabling schemes to be undertaken which could not be embarked on when planning was from year to year; facilitating the engagement and even the training of staff (one of our principal bottle-necks); rendering practicable large schemes for the multiplication of

better strains of seed and so on. We hope this planning on a three-year basis will also have another advantage—the gradual merging of the Grow More Food campaign into the wider planning for post-war agricultural development.

Looking through the schemes approved for financial assistance from the Centre during recent months I find that nearly all fall into one or the other of two categories: either they are for the production of "protective foods" such as schemes, already largely successful, to make India self-sufficient in the matter of vegetable seed, or schemes for stepping up the supply of fish in both inland and deep-sea waters, or schemes for the improvement of the milk supply. We have sanctioned a Rs. 3½ lakhs scheme to supply an important city with 150 to 300 maunds of milk daily, according to the season. Either they fall into that category or they are in support of projects of a permanent nature such as improved irrigation or the encouragement of compost making or green manuring practices or the production and distribution of improved seeds. The House is aware of a project, not handled by my Department, to set up a factory to produce 350,000 tons of ammonium sulphate in India: and the Hydari Mission—I mention it in this House almost with bated breath—is charged with obtaining equipment to enable us to start a deep-sea fishing industry on modern lines and also to import, if they can get them, tractors in numbers which run into four figures. And of course both we and the provinces are making a start with the training of staff. Big irrigation schemes are a long-term matter. It was made a matter of complaint, I think, by one speaker that the Tungabhadra project, just taken up would take eight years to complete. Eight years is not long for a project of that size and at the moment, of course, the difficulty in the way of taking up projects of that kind is one of materials and labour. But for what can be done in war time, in the matter of what we call "emergency irrigation", we, in the Department for which I speak, have helped to finance schemes under which at present 2,000 tube-wells and 20,000 surface wells are under construction; bunding operations on a large scale are in progress in Bombay and in a part of Bihar, and in two years we have made loans of almost half a crore and grants of well over a crore to provinces in support of emergency irrigation schemes and sums of Rs. 31 lakhs in loans and Rs. 38 lakhs in grants for land clearance and improvement.

These works are of importance from a long-term as well as from the short-term aspect. In many ways, therefore, I would claim that the Grow More Food campaign tends to merge into the long-range development planning about which Mr. Lawson and the rest of this House and we ourselves on this side are anxious.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I propose to deal primarily with the subject of racialism raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Abdul-Qaiyum. To my mind this subject is perhaps of most vital importance not only in India but in the international sphere. To my mind all your plans for post-war peace and reconstruction will inevitably be still-born if racialism continues to be practised as it is being practised today, or becomes more virulent as it shows signs of becoming more virulent in places like South Africa.

I have been provoked to place particular emphasis on a book which has been widely read. I refer to "Verdict on India" by Mr. Beverley Nichols. I feel that this book is a scurrilous and deliberately distorted vilification of India as a whole, inspired by smug racial arrogance and a false sense of racial superiority.

I want to make my position very clear to my friends of the Muslim League. There are references to them also but they will agree with me that these references are very rare. There are references of a decent character to some Indians and to some sections of the Indian people, and I may tell my friends of the Muslim League that I agree entirely with the encomiums paid to Mr. Jinnah. But I would ask them not to be misled by the tortuous and tawdry devices of Beverley Nichols. He has thought that by making a few decent and acceptable references to a few Indians, his libel—and that is what I consider it to be—against India as a whole will go unchallenged. That is what I want Indians

[Mr. Frank R. Anthony.]

of whatever community or whatever political complexion they happen to belong to, to realise, that throughout this book there is the strongest current of racial arrogance and contempt and condemnation of India generally as a country.

Now, Sir, I want to come to an analytical criticism of the Book. Let me say right from the beginning that I intend to take the buttons completely off the foils. Beverley Nichols has indulged in such unvarnished lies and in the language of the bargee that he has forfeited the right to ordinary criticism. A man who has sunk to such depths of distortion and fabrication would be impervious to ordinary criticism. And any impartial person reading this book will inevitably come to the conclusion, which I have come to, that Beverley Nichols is just another mental gutter-snipe: yes, Sir, just another mental gutter-snipe. No one will deny to him a certain capacity to write, but hundreds of unknown scribblers today have an equal capacity to write. Equally no one will deny to Beverley Nichols the fact that he has assumed the phonographic mantle of Katherine Mayo. To resort to false lurid phonographic writing in order to create controversy and in order also to create a mark has not originated with Beverley Nichols. He merely runs true to the tradition of every shallow and petty-fogging phonographer who indulges in meretricious writing on homo-sexuality, venereal disease and aphrodisiacs in order to secure a market with a certain type of people. I would have had no quarrel with Beverley Nichols if he had confined himself to these subjects of homo-sexuality, venereal disease and aphrodisiacs. I have no doubt that he would have written with some authority acquired either firsthand or secondhand on these subjects. But instead, what do we find? This peripatetic penny shovelling, muck-raking journalistic sewer rat has seen fit to libel—and here I would ask my Muslim friends to note that it is not merely a libel against the Hindus—to libel India generally, including the Anglo-Indian community which I have the honour to represent in this House.

Let me start with the cover page. No one, Sir, but an arrant ignoramus, after one year's tour of this vast country would have the effrontery to write a book and to give it the grandiose and pretentious title of a "Verdict". He has arrogated to himself the finality and depth of knowledge to deliver a judgment on this vast country and its 400 million people after touring the country for one year. No one, Sir, to use another phrase, but a unctuous nit would have had the arrogance to give this title to this book, which for sheer ignorance, for sheer deliberate lies and fabrication would put the most ignorant British Tommy who has spent a few years in this country to shame.

How does the book start? It starts with an amusing exhibition of the most peurile megalomania. We all know Mr. Horniman of the *Bombay Sentinel* and his tendency to humour. Horniman was provoked by Nichol's pretensions and airs into indulging in a leg-pull. And to everybody with a modicum of commonsense it was known to be a leg-pull. He referred to Beverly Nichols as a possible choice for the Viceroyalty of India. But this peurile megalomania did not see what everybody else saw that it was nothing else but a joke. Sir, Britain may have committed many follies but I do not think Britain would ever commit the folly of choosing an inconsequential and scurrilous scribbler to fill the testing and responsible post of the greatest Pro-Consul of her Empire. And yet we find Beverly Nichols so enter up with conceit that he takes this joke seriously and starts his book by declining this honour with mock modesty.

From the very beginning he has set out with unalterable—I cannot help feeling pre-conceived (I will not say inspired)—purpose of libelling Hinduism and Hindu leaders. I am not going to take up the cudgels on behalf of Hinduism or the Hindu leaders. I feel, Sir, that if the Hindu leaders are so disposed, they are more than capable of countering all the lies, falsehoods and vilification to which Beverley Nichols has resorted in order to suit his unworthy motives.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: They are beneath notice.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: We must show that even this contemptible book cannot go uncommmented upon.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): It has been dramatised in America recently.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I intend to deal in some detail with the section in which he has chosen to malign and libel the Anglo-Indian community. I am in a position to speak with authority and I intend to expose in the few minutes at my disposal the criminal ignorance and the deliberate lies which Mr. Nichols has indulged in in order to have a cheap and unjustified fling at this community. I did not expect any Britisher, from whichever stratum of society he may have been drawn, I did not expect any Britisher to sink to the squalid depths to which Mr. Nichols has sunk in order deliberately to malign a community to which Britain and her Empire owe an irrepayable debt.

I cannot refrain from blaming Government in this matter. Let me tell the Government that there is a very widespread feeling that this book has been officially or at least semi-officially inspired, 'that Beverley Nichols was given a priority passage out to India, that he was given all kinds of facilities which were arranged by official and semi-official agencies'. I do not know whether this is true or not, whether the book was inspired or not but let me say this.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Member for Information and Broadcasting): Sir, I categorically deny these allegations.

Mr. Sami Vencatachellam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): Sir, I am in an equally right position to repudiate what the Honourable the Leader of the House has said. I have known Mr. Beverley Nichols. He was in Madras for three or four months. He was chaperoned by one Capt. Harvey belonging to the National War Front, a department under the charge of my Honourable friend. I was one of those who was invited to his party and I returned the party to him, unfortunately, which I regret.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member aware that Mr. Nichols was piloted for sometime by Dr. Spears, who was the official whip of this House?

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): A child of your bones.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: There is this very widespread feeling that this book has been officially or semi-officially inspired. I accept what my friend, the Leader of the House, said, but I still blame the Government of India for allowing this libel against India generally, not only to be published but to be paraded and proclaimed, as it is being proclaimed today. The least the Government could have done was to expunge parts which are of a deliberately false and libellous character against my community, certain passages which are bitterly offensive to us.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: How was the paper required for the book obtained from the paper control authorities?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Beverley Nichols has pointed a finger at my community. He has attempted to do us serious and unmerited injury. If Nichols, instead of assuming the role of a deliberate vilifier, had taken the trouble to meet a few decent members of my community, he would have learnt something about the history of this community and instead of attempting to do us injury, he might have attempted to atone for the wrong that has been done us, he might have attempted to draw notice to the irrepayable debt which the Britisher owes to this small community. He has tried to point the finger at us by saying, "If you ask the pucca Saheb"—whoever he may be, I do not know where the pucca Saheb comes from—"you will find out what he thinks of the Anglo-Indian community". Let me tell Beverley Nichols, the pucca Saheb and all those who think and act as he does, that they have done the most terrible injury, an irreparable injury to the cause of Britain in this country. The so-called pucca Saheb, with his pretensions and airs, has brought the Britisher—who, in his own country, is perhaps the most decent European in the world—into derision and contempt in this country.

Let me tell Beverley Nichols and his pucca Sahebs what the real history of my community is. This history is unknown to the pucca Saheb and it is also not known to many of my friends sitting on the other side. At the beginning of the 19th Century this community, small though it was, was perhaps the wealthiest and the most influential community in India. And then you

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get another globe-trotter, of the variety of Nichols coming out, Lord Valentia, another person bent on doing injury and not knowing the terrible injury that he could do by airing false and ignorant ideas. Lord Valentia was sent out to report to the East India Company on conditions in India. Unaware of the traditions and achievements of my community this is what he reported:

"Their increase in India is beyond calculation and though possibly there may be nothing to fear from the sloth of the Hindus and the rapidly declining consequence of the Mussalmans, it may be justly apprehended that this tribe may hereafter become too powerful for control with numbers in their favour, with a close relationship to the natives and without an equal proportion of pusillanimity and indolence, what may not in future time be dreaded from them?"

That report which was inspired by ignorance and a baseless and unreasonable fear of my community, led to a policy of deliberate and the most terrible repression. We until 1806 filled the highest administrative and military appointments in this country. Overnight Anglo-Indians were discharged from the Army. Overnight the Anglo-Indian sons of British fathers were prevented from going to England for further studies. Overnight in future to be an Anglo-Indian was to be ear-marked for subordinate service. And yet Beverley Nichols, through his pucca Saheb, has the effrontery to point a finger at this community. We are today largely in subordinate services because we have been relegated there. We have been relegated there deliberately in pursuance of a policy to emasculate my community, and because of Lord Valentia's absurd fears. A much larger and less virile community than the Anglo-Indian community could never have survived this policy of repression which has been practised against us.

Nichols says that the Anglo-Indian resorts to any device or any ingenuity in order to cover up the fact that he is an Anglo-Indian. I do not deny that there are renegades from my community. But does he realise or is he aware of the fact that Anglo-Indians have been Governors of Provinces, Members of the Viceroy's Executive Councils, Surgeons-General to the King, Judges of High Court—I can name many of them—but they were only allowed to reach their position by becoming renegades from their community and by denying their parentage. If an Anglo-Indian had the courage of his conviction to declare the fact that he was an Anglo-Indian, he would never have been permitted to reach any position of eminence of trust and responsibility. Yet, Sir, in spite of the disabilities which would have crushed a much larger community, the pages of British Indian history scintillate with names of great soldiers and administrators from my community. If Beverley Nichols and his pucca Saheb would only take the trouble to know something of the real history of my community, they would realise how much has been done by us in the development of India, and of the notable part we have played in her history.

I cannot possibly in a few moments give anything of this history. But let me cite the names of a few of the brilliant sons of my community, who in spite of the fact that they were not renegades, achieved distinction. Who has not heard of Lieut.-Col. James Skinner, founder of the world famed Skinner's Horse which is today one of India's most famous regiments. General Van Courtland, another Anglo-Indian, founded the Harrianna Horse which, under another name, is one of India's famous regiments. Gardner, nephew of the first Lord Gardner, another Anglo-Indian, founded Gardner's Horse which is still a proud unit of India's Army. What happened in the last war? The outstanding achievements of our brilliant sons were usually shown as British achievements. Two of the earliest V. Cs. in the last war were awarded to members of my community, Flight Lieutenant Lief Robinson and Flight Lieutenant Warneford of the Royal Flying Corps, both of whom came from Bangalore. We find the same noisome and foul exhibition of this social and economic discrimination today. Only the other day I drew the attention of the Adjutant

General to the widespread complaints that his recruiting officers were deliberately encouraging renegadism. When Anglo-Indians went to enrol and described themselves as Anglo-Indians they were asked falsely to declare themselves as Europeans. Awards for gallantry won by Anglo-Indians are never announced as such. They are usually announced under the caption "India born pilot, etc." I can give you scores of names of Anglo-Indians who have won D. S. Os., D. F. Cs. and M. Cs., and who have been described in such a way that the credit is filched from my community. Let me give you the names of only a few: Dyson, the grandson of a former leader of my community, who has been awarded the D. S. O. and D. F. C. and Bar and still holds the record for the largest number of planes shot down in single aerial combat. Daniell who was first awarded the D. F. M. and then the D. F. C. Pilot Officer Parker of Moradabad and Flight Lieutenant Douglas of the Fleet Air Arm both of whom have been awarded the D. F. C. And so I could go on almost interminably. The military authorities are today encouraging this renegadism. I have raised my voice for two years against the gross and unwarranted discrimination which has been practised in paying differential emoluments to Indian Commissioned Officers and European King's Commissioned Officers. As a result of the differential emoluments, any one who has the courage of his conviction gets a much lower scale of pay as an Indian Commissioned Officer, while his renegade brother—and I can give you scores of instances—gets the higher emoluments as a European King's Commissioned Officer. And can you blame him? I blame more the system which places a premium on renegadism, lying and cheating. And, yet, Sir Beverley Nichols says that this community will do anything in order to deny its origin. It is this system of pernicious, social and economic discrimination which has developed this renegadism in some Anglo-Indians. Let Beverley Nichols and those who think like him, realise that this community has decided to stand shoulder to shoulder with the other communities of India. Never yet have I noticed the military authorities of their own accord, paying tribute, to the outstanding achievements of Anglo-Indians as Anglo-Indians. When the history of Burma is written after the war, if it be by a true historian, the part that my community, small though it, played in the evacuation of Burma will be one of the greatest epics of the epic world struggle.

And then, what is the part that has been played by the women of my community? One of the smallest, if not the smallest community, in this country, as I have repeatedly emphasized, we have done more for the war effort, our women have done more than all the women of all other communities in India put together. And yet, at a time like this when 80 per cent. of our manhood is serving in the different Defence Services, when our women are giving of their best, we find Englishmen being brought out to this country and propagating lies of the foulest and vilest character and attempting to do injury to this country to which the Britisher owes, as I have said, an irreparable debt. Sir, I am particularly and bitterly resentful because of the depths to which this gutter-snipe has gone introducing the women of my community. It is very easy to point a finger at the women of any community or any race, in time of war, particularly where these women have social freedom. I have too many good friends in England to point a finger of scorn which I can very easily do at the activities of British women today. Surely Beverley Nichols and his kind realise that war does upset standards and relaxes conventions. It is unfortunate, Sir, that, as I have said, Beverley Nichols did not meet a few decent members of my community. It has been truly said that like attracts like, and Beverley Nichols has had the misfortune to meet only the lowest stratum of people in this country. I would commend to him and to his pucca Sahebs the comments of people like Lord Linlithgow, Lord Lloyd and Lieut.-General Sir George MacMunn who have referred to my community as one of the smallest, but perhaps the most gallant community in India. What I cannot forgive him for is his parading of the most amazing ignorance and criminal lies about my community in regard to which he poses as an authority. He says, for instance, in one place, that the nurses of India are drawn from Anglo-Indians most of whom are Christians. This to me, the accredited leader of the Anglo-Indian community

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is a revelation indeed. And it has been left to this self-appointed oracle to discover this revelation to the world that most of the Anglo-Indians are Christians.

This is an amazing and incredible piece of ignorance. Up till now, I at least have not been aware of the fact that there were some Hindu and Muhammadan Anglo-Indians, as Beverley Nichols would have us believe. Again he says he met one Anglo-Indian nurse who had a British father and an Indian mother and from that he generalises against and condemns my whole community; he says that out of ten Anglo-Indians, nine have British fathers and Indian mothers. Let me tell him that in the whole of India out of our total number of 350,000 or 400,000 there are not 100 Anglo-Indians who have British fathers and Indian mothers. But this is typical of the lies and distortion and fabrication in which he has indulged in vilifying my community. In the few minutes left at my disposal, I want to disabuse Nichols and those who think like him of what the Anglo-Indian community consists of. Unfortunately for Nichols, I have been a post-graduate student of Anthropology and it is a subject in which I continue to take an intense interest, he says that the term Anglo-Indian is an euphemism for half-castes. Not only am I not ashamed of the term Anglo-Indian but I am proud of it. Let me tell him that legally it means any person of European descent in the male line and whose parents are habitually resident in this country. If a person happens to be the most blue blooded Englishman, but is born in India of parents habitually resident in India he is legally an Anglo-Indian. Let me in the few minutes at my disposal deal with this gibe of half-caste. As an anthropologist let me tell Nichols that he is not only a half-caste but a polygenetic—that he is the result of an age-long intermingling of the most divergent racial elements including Mongol and Negroid elements. In order to expose Nazi doctrines and false doctrines of race superiority and race purity, which Nichols is still parading, scientists, men like Huxley and Hadden have sedulously propagated the scientific truth. Huxley tells us of the sheer nonsense that is preached by British racialists and others about race purity and race superiority. In the light of scientific knowledge, British smugness and claims to ethnic superiority have exercised the wit of literati for four centuries. Huxley says that the British are the most hybridised race in the world and he is proud of it. Huxley tells us that the Britisher is not only a mongrel but it is his mission to be a good and effective mongrel. And let us go on to the Americans. They are equally hybridised, and they ought to be proud of it; we are told that so many thousands of Negroes have become Britishers and that 100,000 Negroes after going through the stage of quadroon and octaroon become full-fledged Americans every year. Scientists tell us that all this talk of race purity and racial superiority is the sheerest popycock and the sooner we forget it the better it will be for the world. You do not speak in consonance with scientific truth when you do so; and let me end on this note.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have one minute.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: We see today. Nature revenging herself on man's outrage on science and truth, in the spectacle of the Eurasian Stalin leading his Eurasian millions to crush and destroy the apostle of the false doctrines of race purity and race superiority, Hitler. Let me make a final appeal to my Honourable friends of the European Group. All this smugness, arrogance and pretentiousness has done you the most terrible injury. You are widening the gulf—widening the moral and psychological gulf—between you and the people of this country. The only people who understand you, because we have similar culture and similar traditions, are the Anglo-Indians. But you are doing your best by encouraging people of Nichols description to vilify us, you are doing your best to alienate your last friends in this country. And let me end with the words of a well-known American anthropologist Ruth Benedict, who says: "Racism is an 'ism' to which everyone of us today is exposed: for or against we must take sides and upon the decision we make will depend the future history of the world."

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan (Madura and Ramnad cum Tinnevely: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Deputy President, the debate on the Finance Bill affords an annual opportunity to us in the Opposition to review generally the administration of our country and to strike a balance sheet, not in rupees and annas, which is my Honourable friend the Finance Member's job, but in terms of life and liberties, health and happiness of the people. But before I proceed I would like to point out that unfortunately owing to certain political conditions in the country, some Honourable Members on the official Benches, particularly Members of the Executive Council, are inclined to regard speeches from these Benches as mere political stunt or demarche, to quote my Honourable friend the Labour Member's synical description; I would therefore like to assure them and other Honourable Members of this House that anything I say in this House is never in the nature of a political demonstration.

I have noticed, Sir, that my Honourable friends of the Executive Council are becoming very sensitive and wrongly imagine that the criticisms that we level against their policies and administration are directed personally against them. Perhaps this is because they are not happy. My Honourable friend the Labour Member admits that he is unhappy as he permits women to be employed for hard work underground in the mines. I think, and it may be wishful thinking, they are all unhappy because they permit their pens to do that which is opposed by their hearts and minds. I was surprised the other day that even my cheerful, placid and learned friend, the Honourable the Law Member, misunderstood my speech on the Sagotra Bill. Therefore, before I proceed with my remarks, I would like to assure my Honourable friend the Finance Member, that in the frank criticism that I have to make of his financial stewardship of my country, I have nothing personal against him. My only regret is that while I and those of us who know him, appreciate his sincerity and integrity, the people of this country and the generations to come, cannot but look upon this period as one of the saddest that has been known in this unhappy land.

Sir, I have listened attentively to the debates on the Budget and cut motions and to the replies to questions on the floor of this House during this Session. I have studied carefully the literature furnished by my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, and my general impression is that the facts revealed in this House are briefly that:

- (1) the Government have robbed the poor in the name of anti-inflation, mopping up their surplus purchasing power,
- (2) they have extorted money from the poor by taxing their modest necessities including even the poor woman's humble *supari* and by forced contributions to war funds and war loans,
- (3) they have received bribes in the shape of contributions to war loans and that the givers of such bribes were granted licenses for profiteering,
- (4) they have permitted big plutocrats, the profiteers and hoarders to plunder the producers and consumers of this country and it was only when the public raised a hue and cry that some half-hearted measures were taken against the hoarders;
- (5) they have bombed innocent women and children in tribal areas on the frontier and callously asserted that they were unrepentant, giving two excuses—that there has been kidnapping of Hindu girls—this is for internal consumption in pursuance of their policy of divide and rule; and that enemy agents have been active in those areas—this is for external consumption in order to justify such cowardly and brutal action.

After all, Sir, the Finance Member is only a mere cog in a mechanism that operates from England on behalf of a few diehard British monopolists and imperialists. The cog moves with the machine and it is not surprising therefore that we find that my Honourable friend the Finance Member, in language that sounds synical, refers to the famine that killed over 35 lakhs of people as a mere "economic storm," echoing the expression of his master,

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Mr. Amery, who tried to hide the maladministration of this country in a cloak of mystery by calling it "an act of God."

I want to point out, Sir, that the debates have also revealed that during 1944, the year under review by this Honourable House now, the conditions in India were as follows. (Sir, I am trying to be very brief and I am afraid my remarks will appear to be rather jumpy):

(1) Starvation is reduced but malnutrition and under-nourishment have spread.

(2) Crores of people in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Vizagapatam and Malabar in particular are struck down by smallpox, cholera, malaria, etc. Epidemics follow in the wake of food famine.

(3) Cloth prices have come down but cloth is still out of reach of the people and some women were so ashamed about their nakedness that they committed suicide.

(4) Many kitchens were fireless for want of fuel.

(5) Many factories had often to be idle for want of coal in spite of my Honourable friend the Labour Member, allowing poor women to work underground in mines.

(6) Thousands and thousands of children went rickety for want of milk.

(7) Hundreds of thousands of weavers were idle and starved for want of yarn.

(8) Lot of land was untilled or poorly tilled for want of cattle.

(9) Many fields were unsown for want of seed.

(10) Last but not least thousands of women, especially in Bengal, had to lose their honour and virtue to get a little food. A period of such horrors, Sir, a period which makes one feel as a push towards barbarism, is in the rounded phrase of my Honourable friend a period of "relative consolidation and stability in the economic field, etc.", reminding us of his big boss Prime Minister Churchill's insulting phrase 'serenely reposing behind the Imperial shield'.

What does all this show, Sir?—That the die-hard British imperialists are anxious to hide realities from the world's eyes with rhetoric and to hide facts beneath figures of speech and I am afraid my Honourable friend has been obliged to conform to this policy. Here is another illustration of it. If we see the index number of prices we find that with the base in 1939 being taken as 100, the month of December 1944 shows that rice was at 330, wheat at 380, cotton piece goods 280, coal 315. This was the peak figure for coal in spite of women being sent underground to work in mines. Sugar and kerosene show only two-fold increase but in vast areas they are almost not obtainable except in the black market. The whole country shouted protesting against the high prices and is still shouting against the high prices and my Honourable friend presents this picture of four-fold and three-fold increase on pre-war prices as "notable progress in an attempt to maintain prices generally on an even keel".—'Even keel', a superb expression which has been aptly illustrated by Shankar's cartoon in the *Hindustan Times*. These prices are no doubt lesser than those of the peak year 1943 but is it any consolation to be told that the prices are a little lower when they are still out of the reach of the great mass of our people?

Now, Sir, we come to the problem of anti-inflation, which my Honourable friend describes as the 'keystone of our defences'. First let us have a close look at this terrible demon of inflation. Pages 16, 39 and 40 of the Explanatory Memorandum show the colossal amount of printed notes and minted coins put into circulation. I will not read out the figures but I would draw the attention of the House to the figures for currency notes in circulation in September 1939 and September 1944. What a terrific increase in five years, nearly five-fold! The percentage of increase is as staggering as the total figures.

It has been pointed out in this House, Sir, that the decisive factor that created this tremendous inflation is the method by which the Government paid

for the war. This method was forced on them by their masters, from England who would not permit them to develop India's capacity for production for fear of post-war competition and would not let them have the country's co-operation for fear of people's patriotism. The only method that was possible for my Honourable friend, the harassed Finance Member, was to create money and to put it into circulation.

Let us consider, Sir, briefly how the people were affected by this inflation and the consequent rise in the cost of living. Take the working classes. The figures on page 35 give the index in Bombay as 236, Madras 209, Cawnpore 297, even in December 1944. The organised section of the industrial workers have been able to secure some dearness allowance but as my friend Mr. Joshi and other Members have pointed out, this does not conform to the terrific rise in the cost of living. In terms of money, it may appear that they get a little more than they did in pre-war days but in terms of goods they get far less. Instead of seeing that their real wages are maintained at least at pre-war level. I understand that the Government, in the name of anti-inflation, called upon employers to freeze their dearness allowances and bonus, etc. I would remind this Honourable House of a striking example of such interference by Government against the toiling masses of our country. When the Ahmedabad mill owners decided to grant additional allowance to their employees so as to cover nearly 90 per cent. of the rise in the cost of living, the Bombay Government, as part of the Central Government's policy, appeared before the Industrial Court in Bombay and argued that the mighty anti-inflationary measures of the Government are being disturbed by the unfair generosity of the employers. I am proud to point out, Sir, that my distinguished and learned Leader, appeared on behalf of the Textile Labour and defeated, this sinister attempt of the Government. Since then, the employers with the backing of the Government are generally resolutely refusing to pay adequate dearness allowance.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): Dearness allowance where? Will you tell us what is the dearness allowance?

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Mr. Joshi who is sitting near you will tell you as I have no time now to do so.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Why don't you tell us?

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: I said generally, and in Ahmedabad. I should like to contrast this with the readiness and willingness of Government to give large liberal war allowances to highly paid officials and Provincial Governors. And why? In order to enable them to live in a style befitting the grandeur of the mighty British Empire!

Now, Sir, let me turn to the peasantry. I shall save time by being brief, as my Honourable friend from Nellore and other Honourable friends have spoken in detail about their sad condition. The high price of food grains is brought forward as an argument that they are wealthy just as dearness allowance is used in the case of industrial workers. If we examine the point closely we find that in most provinces, the peasant has to sell his grain to traders who are generally purchasers on behalf of Government at a far lower price than the controlled price. No arrangements are made to supply their immediate necessities of life, such as cloth, kerosene which are obtainable only in the black market. In Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Vizagapatam and Malabar, the rural populations have been hardest hit and have been rapidly falling victims to epidemics and disease. Land is passing from the hands of small peasants who become landless and then wander about in search of work and food.

Now, Sir, I come to the middle class. The condition of the middle class is really pathetic, and unfortunately not much attention is being paid to them. Housing, milk and clothes form the main items in their domestic budget and they have all gone up in price. The result is that the middle classes are getting under-nourished and are swelling the numbers that fall victims to epidemics. Thousands and thousands of children are, weak, rickety and stunted. The bright middle class housewife of olden days has turned into a dull, car-worn, prematurely aged woman.

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These three classes, Sir, constitute the overwhelming majority of the people of our country and their condition is, as I have briefly described, not merely from my personal knowledge but also from facts revealed in this House. The Government, however, sitting in luxurious New Delhi, imagine a different picture as is described in para. 3, page 1 of my Honourable friend's Budget speech. I shall not take up the time of the House by reading it aloud now. I should however like to point out that he tells us in this paragraph:

"You have all got more money now. The goods you want we are not in a position to supply; so better hand over the money to the Government and rid yourself of the vicious and pernicious habit of hoarding, in the interests of future development of India and the present needs of the war."

My Honourable friend will pardon me, if I frankly tell him that such gross misrepresentation is possible because he has in mind only that small class of big capitalists, war contractors and profiteers with whom *alone* he has contact. These people while wailing about their hard lot because of the Super-tax and Excess Profits Tax are actually minting fortunes as the index of net profits in industry and the floating of innumerable commercial concerns show.

An Honourable Member: Why don't you tax them?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Not unless you do something to assist me.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Let our Government come into power and we will tax them more.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Sir, I wanted to speak on certain matters relating to labour, defence, education, health and the Hindu Code, but for want of time I cannot do so. I think I hear a sigh of relief from my Honourable friends!

Some Honourable Members: No, no. You go on.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: I shall now sum up briefly, the position in India.

(1) *Politically* we find that our beloved Leader Mahatma Gandhi and other Congress men have been released, but very many important leaders still continue to be in jail without undergoing any trial. The Congress and the League Parties in this House have repeatedly, since the last Budget Session, demonstrated their united will to replace this irresponsible and inefficient Government by a popular Government.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Even the Princes, a docile lot, very loyal to the Crown for obvious reasons, turned away from the Government in 1944 and my Honourable friends from the European Group who unfailingly give their support to the Government, made some sharp criticisms during this Session and some of them even went into the division lobby along with the Opposition. The Government, more than ever before are isolated from the people of this country.

(2) *Economically*, Sir, the industrial development has been thwarted, the coal situation is very grave and my Honourable friend cannot save it by sending women to work underground in mines. Food rationing has helped to guarantee food at fixed prices but only in the industrial heart and the administrative arteries of the Government while the rural extremities are getting cold. Even in rationed areas, favourites of Government have been granted licences, leading to corruption and deterioration in quality of food. In industries too, the same is the pattern. The profiteers control prices in their own interests and Government share the plunder by E.P.T., and super tax and between these two, the people are denuded.

(3) *Socially*, profiteering, hoarding and unbridled lust for gain dominates the scene. Family life is breaking up as poor people have to wander in search of work and food. Domestic peace in most other homes is almost impossible, as tempers get frayed by increasing malnutrition, ill-health and anxieties. Thousands of women have been driven to prostitution.

Briefly, Sir, the political deadlock continues, our economy has cracked and our morals are collapsing. This is the picture after a whole year of anti-inflationary measures introduced by Government.

My Honourable friend the Finance Member may say that we are taking a gloomy view and perhaps my Honourable friend the Home Member will say this is a 'figment of my imagination.' But I should like to point out to my Honourable friends that we, on this side of the House, have close contact with our people and we know the real conditions in which the great mass of our people live. Let us contrast this without any feeling of envy with the conditions in Britain. It is a fact that in spite of the cruel bombings and in spite of thousands of homes being mercilessly shattered by a brutal enemy, the British people as a whole are fed and clothed during the war even better than before, though everything has to be obtained with coupons. Milk, eggs, and fruits are supplied free or at concession rates to expectant and nursing mothers and children on doctors' recommendation. I am glad that this is done. I am glad that the British Government attend to the needs of at least their own poor women and children. But my regret is that in India with a British Viceroy, a British Finance Member and a Government entirely under the control of the British, the little sustenance that the poor people had before the war is being placed rapidly out of their reach. This state of affairs began in 1942 and has grown intensified right up to this day.

Of course, Sir, my Honourable friends of the European and Treasury Benches will say, not bluntly, but in beautiful figures of speech that this is due to lack of co-operation from our own people and due to the predominance of certain anti-social tendencies among Indians. I should like to answer these charges. Sir, they overlook the fact that patriotism and a spirit of sacrifice that are necessary, especially during war time, can be roused in a people only by a Government which is itself patriotic, which has close contact with the people, looks after their needs and helps them with their difficulties. But being an agent of an alien power, working in the interests of that power, even at the cost of the life, liberty and happiness of the people of the country, this Government has created such conditions as may turn even angels into devils. And then, Sir, when the Government themselves and their local masters, whose representatives sit in the middle of this Honourable House, are engaged in profitable exploitation of the people, some Indians with similar profiteering mentality feel a strong urge to have some share of the loot; and hence arise hoardings, profiteering and high prices.

Sir, instead of recognising that the best method of fighting inflation is a solution of the political deadlock, Government adopt anti-inflationary measures which become instruments of persecution of the people and Government complain that they have no co-operation from the people! While in every other country which is fighting the war, there are coalition Governments, including representatives from all political parties, in order to strengthen Government, we find in this country a Government, which believes it can strengthen itself to fight a war, not merely by keeping the two principal and powerfully organised political parties outside their Government but actually by suppressing the one and ignoring the other. The result is that all the people are pushed into a bitter anti-Government mood. In other words, Sir, Government ask for co-operation but seal all channels of co-operation with the political deadlock and thus make it impossible for the people to co-operate. Every possible factor exists that is bound to create in the people a hatred for everything connected with the Government and the war.

In conclusion, Sir, I regret that my Honourable friend the Finance Member has had to function in a mechanism that is not attuned to the best interests of the people of India but to the profiteering monopolistic interests of Britain. That is why the good that he has sincerely attempted to do is not seen in the disasters and ruins that the policy of his masters has created. The various cut motions and divisions in this House demonstrate the complete isolation of this Government from the people. The Opposition chastises Government, not from any cussedness, not from any desire to have jobs—to use

• [Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan.]

the language of some of the Indian Members of the Executive Council—but to save India and her teeming millions from further disaster, as everything threatens to crack up, politically, socially and economically, Government cannot get over the moral influence of these defeats on capital issues by futile attempts to defame the Opposition or by crude jokes or by a non-chalant disposal of them. Perhaps Government do not realise that the shame of these defeats is enhanced by their selecting some of themselves to represent India at the San Francisco Conference. I should like to warn the Government that there can be no peace in the East or in the wide world as long as India with one-fifth of the world population is kept in complete subjection, as is being done now.

Before I sit down, Sir, I should like to conform to our national tradition and offer my good wishes to my Honourable friend the Finance Member before he lays down the reins of office. And I add that I venture to hope that when he returns to the wider liberties of speech and action in England he would awaken his people to the urgent need for reform in the Government of India, so that a strong foundation may be laid for fraternal co-operation between the British and the Indian people to make the world a happier place for humanity to live in.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am perhaps the last Member to address the House on the Finance Bill before the Leaders commence their speeches, and sometimes I was wondering whether I was a Member of the House at all. I am therefore all the more grateful to you that you have been pleased to give me an opportunity to say a few words on the momentous measure for the year 1945-46. I am speaking on three points only. One is the economic situation during the war; on that I shall be as brief as I can, because the two other points to which I shall advert are in my opinion now of far greater importance.

When I spoke on the Finance Bill on the 13th March 1943 I submitted to the House that the peak of sacrifices by this country in support of the war had been reached within less than a month, the Finance Member realised the gravity. There was in the country a very dark conspiracy to rob the poor masses of their means of sustenance. He awoke very actively and energetically to the need of suppressing these saboteurs, as he called them; and since then till today I am glad to say that Government have pursued a policy of energetic control, punishment of profiteers and pursued every other way of reducing the effects of inflation. They have taxed more, they have borrowed more, they have also sold gold and in every other way they have tried to see if the effects of the rapidly marching inflation can in some way be mitigated in the lives of the poor people of this country. But when the printing press is busy the controls are slow to succeed, and that has exactly been the result; in spite of the most honest endeavour which, I am prepared to say, has been made by Government. I do not wish to inflict any figures but the House will see that since January 1943 when the general index of wholesale prices was 196, in January 1944 it rose to 236 and in January 1945 it was 251. Therefore the effect of all the controls and their energetic implementing has not been commensurate with the labours and efforts directed to that end. The same is the case about individual commodities like coal, which has gone up from 155 in January 1943 to 315 in January 1945. I could have gone on indicating the effects of inflation, but as I have to advert to other matters I will simply rest content with the statement that until the inflation which is still going on is abandoned, the chances of the success of control measures are likely to be greatly prejudiced. I do not wish to say more except to point out how in other ways inflation is being reflected in the lives of the people. I think today the amount of life insurance written annually in this country must be somewhere near Rs. 70 crores a year, and the outstanding life policies must be somewhere near 400 crores. I am speaking from memory. But all these 400 crores of rupees of life policies, taken by fathers for the

maintenance of their sons, taken by a fond mother for the marriage of her children,—what is their worth today? The 400 crores of life policies as they mature are not worth even the purchasing power of Rs. 100 crores. And the fond father who had laid aside at a great deal of sacrifice these immense amounts of savings will be lucky if at the end of his life the policies are enough to give him a decent funeral.

Take, again, the twenty-one hundred crores of national debt today which has been lent to Government by insurance companies, by public and private charities, by philanthropic institutions and by all those who make a laborious saving by a thrifty life none too pleasant, and you will find that the holders of these scrips know to their great regret that if they go to cash the scrip in the market today, the amount will buy 1/3rd of the nominal face value. It is the inevitable result of inflation. All the fears which the opponents of inflation had entertained are unfortunately realized, and all that remains for me is to shed tears over the tragedies of millions of homes; but the moving finger has written and having writ moved on, and all the tears that I may shed for the tragedies of millions of homes will not blot out half a line. It is useless to indulge in recriminations. I can assure the Finance Member that I have always been in favour of the savings campaign. He has sometimes felt that I am opposed to it, I will here refer to one of the Information Department Films which is an eye-opener. We all know that the people are going in for gold; they are going in for one of the greatest mistakes of their lives—the Information Department has exhibited a film which everyone must see. It shows that gold is purchased by people at Rs. 80, Rs. 90, Rs. 96 and today its price is Rs. 68, and the 96 rupees which the purchaser gave will be reduced in a short while to Rs. 48.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: In that case all your insurance policy holders will be happier again. You can't have it both ways.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I am congratulating the Information Department. I am telling the public that the Information Department's film is an eye-opener, and that if you purchase gold you are holding to a mirage. I have seen the film in the Information Department Committee meeting and I was impressed by the proof the film affords of the folly of people who are today attracted by the gold bug and will be bitten by the bug very soon. The gold in their hands will be like Dead Sea fruit, part of it will be ashes. I do hope that people will invest more in Government securities than in gold because of one reason—when the loans mature, the hundred rupees will be hundred in purchasing power, and the price level might have fallen by 50 per cent. And, therefore, those who hold Government paper are happier, luckier and wiser than those who are hoarding gold. That is the point which I was trying to make. In this matter, I think, Sir Sultan Ahmed's Department has done a service and I hope he will widely show that film all over the country; the purchasing power of gold has already fallen from Rs. 96 to Rs. 68.

I maintain that whatever was said about insurance policy was correct, and what I am now submitting is equally correct. These are some of my observations on the economic situation in the country.

Sir, the war is soon coming to its end. The Honourable the Finance Member is retiring to his country. He has moved his last Finance Bill in the same position—I am also retiring into Burma. With Mandalay having fallen, the day of my retirement into Burma is coming nearer, and my own budget speech may be the last because I am to serve the million Indian workers in that great land of Pagodas.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural). To shake the pagoda tree!

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: We are parting, but nevertheless I beg to assure him that I have the utmost goodwill and respect for the courage and ability with which in spite of our differences he has tried to pilot the ship of the State during very critical times.

[Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta.]

Now that the trials and the troubles of war are coming to an end and the travails of peace will soon begin, I ask the House in the new epoch to leave behind the bickerings of the past and to turn their minds to the future work of peace, of planning, to shape a new world of peace and plenty in which, Sir, the only world that is of value is 'co-operation'—responsive co-operation. I beg to request my Honourable friends on the Congress and the League Benches, that it is no use in the post-war era to think in terms of non-co-operation, or to indulge in non-co-operation. Whatever the Government, the task of reconstruction will have to be jointly done by Indians and the British. You may get a national Government when the nation itself is reborn; it has died today; it is dead as mutton. There is no nation in India today. When the national Government comes, I shall welcome it, but in the years to come—immediate years after the war—the only task before us is one of co-operation. And please do not say that without national Government nothing can be done. Much can be done. Better can be done with the presence of a truly national Government but much can also be accomplished without that. I give you only four examples.

Even in the unfavourable circumstances under which we are labouring, we have built up the powerful steel industry. Just think of what can be done. The steel industry in this country today has saved India, saved the Middle East, and saved the United Nations and will be very powerful in winning the victory in Burma. All this was accomplished without a national Government. By the co-operation of the Congress and the Government, we gave protection to the iron and steel industry, and today we find that industry is the foremost in the defence of this country. Can it be denied that this has been accomplished with the co-operation of both sides?

Take the textile industry. The textile mills in Bombay were fast becoming cattle stables, mill after mill was going down, becoming uneconomic. We gave protection. What is it today? It has saved us from nudity; but for the textile mills today we would not have even a yard of cloth per head. We have given 50 per cent. protection to the industry. While we have done that, the industrialists have raised prices beyond the limits of avarice and have exhibited a selfishness which even an anti-nationalist would never do. Still I am pleased to remember that we have protection to the mill industry and because of that protection 400 spinning and weaving mills are today operating in this country and giving us at least some modicum of cloth.

Take the cement industry. The same will be said about it. The cement industry is a protected national industry which is able to meet our needs for cement in this country.

Lastly, take the sugar industry. I was in this House in 1929 when the sugar production in this country was nominal. Today we are able to have 13 million tons of sugar produced with two crores of agriculturists producing sugar cane, with 100,000 employees—skilled, technical and non-skilled and a sugar industry which is self-supporting. Do you say this is not worthy of achievement? Would you have gone rather without this textile, steel, cement and sugar industry because we had no self-Government, because we had no national Government? I say no: national Government, to be sure, if you can get it. Until then we must do everything to develop the economic life of this country, see to the improvement of employment and the raising of the standards of life. We must remember what the workers are demanding throughout the world. The world today is aiming at four things—full employment, economic development, social security and rising standards through international co-operation. If in the post-war years the world is not to be doomed as it was between the two wars, economic jingoism must go. There will have to be international co-operation in the broadest sense.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is not going to come.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: If they do not co-operate they are wrong: if we do not, we are wrong. I am stating an obvious principle that the world in

these post-war years must act as one commercial republic. I am not sure that it will, but I am begging that this country at any rate will set an example: that we of this country shall not indulge in shibboleths of economic nationalism because no country will be able to stand alone. Every country will have to put its shoulders to the wheel jointly with other countries. Full employment will not be possible unless the world co-operated and became an economic neighbourhood; the poverty of one will soon be felt as the poverty of the rest. In the matter of full employment all that I wish to say is that agriculture, industry and commerce should all grow side by side to secure it.

I think it was Mr. Tyson who referred to the 350,000 tons of ammonium sulphate for fertilizers, I wish to draw the special attention of Government to this. I have read some literature on the subject and I wish to warn the Government that there are two schools sharply divided, both schools having their own economic and technical experts. One side says that the fertilizer plant which will produce the sulphate of ammonium is not conducive to the soil and that it is simply the propaganda of the explosives and ammunition manufacturers who are behind these fertilizers. I do not know, I am a layman; but from the little I have studied I wish to warn the Government. The "Phooka" method can bring out more milk compulsorily for a time from the cow, but it makes the cow sterile. Similarly, if the ammonium sulphate is used as a fertilizer, then according to one school of economic experts the soil will be impoverished and it will become like a man suffering from blood pressure, appearing stout but none the less vulnerable to all kinds of disease. If the Government have made up their minds, I beg of them to reconsider the case. But let not the Government find out after ten years that these fertilizers were foisted on them by designing manufacturers. I am not an expert on this, but my friend Mr. Tyson who waxed so eloquent on the 350,000 tons of ammonium sulphate should look to the other side lest by going further India may fare worse after spending Rs. 10 crores on fertilisers.

One further submission is that in order to increase the expansion of employment, let it not be believed that the mere freezing of war jobs will mean employment. There will be great political pressure both from unskilled workers and from owners of plant which has become uneconomic not to go in for improvements and not to encourage technical progress. These people in order to maintain the capital values of their plant will stand in the way of improvement. The working class will be misled by demagogues into believing that any job is good enough. I wish it to be known quite clearly from the floor of the House that full employment in the post-war years will mean not only full employment of labour, but of all the resources of the land, capital, technical skill and labour, and it is only if labour is employed in economic jobs, not in frozen war jobs which are today held by them that full employment will come. When the war economy is over and we turn to peace, many hundreds of thousands of people will be out of jobs. Do you know that out of 46 millions of the British people today as many as 28 millions are either in war at the front, or in the war factories; or in other kind of essential war work. The American statistics also shows that the economy of America since it was switched on to war has reached the same proportion in man power. If I could make a list of those engaged in war or war work all the world over I would say that not less than 150 million people all over the world are either employed as soldiers, navy men, airmen, doing work in munition factories or some other war work. When all of them are switched on to peace economy, you cannot employ them by simply freezing jobs in which they are. You will have to train and retrain millions of workers who have forgotten their old jobs: or you have to employ a large number of people in learning new techniques developed since the war. You have also to see that labour is made as mobile as possible. The greatest mobility of labour will be needed if you wish to obtain the best possible employment. The best possible use of capital will have to be made. International lending with a view to helping the poor and backward countries and reconstructing the war-stricken world will be necessary. International lending will expand international trade.

[Mr. Jamnadas Mr. Mehta.]

and commerce, and although I believe in socialism, I am bound to say that the theory of the socialist of a totally controlled State is for the distant future. Today there is neither the old policy of free enterprise or full State control. The two things are today mixed in every country. State control in some, private enterprise in others and a mixture of free enterprise and state control everywhere is today actually in operation. What is today will have to be more and more in operation after the war and State control will be absolutely necessary. Mr. Churchill has said that he hoists the flag of free enterprise on the mast of the Conservative Party. Well, this figurative manner of speaking might delude some people but free enterprise as understood in the days of classical economists is dead. The strains of two wars with a most abysmal depression between has killed the old theory of free enterprise. Where the corrective was provided by competitive price and expense levels in different countries, the workers demand social security. The unit of production which was simple in old times, has now become so large that the unit of production is very often monopolistic. Certain articles have become monopoly goods by mere advertisement, for example, "Johnny Walker going strong". It is a type of monopolistic production.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Ralsman: Fortunately there is no monopoly of consumption!

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Take Horlicks' Milk and a thousand other articles by people who do not manufacture those articles today for sale. It is stated in a British publication that 6,900 tons of paper per year are used for the publication of these "prestige advertisements". These people know that they cannot bring their wares today in the markets. Every morning you see in the *Hindustan Times* somebody publishing "We are unable to supply to our dear customers in India due to war. When the war is over we shall come to you", which means that you have been fooled by us all this time. We cannot fool you now. When the war is over we shall try to fool you again. A two anna worth article is being sold for Rs. 2 under a monopolistic control, prestige advertisement and all kinds of advantages due to facile publicity. Therefore in the times to come this kind of monopoly will be there and when the monopolist is there he will combine and he will compete. He will go to the other end of the world. As the *Economist* says "To combine is as natural to a capitalist as to compete when bigger dividends can be made". Therefore these are the dangers in the post-war world. The monopolist will be there, the day of the small-scale producer will be over. Workers will demand social security and the world, if it drifts back to economic nationalism, will be once more a fertile ground for the third world war and from that we shall not escape. My friends, I beg of you, when you talk of a national Government, remember that the nation has been destroyed by the combined fault of the Government and ourselves. There is no nation today. Do not be under a delusion. There is no nation in India today.

An Honourable Member: There are two nations.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: The nation has been destroyed by us more than by our enemies and therefore until you revive the nation, until the nation has been resurrected on the basis of the most democratic nationalism, on the basis of equality not on a so-called unity which stinks in the nostrils of every honest man.

My friend the Leader of the Opposition the other day told me that I was a member for unoccupied Burma. May I tell him that he is the potential premier in occupied India?

An Honourable Member: Of occupied Burma.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: May I tell him that I wish him the best of luck. But let him remember that until the nation exists there can be no national Government and until the nation is resurrected, the only task before us here for all of us without any recrimination, in the sole interest of the masses of people,

is to try for full employment, social security, economic development and the largest good of the masses. Sir, I support the measure, because in time of war there can be no rejection of the Finance Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As regards Monday, as Honourable Members are aware, there will be no question hour and the whole day will be available to the Leaders of Parties for their speeches and for the Finance Member's reply. I have been given a statement of the time table that will be observed by the speakers:

Sir Henry Richardson	11 A.M. to 11-30 A.M.
Dr. P. N. Banerjee	11-30 A.M. to 12-30 P.M.
Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan	12-30 P.M. to 1-15 P.M.
Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai	2-30 P.M. to 3-15 P.M.
The Honourable the Finance Member	3-15 P.M. to 4-45 P.M.

I take it that this arrangement has the approval of the House.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 26th March, 1945.

APPENDIX.

Translation of speech delivered in Hindi by Mr. Rajmal Lakhichand, M.L.A., on the 20th March, 1945, on the Indian Finance Bill.

Mr. Rajmal Lakhichand (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, before speaking on the Finance Bill I will speak on things which are as much necessary for human life as air and water. They are food and clothes. Food has been rationed by the Government and in some places Levy Scheme has been introduced. Food Control in some places has entirely gone amiss and the result is great hardship to the public. For instance, a farmer produces corn in his home village. He happens to be working in town where food is rationed. He is not allowed to bring for him the grains produced by him in his village and is forced to buy good or bad rationed grains. This restriction should be removed. In rationing a family gets as much food as there are members in it. If a guest arrives in the family they cannot get food for him immediately. There should be a shop where people might get food for their guests. At present small villages have no grain where people might get food for their guests. At present small villages have no grain shops. For every ten or twenty villages a shop is opened in a central village and people have to go for their supplies from distances of 4 and 5 miles. They have to come one day for their rations of food, another day for their rations of sugar and oil, etc., and yet another day for their vegetables and other purchases losing for each day their daily wages which is a great loss to them. Thus the arrangements for food rationing in villages are defective. If the people of a village are willing to do rationing work they should be allowed to do it.

Government introduced the Levy Scheme hoping good crops will be produced. Nature, however, fails to give air and water in due time and the crops fail. In such cases where after paying other dues enough stock is not left to pay off the levy it should be remitted. None should be subjected to any hardship. A farmer should be left with sufficient produce to meet the needs of his family, his yearly, monthly and daily wage-earners his bullocks, his cows and his buffaloes. In villages farmers fix a certain quantity of produce to pay off annually as wages to goldsmiths, barbers, chamars, Mahars and labourers. The Government should not blame them for giving those people their settled share of the produce. The farmer is greatly benefitted by this sort of arrangement.

Why do Government feel scarcity of food in the country. The population has not increased. Some military personnel have come from foreign countries; but, then, some units of the Indian Army have gone out. The supply of food is controlled by the Government and is rationed out equally among the people. Why then the people die of starvation? When everything is in order why is then this destitution? People have died and are dying of starvation in Bengal. Similar news is being received from Bihar and other provinces. Why is this so? The authorities think that the Congress in order to embarrass them, propagate such news. This is wrong. The knowledge of many things is often instinctive. For instance, most people do not know how to cook, or how to sing or how to make motors or rails but they possess the knowledge of their being good or bad. Every man may not become a Governor or a Viceroy but every man knows whether a Governor or a Viceroy does good or bad work. Similarly every person knows whether a Government is good or bad. The reason is quite simple. They know it from their personal comfort or discomfort. When in a country people are gagged, are not allowed to write are not given to eat and drink according to their needs they conclude that the Government is not good. The Government says that the War is the cause of every discomfort but India bears no enmity to anybody nor has she any quarrel with any one. Why is then

*Vide page 1770 of L. A. Debates, dated the 20th March, 1945.

[Mr. Rajmal Lakhichand.]

this War with us? This War was neither India's nor Britain's. It was a war between Germany and Poland. Britain took it upon herself to help Poland to safeguard her freedom. Why is then India kept a slave? The British people desire to give freedom to India and they openly assert it. Why then all this delay? They say that as long as there is disunity in India among Hindus and Muslims they could not be free. Suppose there are four brothers, owners of a house or of a field who are always quarrelling among themselves. Does it entitle their neighbour to dispossess them of their estate, saying 'You cannot manage it properly and so you are not fit to have it', or saying, 'Since there is disunity among you the estate cannot be given to you? Will it be fair or just? The best thing would be to create harmony among them and protect their interests.

War will widen the gulf of disunity and the world will be ruined there can be no love and peace. Fire cannot put out fire. It is water than can extinguish it. Similarly hatred can only be removed by love, kindness, and service. Through them alone can there be peace and love in the world.

At the time the British took possession of this country it was prosperous and rich. The Government levied very light taxes. This made the British Government popular and the people were generally happy. But the British pursued the policy of enhancing taxes. On the other hand, the introduction of machinery in industry threw out many persons from their work. For instance, one cloth mill threw out of work many thousands of spinners, carders, and weavers. One oil mill deprived lakhs of *telis* of their work. Similar were the cases with the blacksmiths, paper makers, goldsmiths, tinsmiths and *chamars*. They were deprived of their hereditary work without being supplied with any other work nor did the Government ever care for them. As a result the country became poorer and poorer; but the Government went on increasing taxes. If the people raised a hue and cry they were told that *sahukars*, mill-owners, shopkeepers were greedy and that they had swallowed up their money and that they would now make such laws as would prevent them from continuing their loot. Thus at the cost of *sahukars* and others they hid their practices. This went on for a time and the people's condition went on worsening until it ended in creating such parties in the country as Bolshevism, Socialism, Comrades, Boytists, etc., etc. The people also think as to where their gold and silver had gone. The Government has locked up gold. Silver rupees are stopped by law. Possession of Queen Victoria's and King Edward's rupees has been declared illegal, keeping of food grains is illegal, keeping of cloth is illegal. Similar restrictions have been imposed on all sorts of goods. The result is that the farmer is unable to get the necessary materials of iron, etc. He can get no food, no clothes and no medicines. Government officials threaten people with arrest as criminals and under such threats collect various funds. This collection of funds has also become a great corruption. The reason is that the more an official collects for a fund the more he is favoured by the Government and is given promotion. The result that the hatred has been created in the minds of the people and the country is infested with various kinds of movements. The Government can forcibly take possession of any person's house. This excited the people and the Congress passed 'Quit India' resolution. The Englishmen were angry. I say the Englishmen who are in India may stay here and Mr. Churchill, Mr. Amery and the King may also come and live in India as our brothers and sisters, not as our masters. This is the only condition. We have announced to all the people of the earth that whoever is in trouble may come here and take refuge in this country. We are prepared to serve them as brothers. We bear no ill-will to the Englishmen. We hate to be slaves. We must be given our freedom. If the Government would keep a check on its officials just as it keeps a check on the Congress and employ C. I. D. people for them, most of the hardships to the public would be removed and public opposition to the Government would decrease. Those who are unemployed may be given work. Facilities may be forthcoming for the supply to the people of food, clothes and medicines.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir has said that Hindustani speeches in the Assembly are not reported. It should not be so. A Hindustani reporter should be employed. In the whole world India is the only unfortunate country the proceedings of whose parliament are not conducted in the language of its people. All other countries use their own languages. The pity is that here they have not employed even a Hindustani reporter.

I oppose the Budget and the Finance Bill because they do not seek to reform the country's conditions.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS†

WRITTEN ANSWERS

RACE HORSES IMPORTED

1310. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state the number and the total value of race horses imported into India after the outbreak of the war?

(b) What is the amount of duty collected on their import?

(c) Is there a system of import licences in connection with race horses?

(d) If so, how many licences were issued and to whom?

(e) Was a request received from His Majesty's Government that the import of race horses into India from the U.K. should be helped by the Government of India, and what steps did Government take to help such import?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Government have no information on this point. The number and value of horses of all kinds including race horses imported during the period from October 1939 to November 1944 are:

Numbers—2,470, Value—Rs. 18,55,870.

(b) Nil.

(c) Yes.

(d) No licences have been issued for import of race horses from the United Kingdom and Australia after July, 1942, when control was first imposed. No definite information, however, is available regarding import of race horses in particular from other sources.

(e) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The second part of the question does not arise.

TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ENGLAND AND INDIA

1311. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether any agreement between England and India on trade issues is in operation now?

(b) Is the Agreement of 1932, which was condemned by this House, still valid, or, has it been cancelled and, if so, by what process and at what time?

(c) What has happened to the Mody/Lees Pact?

(d) For how long was it in operation?

(e) When was it dropped?

(f) Has any approach been made by British commercial and industrial interests in the United Kingdom to the Government of India for any understanding, settlement or agreement?

(g) Did anything transpire during the visit of any of the Members of the Executive Council to the United Kingdom?

(h) Were there any informal talks on this subject?

(i) Has action been taken under any of the Ordinances issued by His Excellency the Viceroy since the beginning of the war in favour of British trade and industrial interests, and, if so, in which direction?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The trade relations between India and the United Kingdom are governed by the United Kingdom-India Trade Agreement, 1939.

†The question hour of today having been eliminated, the answers to starred questions were, in pursuance of convention, laid on the table of the House.—Ed. of D.

(b) The Agreement of 1932 is no longer valid. It has been replaced by the present Agreement with effect from the 15th August, 1939.

(c), (d) and (e). The Mody-Lees Pact has expired. It was in operation from 1st May, 1934 to 25th June, 1936.

(f), (g), (h) and (i). No. Sir.

AGREEMENT ABOUT JUTE PRICES WITH BENGAL GOVERNMENT

1312. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state what the agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Bengal with regard to the maximum and minimum prices of (i) raw jute, and (ii) hessian is?

(b) Has any consultation taken place with any non-official commercial associations or bodies with regard to these prices for the period for which they are fixed?

(c) What has been the total amount of production of raw jute and the total manufacture of hessian during 1943-44 and 1944-45 (up to the 31st December, 1944)?

(d) Has there been a diminution or increase as compared with the years 1938 and 1939?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Press Note issued in this connection by the Government of Bengal on the 15th February, 1945, a copy of which is in the Library.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). A statement furnishing the relevant figures is laid on the table.

Statement showing production of raw jute and hessian in (i) 1938 and 1939 and in (ii) 1943-44 & 1944-45 (April—December 1944).

Production of raw jute in thousands of bales of 400 lbs. each.*

1943-44	7,004	
1944-45	5,493	(estimated for the year on the basis of information available upto December, 1944).
1938	6,844	
1939	9,750	

Production of hessians in thousands of tons.

1943-44	411	
1944-45		
(Up to the 31st December, 1944)	322	(provisional).
1938	541	
1939	494	

*Includes figures for Nepal.

TEA GARDEN LABOURERS SENT ON ASSAM PROJECTS

1313. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether he is aware that a large number of persons have been sent by the Managers of Tea Gardens to projects in Assam as labourers?

(b) Is the Honourable Member also aware that no compensation has yet been granted to the dependents of many labourers who have lost their lives while engaged in project work?

(c) Is it a fact that in those cases where compensation has been granted to the dependents of the deceased project workers, the amount paid is Rs. 200 to Rs. 300? Is this amount considered adequate?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware that the dependents of these unfortunate labourers are experiencing great difficulties in receiving payments of the compensation money?

(e) Does the Honourable Member propose to consider the desirability of paying adequate compensation to the dependents of all labourers who have lost their lives in the project?

(f) Does he also propose to consider the desirability of paying the compensation money through the Sub-Divisional Office instead of through the Tea Garden Office?

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

(b) The information is not correct. The Government of India in the War Department have directed payment of compensation to all labourers recruited by the Indian Tea Association (besides some other categories of labourers who have either lost their lives or have been injured as a result of their employment in the War projects in Assam. The Controller of Emigrant Labour has been appointed Commissioner of Workmen's Compensation for the settlement of these claims. He has paid compensation in over 4,000 cases within the last two years. The number of applications for compensation received by him on behalf of the labourers of the Indian Tea Association alone up to 28th February, 1945 is 2,612. Of these payments have been made in 2,309 cases. 217 cases have been rejected and 86 cases are under enquiry.

(c) Compensation is paid according to the rates under the Workmen's Compensation Act in all cases coming under the operation of the Workmen's Compensation Act and in other cases *Ex-Gratia* payments of Rs. 900 for death and Rs. 1,200 for total disablement are paid. A preliminary payment up to Rs. 300 is paid in the first instance. The Honourable Member is apparently referring to this preliminary payment.

(d) The amounts of compensation ordered to be paid in lump sums are paid through the Deputy Commissioner or the Managers of Tea Estates if the dependants live in Tea Estates. In the case of minors and persons incapable of taking care of large amounts, the amounts are invested in the Post Office by the Commissioner of Labour, Assam, and remitted to them in periodical instalments by Postal Money Order. There has been some delay in the investment and remittance in the early stages as the Postal Department were unable to deal with the large number of investments but remittances are now issued systematically.

(e) As stated in reply to part (c) the rates of compensation paid in cases coming under Workmen's Compensation Act are those laid down in the schedule of the Act. In the other cases the amounts of Rs. 900 for death and Rs. 1,200 for permanent total disability have been based on the rates admissible under the Act to a labourer receiving similar cash emoluments. These rates of compensation are considered adequate.

(f) In most of the cases the dependants are minors or persons incapable of taking care of large amounts. The amount invested in these cases are paid in instalments through Postal Money Order. Only preliminary payments and lump sum payments are made through the Deputy Commissioners and Managers of Tea Estates. The amounts are sent to the Managers of Tea Estates only in cases in which the dependants live in tea Estates. It is found expedient to do so because the Managers will be in a position to identify the dependants, effect the payment promptly and forward the acquittance to the Commissioner of Workmen's Compensation. This system has worked satisfactorily so far.

BAD HEALTH OF LABOURERS RETURNED FROM ASSAM PROJECTS

1314. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Is the Honourable the Labour Member aware that several hundred labourers returned from the project works in Assam in a very bad state of health?

(b) Is he also aware that a large number of them are still suffering from various diseases?

(c) Is it a fact that no proper arrangements have been made for their treatment?

(d) If the replies to parts (a) to (c) be in the affirmative, does he propose to consider the desirability of representing the difficulties of these unfortunate labourers to the authorities concerned?

(e) If the replies to parts (a) to (c) be in the negative, does he propose to enquire and lay the result of the enquiry on the table of the House?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Virulent forms of malaria and some other diseases are incidental to the work in the unhealthy jungle tracts of Assam where the war operations have been in progress; therefore some labourers returned from the projects in a bad state of health. The *Ex-Gratia* payments of compensation for deaths by diseases have therefore been specially ordered to be paid by the Government of India as there is no provision for payment of compensation in such cases under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Compensation is paid also to labourers who on returning from projects die of diseases contracted in the projects.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) The labourers returning to Tea Gardens are treated in the Garden Hospitals as in the case of other Tea Estates labourers and those returning to villages may avail of the treatment in the local hospitals. No other medical arrangements are practicable in the case of labourers who return individually to their gardens and villages.

(d) The question does not arise in view of the answers to (a), (b) and (c).

(e) The facts ascertained have been stated above.

GRIEVANCES OF EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA

1315. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) whether the employees of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, submitted memorials on the 20th December, 1944, and 24th January, 1945;

(b) the nature of the grievances mentioned therein; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government?

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

(b) The employees asked for (1) increase in basic wage and fixation of minimum wage of Rs. 10 p.m., (2) grant of enhanced dearness allowance, (3) concessional rates of grain supply, (4) reduction in working hours, (5) extension of casual leave to pieceworkers, (6) abolition of the piece system, and (7) abolition of the system of classifying employees as superior and inferior and the grant to inferior employees of the privileges allowed to superior employees.

(c) Items at (2), (3), (5) and (7) referred to in part (b) are under consideration. It is not possible to consider the other items during the present emergency.

HOURS OF WORK FOR EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA

1316. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the total number of hours of work per week for the employees of the Government of India Press, Calcutta;

(b) whether the Bengal Government have reduced the hours of work of the Bengal Government Presses to forty hours per week with a bonus; and

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the hours in their Presses; if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) 48.

(b) The hours have been reduced to 40 per week but no bonus has been granted.

(c) No reduction can be contemplated during the present emergency.

REVISION OF SCALE OF PAY OF EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA

1317. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) whether the dearness allowance granted to the Press employees corresponds to the abnormal rise in the cost of living;

(b) when the last revision of pay of the Press employees of Calcutta took place;

(c) whether the Government Press employees in Calcutta have to pay more for rationed and non-rationed articles than the Railway and other employees; and

(d) whether Government propose to revise the scale of pay; and, if not, why?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The existing rates of dearness allowance were fixed with due regard to the rise in prices and a revision thereof is under consideration.

(b) In 1924. The revised rates of pay for new entrants were introduced in 1933 and 1934.

(c) Yes. They have to pay more as compared with Railway employees but the concessions admissible to them are the same as for all other employees of the Central Government.

(d) Government do not propose to undertake any general revision of pay during the present emergency.

LEAVE BENEFIT TO PIECE WORKERS OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA

1318. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) whether the Piece workers in the Calcutta Central Government Press are entitled to the same leave benefit as the salaried employees;

(b) whether the salaried employees in Delhi and Calcutta are entitled to the same casual leave; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to equalize the condition in Delhi and Calcutta?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) Salaried employees in all the Government of India Presses have been granted casual leave up to 15 days in a calendar year. Government of India have, in view of the climatic and other conditions raised the limits of casual leave to 20 days per year for all Central Government servants in Delhi including the New Delhi Press employees. The higher limit of casual leave is not admissible to Central Government servants in Calcutta and it cannot be extended only to the Calcutta Press employees.

DESIRABILITY OF GIVING CERTAIN BENEFITS TO INFERIOR SERVANTS OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA

1319. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is not a fact that the inferior servants of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, are not entitled to get any benefits enjoyed by the superior servants, such as General Provident Fund, permanent service, house allowance, Medical leave, etc.?

(b) If so, do Government propose to sanction all the privileges to the inferior staff as are enjoyed by the superior staff?

(c) Is it not a fact that employees of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, appointed after 1928, are not allowed the compensation leave in lieu of attending on holidays?

(d) Is it not a fact that only 25 per cent. allowance is granted to the employees for attending on closed holidays and that no payment is made for attending on non-closed holidays?

(e) If so, under what circumstances have the employees appointed after 1928 been deprived of the benefit of compensation leave?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). No. They are entitled to medical leave. Permanent inferior servants are also entitled to the benefits of permanent service, e.g., pension, leave on average pay or earned leave and extraordinary leave. The question of granting them house rent and other privileges is under consideration.

(c) Yes.

(d) In lieu of compensatory leave they are paid overtime for working on closed holidays at 25 per cent. above their normal rates.

(e) For administrative reasons.

SCHEMES FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION OF STUDENTS ABROAD

1320. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether there are two different schemes before Government for sending students abroad for higher technical education? If so, what are the main features of the two schemes?

(b) Is the training scheme sponsored by the Labour Department different from the scheme of the Education, Health and Lands Department?

(c) Is the proposed scheme akin to the Bevin training scheme?

(d) What are the technical subjects which Government contemplate to provide for the students abroad? And what will be the duration of training on each subject?

(e) What type of jobs, do Government contemplate to offer to the successful candidates after they return from abroad?

(f) Are Government selecting the students on a fixed quota basis from each of the Provinces and maintaining the proportion of different communities? If so, how many students will be sent from Bengal and Assam?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). There are two distinct schemes. The first is for sending students abroad for higher studies in technical and scientific subjects; the second is for sending abroad technicians already employed in industry for further training or for enlarging their industrial or professional experience. The former scheme is dealt with by the Education Health and Lands Department and the latter by Labour Department.

(c) The proposed scheme is in a way an extension of the Bevin Training Scheme. The object is to provide higher technical training for the more important supervisory post in industry.

(d) The types of training contemplated under the Labour Department scheme are:—Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Radio Manufacture, Ship-building, Aeronautical Engineering, Marine Engineering, Civil Engineering, Structural Engineering, Metallurgy, Generation of Electricity, Locomotive Construction, Chemical Engineering, Fertilisers Plastics, Glass, Steel Manufacture.

This list is not exhaustive and other types of training will be considered, if required.

Normally the period of training will be one year, but may be extended to two years in individual cases.

(e) The question does not arise as the Candidates will, normally return to their original employers.

(f) No quotas have been allotted. Provincial Governments have been asked to make their own nominations for which they will bear the cost. Private employers are also making their own nominations. Government of India will make a final selection from these nominations.

SCHEMES FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION OF STUDENTS ABROAD

1321. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state when Government propose to advertise inviting applications from candidates to be sent abroad for higher technical education on Government stipend?

(b) Are Government contemplating to give facilities to students for higher training in textile manufacture including yarn manufacture and allied-machineries?

(c) On what basis will the candidates be given stipends by Government? Will the stipends be given to a particular number of students from each of the Provinces?

(d) When do Government propose to send the first batch of students abroad, and how many years will a candidate require to complete the full course of the subject for which he will be sent?

(e) From where can a candidate expect to get application forms? Will the students be required to pay for the same?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The advertisement inviting applications from candidates was published in some newspapers on March 15, 1945, and in others on subsequent dates.

(b) Yes.

(c) 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 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.

(d) It is hoped to send the first batch of students abroad in the early autumn of this year, and the training will normally be for a period of two years.

(e) A brochure regarding "Information for students desiring the proceed Overseas for Advanced Studies (1945)" which contains the prescribed applications form is available on sale with the Manager of Publications, Delhi on payment of Annas Three (Cash or in stamps) as already advertised.

PAPER QUOTA FOR PRINTING PANCHANGS.

1322. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) the amount of quota of printing paper allotted by him for the printing of the Hindu calendar, called *Panchang*; and

(b) the number of copies that he expects to be printed on the amount of paper allotted and the average number of such calendars that were annually issued in the land before?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) About 102 tons of printing paper has been allowed to be used for the printing of *Panchangs*.

(b) About 21 lakhs copies are expected to be printed from the quantity of paper allotted. Information regarding the number of copies of *Panchangs* printed in past years is not available.

WEEKLY RATIONING IN NEW DELHI

1323. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Food please state:

(a) if it is a fact that rations can be purchased in New Delhi for a week at a time and if any person takes it for a lesser period he loses his right to buy rations again during that particular week;

(b) if he is aware that this entails great hardship on daily wage earners who find it difficult to purchase rations for a whole week at a time; and

(c) what arrangements have been made for this class of the population, and for beggars and others who have no settled places of residence?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No. Every ration card holder can draw his ration twice a week.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Daily wage earners, as well as beggars and other homeless people have been issued individual ration cards, and buy their rations twice a week.

EQUAL RATIONS OF WHEAT AND RICE TO VEGETARIANS AND NON-VEGETARIANS

1324. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the amount of rations of wheat and rice allotted to vegetarians and non-vegetarians is equal;

(b) if there is no rationing of meat; and

(c) if he proposes to consider the desirability of increasing the quantity of wheat and rice for those who are vegetarians?

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

(b) Meat is not rationed.

(c) No, Sir.

SCARCITY OF FOODGRAINS IN HAZARIBAGH

1325. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that Mr. Ram Narain Singh, a member of this Assembly, made an allegation in his speech during the discussion on the General Budget that in his constituency (Hazaribagh) people are eating roots and leaves;

(b) whether Government propose to supply them with subsidised grains; if it is due to economic difficulties and if it is due to non-availability of grains, whether Government propose to take adequate steps to supply them with necessary grains; and

(c) in how many places in the country people are obliged to eat roots and leaves from jungles?

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

(b) and (c). Wherever I am satisfied that supplies of grain are inadequate I shall endeavour to remedy the deficiency. In the case of Bihar the supply position is reported by the Provincial Government to be satisfactory. As I have already informed the House an inter departmental committee is actively examining the whole question of the subsidisation of food.

RATION OF GRAINS PER HEAD PER DAY

1326. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the ration of grains per individual per day allowed in the various Provinces;

(b) whether it varies from Province to Province; if so, why;

(c) in how many Provinces a ration of more than 1 lb. per head per day is allowed; and

(d) whether in fixing the ration, they have considered the fact that labourers, especially those working on land, require more of grains?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) A statement is placed on the table.

(b) Yes. The scales of ration in different areas vary according to the supply position, and also depend on whether separate provision is made for supplementary rations for heavy manual workers.

(c) Seven.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Statement showing the size of ration in foodgrains per adult per day in lbs. in rationed areas

Provinces	Maximum	Minimum
1. Assam	1.14 lbs.	
2. Bengal	1.19 "	
3. Bombay	1.0 "	1.14 lbs.
4. U. P.	1.0 "	0.79 "
5. C. P.	1.0 "	
6. N. W. F. P.	1.0 "	
7. Punjab	1.14 "	
8. Sind	1.0 "	
9. Bihar	1.14 "	
10. Orissa (Cuttack)	0.9 "	
11. Madras	1.3 "	
12. Delhi	1.13 "	0.78 lbs.
13. Ajmer-Merwara	1.13 "	
14. Baluchistan	1.0 "	
	1.0 "	

WORKERS IN MICA MINES OF GUDUR DIVISION

1327. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the number of workers—men and women—employed for underground and surface work in the mica mines of the Gudur Division;

(b) their average daily wage and dearness allowance;

(c) if it is a fact that they are engaged mostly through contractors who take a percentage of the wages; and, if so, the reasons for permitting this system; and

(d) if Government propose to hold an inquiry about the conditions in these mines and report to this House? If so, when?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The number of male and female workers employed in Mica Mines in the Gudur area is approximately 7,000 and 4,000 respectively. No women are employed underground.

(b) Average daily wage is -/12/- for men and -/7/- for women. As wages were raised recently, no dearness allowance is paid.

(c) As far as is known labour is engaged and paid direct by the mine-owners and not through contractors.

(d) No; the second part does not arise.

APPLYING FACTORIES ACT, ETC., TO MICA SPLITTING FACTORIES IN GUDUR DIVISION

1328. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact—(i) that the Factories Act is not applied to the Mica Splitting Factories in the Gudur Division, (ii) that the large majority of workers employed here are women and that they receive no advantage of the Maternity Benefits Acts, (iii) that there are no arrangements for the care of infants and children of the women workers, and (iv) that the premises are in an insanitary condition without sufficient ventilation; and

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to apply the Factories and Maternity Benefits Acts to these factories, improve labour conditions and provide adequate facilities for the care of infants and children of the women workers and report to this House about this matter?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b). The administration of the Factories Act and of the Madras Maternity Benefits Act is the responsibility of the Provincial Government. As regards a survey of the working conditions of labour in the Mica Splitting Factories in Gudur Division, the Labour Investigation Committee is engaged on the work. Government will consider in due course proposals which will be made by the Planning Committee for labour which Government hope to set up after the Labour Investigation Committee's work is over.

EXTENSION OF WORK OF IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

1329. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to extend the work of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research;

(b) if so, on what subjects, and from when; and

(c) whether any arrangements are being made to broadcast in the Indian languages the results of their researches to the areas concerned?

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

(b) Proposals are under consideration for extending the work of the Council to include (i) the application of the results of research to every day practice, (ii) the administration and development of the existing central research institutes for Agriculture, (including Animal Husbandry), (iii) the constitution of Central Agricultural services, (iv) the co-ordination of the work of existing and future Central Commodity Committees to deal with the improvement and development of important agricultural commodities, and (v) the establishment of Central Colleges for agriculture.

(c) Yes. The re-organisation proposals include the dissemination of the results of research in vernacular languages.

RULE RE APPOINTMENT OF QUALIFIED COPYHOLDERS AND REVISERS AS JUNIOR READERS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES

1330. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether Government have recently received any memorials

from the employees of any Government of India Presses regarding their hardships created by the anomalies which exist in the present rule governing the appointment of qualified Copyholders and Revisers in the Junior Readers' post?

(b) Is it a fact that in May, 1940, the Government of India Press Workers' Union, New Delhi, sent a representation to the Secretary, Labour Department, fully approved by Mr. Asaf Ali, M.L.A. (Central), who was the President of the Union, for amending the rule so that earlier passed candidates might get preference over subsequent qualified men?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of amending the existing rule in the light of these memorials?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Memorials have been received from three copyholders of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, but there is no allegation of hardship or anomaly in the present rules governing appointment to readers posts.

(b) Yes.

(c) The memorials will be considered on their merits.

CERTAIN FAILED STUDENTS REJOINING SCHOOLS IN DELHI

1331. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) the number of students who failed in the High School Examination 1943 and the number who rejoined schools in Delhi;

(b) students (i) who failed in the High School Examination of the Board of Higher Secondary Education, Delhi, in 1944, and joined the X class of the XI year course, (ii) who did not join any of the recognised schools in Delhi, (iii) who rejoined the X Class of the old course in High Schools in Delhi;

(c) if he is aware that the decrease, if any, in the number of students re-joining schools in Delhi was mostly due to the Board having failed to make ample provision for starting X class of the old course in time in Higher Secondary Schools in 1944; and

(d) the approximate loss of revenue, if any, to the Board on this account?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) 544. The information asked for in the second part is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House when received.

(b) (i) 526. The information asked for in the second part of part (i) and in parts (ii) and (iii) is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House when received.

(c) and (d). Government have no information.

REQUISITE QUALIFICATIONS OF PRINCIPAL AND HIGHER SECONDARY DEPARTMENT TEACHER IN A SCHOOL IN DELHI

1332. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) the requisite qualifications of (i) Principal, (ii) Higher Secondary Department teacher in a school in Delhi;

(b) the number of Principals and teachers permitted to teach Higher Secondary Classes who do not possess these qualifications; and the reason for giving any such exemptions; and

(c) why no exemption has been granted in the case of some of the experienced and trained graduate teachers?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). The information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) As I have already stated in reply to part (c) of starred question No. 562 asked by Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall on the 28th February 1945, exemptions are granted by the Board of Higher Secondary Education Delhi at their discretion.

NON-ADULTS AGE LIMITS FOR RATIONING PURPOSES IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY

1333. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that for purposes of rationing, statutory or otherwise, a non-adult is one below twelve and above two years of age, in the Madras

Presidency; whereas in the Bombay Presidency he is one below six years entitled to half a unit of foodgrains;

(b) the central policy on the point;

(c) how and from where the children below two years are to get food; and

(d) if Government are prepared to lay down a consistent policy with regard to the point raised herein?

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

(b), (c) and (d). The policy of the Government of India has been embodied in a resolution adopted at the Fifth All-India Food Conference, namely "in all rationing schemes the definition of a child should be from the date of birth to the age of eight". All Provincial and State Governments are being asked to implement this resolution.

DISTRIBUTION OF SUGAR IN DHARWAR

1334. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of sugar that is distributed in the town of Dharwar;

(b) the system and basis for distribution of sugar to (i) hotel-keepers, (ii) restaurant-keepers, and (iii) householders;

(c) if it is a fact that restaurant-keepers are not getting enough sugar even to serve tea since two months; and

(d) if it is a fact that since one month no sugar is being given to restaurants in Dharwar; if so, why?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Sugar ration in Dharwar is one lb. per adult and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per child per fortnight.

(b) (i) and (ii). Hotel-keepers and restaurant-keepers are supplied with sugar on permits based on estimated consumption.

(iii) Householders receive supplies on *per capita* basis as in (a) above. (c) Owing to a reduction in the Provincial sugar quota, the quantities allowed to the establishments, mainly sweetmeat sellers and to a lesser extent to the tea-shops, were reduced in February 1945. Some tea-shops, which used up their quota early, had to go without sugar in the second fortnight of February.

(d) No, Sir.

DISTRIBUTION OF CLOTH IN DHARWAR

1335. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that in Dharwar Town cloth is being distributed only to doctors, vakils and income-tax assesses? If so, what is the policy underlying this arrangement and who is responsible for it?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The internal distribution of cloth within a Province is the concern of the Provincial Governments. I have, however, ascertained the facts and the position is that all cloth, except fine *Dhoties*, is sold to all persons in the district of Dharwar through approved dealers. Owing to limited supplies of fine *Dhoties*, it was considered necessary to introduce a permit system until more stocks were received. It was therefore decided by the district authorities to issue permits for not more than one pair each to persons accustomed to wear fine *dhoties*. The District Committee, which is mostly unofficial, is aware of this arrangement.

INADEQUATE DISTRIBUTION OF PAPER IN DHARWAR AND BELGAUM DISTRICTS

1336. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the distribution of paper to the press, publishers and to students in the district of Dharwar and Belgaum is very inadequate;

(b) whether it is a fact that this area is cut off from the supply from Mysore State;

(c) if it is true that Deccan Paper Mills are the only suppliers to this area and that their production is very inadequate to meet the demand and that it hardly reaches the aforesaid districts;

(d) whether it is not true that the schools in that area are going to be opened in June and that paper for printing of text books and exercise books is not yet made available; and

(e) if Government propose to take immediate steps to see that the said area is adequately supplied with paper stocks?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The allocation of paper made for the Bombay Presidency was increased substantially in the last quarterly programme, and is considered adequate for its requirements. Certain local shortages have, however, occurred on account of transport difficulties from the Deccan Paper Mills to the districts. Steps to relieve these shortages have been and are being taken.

(b) Yes.

(c) It is true that the Deccan Paper Mills are the suppliers fixed for this area. Their production is considered more than adequate for the essential requirements of the areas which they are required to serve. The difficulty, as already stated, has been due to lack of transport.

(d) and (e). Government have no information as to the date on which schools open in the Dharwar and Belgaum districts. Steps have, however, been taken already by the Paper Controller, India, and by the Provincial authorities to ensure that paper moves to the districts as early as possible. However, so long as transport is limited and is required for more urgent needs, no assurance that local and temporary shortages will be completely avoided can be given.

RATION PER ADULT LABOURER IN CERTAIN AREAS

1337. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) the ration per adult labourer in, (i) coffee, tea, and rubber, betelnut and paddy estates in Coorg, (ii) coffee, tea and betelnut estates and paddy fields in Malabar, (iii) betelnut gardens, cardamom estate and paddy fields in South Kanara, (iv) paddy fields and betelnut estates in North Kanara, and (v) coffee and tea estates in Nilgiris;

(b) whether it is not a fact that estate owners are permitted to purchase and stock foodgrains for their labourers in Coorg and Nilgiris;

(c) whether it is true that no such permission is given to betelnut gardeners and cardamom estate owners in the district of South Kanara;

(d) if Government are aware that on account of these restrictions the betelnut gardeners and cardamom estate owners in South Kanara are unable to keep their labourers and that their cultivation is suffering; and that their labourers are migrating to Coorg; and

(e) if Government propose to lay down a common policy with regard to all matters contained herein?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) (i) There is no statutory rationing in Coorg.

(ii) In Malabar Coffee and Tea Estates labour get one lb. rice and 0.27 lb. wheat per adult per day. Landholders and permanent farm servants on betelnut estates and paddy fields get one lb. of rice per adult per day.

(iii) In South Kanara betelnut gardens, cardamom estate and paddy fields labour get one lb. of foodgrains per adult per day.

(iv) There is no statutory rationing in the rural areas in North Kanara.

(v) Coffee and tea estates labour in Nilgiris are allowed 1.06 lbs. rice and 63 lb. wheat.

(b) Yes, Sir; but in the case of Nilgiris, quotas based on the number of employees are given to the estate owners for distribution to labourers through the employers' shops. In the absence of such shops, the labourers take rations from the nearest retail shop.

(c) Arecanut growers, who applied have been allowed the concession referred to in (b). Information regarding cardamom estate owners is being collected.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The aim is to provide a basic ration of one lb. in staple foodgrains and an extra 50 per cent. for heavy manual workers but the actual ration in each area depends on local conditions and supplies. Extra rations to labourers are allowed when supplies are available, and employers of estates who are producers of foodgrains are allowed to retain their produce for distribution to their labourers through their grain shops.

CLOTH FAMINE

1338. *Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies aware that there is a famine of cloth throughout the country, particularly in the Province of Bihar?

(b) Is he aware of the fact that the marriage season is on, and therefore, there will be great demand for cloth in the coming month by the rich and poor alike?

(c) Will the Honourable Member please state the steps, if any, Government have taken or are going to take to tackle the situation?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies given by me to Mr. Ram Narayan Singh's questions Nos. 850 and 855 asked on the 8th March 1945.

(b) Yes.

MEASURES FOR ERADICATION OF BLACK MARKET IN DELHI

1339. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the measures prescribed for the eradication of the black market in Delhi?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I lay on the table a statement on the subject.

Statement

With a view to eradicating blackmarkets generally, various Orders have been issued under the Defence of India Rules for the control and distribution of a number of commodities and these have been supplemented by the blanket provisions of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943. To enforce the provisions of the Ordinance and the various Orders, the Delhi Administration have set up an organisation consisting of one Gazetted Officer, two Senior Inspectors, seven Inspectors and thirteen Sub-Inspectors. In addition to these, a considerable staff is maintained for work in connection with planning and provisioning under the Director of Civil Supplies. There are also stationed in Delhi two Inspectors and three Assistant Inspectors of the Controller General of Civil Supplies, whose duty it is also to keep a watch over the activities of dealers generally.

STAFF FOR THE WORKING OF ORDINANCE No. XXXV OF 1943

1340. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) the strength of the staff (gazetted and non-gazetted separately) employed in Delhi Province for the working of Ordinance No. XXXV of 1943;

(b) the pay of that staff (gazetted and non-gazetted respectively) for 1944-45;

(c) the expenditure incurred on the working of that ordinance;

(d) the results achieved by that staff in the working of that ordinance; and

(e) whether Government contemplate any economy in that staff; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). There is no separate staff for the enforcement of Ordinance No. XXXV of 1943, but I lay on the table a statement showing the staff and the nature of their duties and the other information required.

(c) The expenditure incurred on the working of the Ordinance is not recorded separately and consequently it is not possible to furnish this information.

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(d) 199 cases have been sent for trial in Delhi under the Ordinance out of which 99 have been decided. In 80 of these cases convictions were obtained. It is not possible, however, to evaluate the work done by this staff in terms of the number of cases actually sent up for trial, as its existence is really meant to prevent recourse to malpractices by dealers and others.

(e) Government do not contemplate any reduction in the staff as the emergency for which the staff was employed, still exists. On the other hand, there is room for expansion.

Statement showing the staff employed by the Delhi Administration to look after the enforcement of the Ordinance No. XXXV of 1943 as well as the various Control Orders issued under the Defence of India Rules regulating the control and distribution of foodstuffs and other commodities.

Designation	Number
Enforcement Officer (Gazetted)	1
Prosecuting Police Inspector (non-gazetted)	1
Chief Investigating Inspector (non-gazetted)	1
Inspectors (non-gazetted)	7
Sub-Inspectors (non-gazetted)	7
Stenographer (non-gazetted)	1
Senior Clerks (non-gazetted)	2
Junior Clerks (non-gazetted)	2
Peons (non-gazetted)	12

The anticipated expenditure on the above staff during 1944-45 is as follows:

Gazetted staff	Rs. 4,941
Non-gazetted staff	Rs. 19,153

STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR, CIVIL SUPPLIES, DELHI

1341. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

- (a) the strength of the office of the Director, Civil Supplies, Delhi, in each category on the 15th March, 1945; and
- (b) the expenditure on that strength on that date?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). A statement containing the information required is laid on the table.

Statement showing the strength of the office of the Director Civil Supplies, Delhi; in each category on the 15th March 1945.

Designation	Number
Director	1
Assistant Directors	4
Enforcement Officer	1
Permit Officer	1
Inspectors	26
Sub-Inspectors	36
Assistant Sub-Inspectors	6
Superintendents	4
Accountant	1
Assistants	16
Clerks	25
Qanungos	3
Peons	56

The expenditure on account of this staff for the year 1944-45 up to 15th March 1945, amounted to Rs. 1,53,788.

MUNICIPALITIES IN CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS PAYING DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO STAFF

1342. *Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands kindly state:

(a) the names of municipalities in the centrally administered areas following the scheme of the Central Government for payment of dearness allowance to their low paid staff;

(b) the names of municipalities receiving grants from the Central Government for dearness allowance;

(c) the percentage of the dearness allowance granted by the Central Government; and

(d) if it is a fact that other Provincial Governments are paying grants to all municipalities for payment of dearness allowances irrespective of their financial position?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Municipalities of Delhi, New Delhi, Sahahdra, Quetta, Ajmer and Beawar.

(b) No Municipality is receiving grants from the Central Government on account of dearness allowance paid by it to its staff.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) I have no information.

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO AJMER MUNICIPALITY FOR PAYMENT OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO STAFF

1343. *Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if Government are aware that the Ajmer Municipality are paying dearness allowance to their staff in accordance with the Government of India's Scheme;

(b) if it is a fact that no contribution is paid by Government towards the payment of dearness allowance to this municipality;

(c) the reasons for not sanctioning any contribution for dearness allowance to Ajmer Municipality; and

(d) if Government propose to consider the advisability of giving Ajmer Municipality adequate grants-in-aid for dearness allowance in view of the difficult budgetary position in the present conditions?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). The Government of India have not sanctioned a contribution to any Municipality on account of dearness allowance paid by them to their staff and I know of no reason for making an exception in favour of the Ajmer Municipality.

YARN AVAILABLE FOR HANDLOOM INDUSTRY

1344. *Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the total quantity of yarn available for handloom Industries in 1935-36, i.e., sales of yarn by Mills for handloom purposes and also such portion of imported yarn that was consumed by handlooms giving the quantity in pounds?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the Statements given on pages 56 and 286-87 of the Fact Finding Committee's Report, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

YARDAGE PRODUCTION OF HANDLOOMS

1345. *Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

- (a) the production of handlooms in 1935-36, and in 1938-39 in yardage; and
- (b) the production of handlooms in 1944, and if the figures are not available for 1944, the figures for 1943-44 in yardage?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to tables XIX and XX given on pages 56 and 57 respectively of the Fact Finding Committee's Report a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

(b) Exact production figures of handloom cloth in calendar year 1944 are not available. Estimated production of handloom cloth based on yarn actually believed to have been available to handlooms is about 1600 million yards.

FOUNDER'S DAY AT THE LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE

1346. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state whether it has been decided not to observe the Founder's Day at the Lady Hardinge Medical College this year? If so, what are the reasons for abandoning the celebrations this year? Is it usually celebrated about the 17th March every year?

(b) Did the students submit an application to the Principal making any demands in this connection? If so, what are their demands?

(c) Is it a fact that recently there was a strike in the College by the students, as reported in the *Hindustan Times* (Evening Edition) of the 3rd March, 1945? If so, for what reasons was the strike resorted to?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes, because the students intimated to the Principal that they were not willing to attend. The Founders' Day is celebrated on the 17th of March each year.

(b) Yes, a copy of the letter sent by the President of the Students' Union to the Principal is laid on the table of the House.

(c) Yes. It is understood that students went on strike as they were under the impression that the College authorities would compel them to attend the Founder's Day celebrations. When, however the Principal informed them that there was no question of any coercion in the matter, the strike, which lasted for two hours, was called off.

Copy of letter written to P. M. C.

(For your information.)

Lady Hardinge Medical College,
New Delhi, 23-2-1945.

To

The Principal,
Lady Hardinge Medical College,
New Delhi.

Dear Dr. Mitton:

I wish to thank you very much for meeting the students on the 21st evening and for hearing some of their grievances and also thank you for your letter No. B-/301, dated the 22nd February, 1945.

2. The student body wishes to thank you for the personal interest you are taking in their affairs, in particular for your suggestion to interview them monthly. While appreciating this, the student body is none the less convinced, that the Executive Committee and the President are the best medium for voicing their opinion and grievances, both those which have arisen in the past and such as may arise in the future; also the general feeling is that though these grievances have been officially and adequately represented, they have not been given due consideration by the authorities.

3. In your last interview with the student body the only complaint that was clearly represented was about the passes both in limitation of their number and the difficulty in obtaining even those. We appreciate the sacrifice on the part of the Vice-Principal in devoting so much time to a purely hostel affair, but we cannot help feeling, that this change will not necessarily affect the main issue, viz., the limitation of number of passes.

4. We hereby forward for your kind consideration the grievances of the student body, some of these being of far greater consequence than the question of passes. Although some may seem petty, and may be things of the past, we beg to draw your attention to them, so as to receive a writing assurance that such things will not recur. Included amongst them are certain unpopular rules, which we sincerely beg of you to amend or abolish:—

I. Leave on adequate grounds.—To go out of station.

Marriage, illness or any domestic emergencies.

(a) Leave was not granted on what seemed to us perfectly adequate grounds—

(1) Miss Sagarya—illness of her brother.

(2) Miss L. Mirchandani—sisters marriage.

(3) Miss S. Chopra—Brother's marriage.

(4) Miss K. Kanta—sister's marriage.

(5) Miss Surgit Kaur—brother's marriage.

(6) S. Chandra—on her brother's return from overseas.

In one of these cases, the student had to suffer severe penalties, due to the action following the refusal. Difficulties in travelling in these cases are negligible as the cases are few and far between.

(b) Leave for absence on week-ends.

(1) It should not be necessary to apply for a week-end pass ten days beforehand.

(2) The number of week ends has been reduced.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(3) Leave to stay away till 10 P.M. number of these passes has been cut down.

(4) Leave for the 4th years, after examination (final) has not been granted.

I. Academic.

(a) Clinical work—we are made to repeat 15 days of a post when we miss 8 days.

(b) We are not allowed to appear on 80 per cent. of hospital attendances although this is permitted by the Punjab University.

(c) Referred students are obliged to repeat their postings when not required, by the Punjab University, e.g., the last batch of super finals.

(d) Students should be allowed to make up for their lost hospital days during Christmas and Easter holidays, if they wish to do so.

III. Coercive Treatment to the Students.

(a) New rules are being made under the pain of expulsion regardless of the magnitude of their offences.

(b) Library being suspended.

(c) Written replies to the student's points are not sent.

(d) Unwritten rules are enforced.

(e) Gating for minor offences.

IV. Hostel Life.

(a) Insubordination and inefficiency of the servants and no satisfaction received from the authorities regarding these.

(b) Repairs—not undertaken promptly, if at all.

(c) Hot water—only two boilers for the whole college.

(d) Diet—no supervision by the authorities and no arrangements for fresh milk and vegetables.

(e) Thefts—either uninvestigated or investigated with great inconvenience to the students concerned.

(f) Sick students not promptly attended.

(g) Students visitors should be allowed to be taken round the campus.

(h) House surgeons quarters have been put out of bounds even in the case of application for a late pass.

We sincerely hope that you will kindly consider the grievances favourably and thanking you in anticipation of an early reply.

Yours obediently,

L. PANDIT,

President, Students Union.

RESERVING FISHING AT CERTAIN GROYNES AT OKHLA FOR EUROPEAN PUBLIC

1347. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state, whether any complaint has come to the notice of his Department that fishing at certain groynes at Okhla is being sought to be reserved exclusively for the European public under orders of the Executive Engineer-in-Charge? If so, has any enquiry been made into this matter, and will he please state the result of such an enquiry?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes. The complaint is being investigated by the authorities concerned.

INTERPRETATION OF "GRAM" IN THE SCHEDULE OF FOODGRAINS (FUTURE AND OPTION'S PROHIBITION) ORDER

1348. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the commodity described as "gram" in the schedule annexed to the Foodgrains (future and option's prohibition) Order 1942, has given rise to doubts and whether it has cleared any departmental circulars; and

(b) whether the word 'gram' was intended to apply to horse "gram" and whether the order has been applied to horse gram?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). I have received no such complaint in connection with the working of the Foodgrains (Future and Options Prohibition) Order 1942. Gram is generally understood by the trade to mean 'Bengal gram' of which the botanical name is *cicer arietinum*. Horse gram, commonly known as Kulti is a species of pulses and is quite distinct from ordinary gram.

In connection with their Foodgrains Procurement Scheme, the Food Department issued a circular letter in June, 1943, explaining that by 'gram' we meant 'Bengal gram' and not 'green gram', 'black gram' or 'horse gram'—these are really varieties of pulses.

LICENSED SALT DEALERS, ETC., IN BIHAR

1349. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please refer to his replies to my starred question No. 952 of the 13th March, 1945, and starred question No. 710 of the 30th March, 1944, and state whether he has received replies of the starred question No. 710 asked on the 30th March, 1944? If so, what is it? If not, whether he has issued any reminder to get replies?

(b) With reference to replies to part (b) of starred question No. 953 of the 13th March, 1945, in which the Honourable Member stated that one more wholesale sugar dealer was going to be added in the Hajipur sub-division of the Muzaffarpur district in Bihar, does the Honourable the Food Member propose to ask the Bihar Government to consider the claims of the said Barkat Mian of the same sub-division as he happened to be on the approved list of wholesale dealers of sugar?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes. According to the information received from the Bihar Government there were 1,489 Muslim licensed salt dealers in Bihar on the 30th March, 1944, and 2,047 on the 10th March 1945, out of a total of 19,522. The information is, however, still not complete.

As regards part (b) of starred question No. 952 the information is that there has been an increase in the number of Muslim salt dealers since 1944 in the Tirhut Division.

(b) The matter is entirely within the discretion of the Provincial Government, but I am prepared to send them copies of the questions and answers for their consideration.

CERTAIN INSPECTORS OF CIVIL SUPPLIES IN BIHAR

1350. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please refer to his reply to part (d) of starred question No. 957 of the 13th March, 1945, and state the period during which one Assistant Inspector and each of the two Inspectors have detected 41 and 56 cases respectively in Bihar?

(b) Will the Honourable Member please refer to his reply to part (e) of starred question No. 957 of the 13th March and state whether any Inspector or Assistant Inspector of Civil Supplies has ever been partly entrusted with distribution work in Bihar? If so, who is that officer and where is he located?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of entrusting the distribution work to some of their officers in Bihar?

(d) Does the Honourable Member propose to give an idea as to how Civil Supplies Department will make arrangements for distribution work in Bihar and the organisation of new schemes for the expansion of distribution work in the Provinces?

(e) What is the number of Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors to be appointed for distribution work in various Provinces?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) About one year up to the end of 1944.

(b) The staff mentioned in reply to part (e) of starred question No. 957 answered on 13th March 1945 attends to the distribution work of the Provinces of Bengal, Bihar and Assam jointly, arising out of the working of the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order. Each can, therefore, be said to be partly entrusted with the work of distribution in Bihar. This staff works at 213, Circular Road, Calcutta.

(c) Presumably reference is to the Enforcement Staff mentioned in reply to (d) of starred question No. 957 answered on the 13th March 1945. If so, the reply is in the negative, as it will not be possible for that staff to attend to the work of distribution under the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order in addition to their duties in regard to the enforcement of the provisions of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance.

(d) Internal distribution is primarily the responsibility of the Provincial or State Government concerned.

(e) Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of Civil Supplies entrusted with distribution work under the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order are appointed region-wise. So far no such staff has been appointed specifically for any one Province. It cannot be stated what the final number of Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors will be as the number to be appointed will vary from time to time.

IRREGULAR APPOINTMENTS IN CERTAIN BRANCHES OF C. P. W. D.

1351. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether under the rules about communal representation in the services, an appointment made against those rules should be cancelled?

(b) Is it a fact that it was found that an irregular appointment of a Sikh was made in the Horticulture Department of the Central Public Works Department?

(c) Is it a fact that the appointment was not cancelled, but the Muslim, who should have been appointed to that vacancy, was assigned his correct position in the seniority list?

(d) Is it a fact that some irregular appointments were also made in the cadre of Electrical Engineers?

(e) Is it a fact that it was decided not to cancel those appointments but to assign the Muslims their correct position in the seniority list?

(f) Is it a fact that subsequently the orders about seniority were also cancelled and seniority was fixed according to the dates of the irregular appointments of non-Muslims? If so, why?

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

(b) No.

(c) Two vacancies in the grade of Horticulture Subordinate arose simultaneously, of which the first was reserved for a Muslim and the other was unreserved. A Muslim was selected against the Muslim vacancy and a Sikh against the unreserved vacancy. The Sikh joined his appointment earlier than the Muslim, as the latter was employed elsewhere and could not be released in time by the office where he was employed. As the first of the two appointments was earmarked for the Muslim he was placed higher than the Sikh in the seniority list.

(d), (e) and (f). Certain officiating appointments in the grade of Electrical Engineer were made without observing the strict order of communal rotation laid down in the orders regarding representation of minority communities in the public service. These appointments had to be made at very short notice in connection with urgent war works in Eastern India and it was administratively impracticable to follow the prescribed communal rotation in making these appointments. The appointments were not, therefore, cancelled, and the seniority of the officers concerned was fixed in accordance with their respective dates of appointment. No orders fixing the seniority of any Muslim officer in the grade of Electrical Engineer were passed and cancelled later.

AUTHORITY CONTROLLING MOVEMENTS OF FOODGRAINS AND GUR IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS OF BIHAR

1352. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the local authority which controls the movements of foodgrain and gur in the districts of Hazaribagh, Gaya and Ranchi;

(b) the authority which has prohibited the movement of gur from Chatra in Hazaribagh district to Loherdago in Ranchi district; and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether he is aware of the fact that unnecessary interferences with the free inter-district movements of foodgrains and gur has been causing great difficulties and inconveniences both to the producers and consumers of foodgrains and gur in the districts mentioned in (a) and (b); and if he proposes to advise the local authority concerned not to do so?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The Regional Officer, Ranchi in Hazari Bagh and Ranchi Districts, and the Regional Officer, Gaya in Gaya District.

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- (b) The Local Government, on the advice of the Government of India, in order to prevent excessive movement of *gür* to the districts on the borders of the province, whence smuggling out of the province is easy.
- (c) I have heard of no special inconvenience.

PENDING APPEALS BEFORE THE INCOME-TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

1353. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Law Member please state:

- (a) the total number of appeals pending in January, 1944, and in January, 1945, with the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal, and the number according to Provinces and how many of them are over one year old;
- (b) the average duration of an appeal before the Tribunal and the number filed and disposed of each year, since the establishment of the Tribunal;
- (c) whether it is a fact that heavy arrears in Madras Province necessitated two Benches from Bombay and one Bench from Patna to camp at Madras to help the Madras Bench to clear Madras arrears;
- (d) the number of appeals that were pending with the Madras Bench at the beginning of February, 1944, and in February, 1945;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the period of the Bench at Madras has been extended till the end of March, 1945, and whether this period is sufficient to dispose of all the pending arrears;
- (f) whether Government are aware that the non-establishment of a permanent Bench at Madras is causing great expense, delay and hardship to all litigants in the matter of disposal of appeals; and
- (g) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of permanently locating a Bench at Madras?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table.

(c) to (g). The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar's starred question No. 1051, asked on the 16th March, 1945.

Statement

(a) I. Appeals and Reference applications pending at the end of January, 1944. II. Appeals and Reference applications pending at the end of January, 1945.

	Total	Number over one year old	Total	Number over one year old
Bombay	212		362	
C. P. & Berar	108	121 excluding Reference applications (figures for each Province not readily available).	202	47
Sind	79		98	
Baluchistan	29		27	
Ajmer-Merwara	3		13	
Bengal	52		144	4
Madras	541		294	10
Assam	1		2	
Bihar	119		100	1
Orissa	23		96	6
Gelhi	48		93	
Punjab	248		450	46
U. P.	142		246	21
N. W. F. P.	57		59	29
Civil & Military Station Bangalore			1	
Total	1662	121	2187	164

(b) The average duration of an appeal is six months
Number filed and disposed of each year:

year	Number filed	Number disposed of
1941-42	1835	908
1942-43	1958	1660
1943-44	2590	2202
1944-45 upto 1st February 1945	2779	2320

WAR RISKS INSURANCE MONEY

1354. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

- (a) the total amount of money which Government have received on War Risk Insurance;
- (b) how much they have paid to persons who have insured on account of losses incurred;
- (c) the net profit to Government in this matter up to date; and
- (d) how these amounts are utilised or proposed to be utilised by Government?
- The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:** (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to my replies on the 21st February, 1945, to the unstarred question No. 410 by the Honourable Mr. Manu Subedar and the supplementaries.

(c) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the notifications of the Government of India in the Department of Commerce Nos. 6-WRI(G)/44-D, and 7-W.R.I.(G)/44-D both dated the 6th January, 1945.

(d) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to paragraph 19 of the Honourable the Finance Member's last Budget speech wherein the House was informed that a portion of the funds is being transferred to General Revenues for meeting the expenditure involved in paying compensation for damages resulting from the Bombay Explosion. As regards the balance the Honourable Member's attention is invited to section 7(3) of the War Risks (Factories) Insurance Ordinance and section 9(3) of the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Ordinance.

HYDARI MISSION

1355. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

- (a) when the Hydari Mission is expected to arrive back in India;
- (b) the object of their Mission; and
- (c) how far they have succeeded in the Mission?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The Mission is expected to arrive back shortly.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to part (a) of Mr. Neogy's starred question No. 303 on the 16th February, 1945.

(c) After receipt of the report of the Mission, Government will consider the question of acquainting the House with the broad results achieved.

STEPS FOR PROTECTION OF COTTON-GROWERS

1356. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) in view of the decision of the U. S. A. to dump their stocks of cotton on other countries, what active steps have been taken by the Government to protect cotton growers in this country;

(b) whether the Provincial Governments were consulted in the matter, and whether they have given any suggestions; and

(c) if so; what steps they propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Opportunity is being taken to present India's point of view on this subject in an adequate manner at the International Cotton Advisory Committee to meet to-day in Washington. India will be represented by the Trade Commissioner in New York and by Mr. Chard, the Controller of Raw Materials and Stores in the Textile Commissioner's Office.

(b) No; the Cotton Committee of the Textile Control Board has however been consulted.

(c) The question does not arise.

REQUIREMENTS OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS AND FERTILIZERS

1357. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Secretary, Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) whether the price of food crops was fixed on the basis that agriculturists will get their agricultural implements and fertilizers at controlled rates;

(b) whether Government have calculated the quantity of agricultural implements required for the country per year and the quantity produced in the country and made available to agriculturists; and

(c) whether Government have made similar calculations regarding fertilizers?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No, maximum prices have been fixed for some food-grains after taking into consideration various factors including the prices at which agriculturists can obtain their requirements.

(b) Most of the agricultural implements required in the country are made by village blacksmiths and in small foundries. An approximate estimate of the requirements of such implements was made and on this basis it was worked out that at least 100,000 tons of iron and steel should be made available for the purpose every year. In addition another 12,000 tons are needed each year for the manufacture of implements by organized implements manufacturers. Efforts are being made to supply these requirements. The allotment for the first half of 1945 for agricultural implements, consumer goods and unlicensed sales is about 95,000 tons of iron and steel, which will be distributed through Regional Deputy Iron and Steel Controllers acting in consultation with Provincial Governments. In addition iron and steel will be supplied direct by the Civil Steel Licensing Authority to organized implements manufacturers.

(c) Before the war, India used only 100,000 tons of chemical fertilizers in a year; some 20,000 tons of Ammonium Sulphate were produced in India in addition to a small quantity of Superphosphate the rest being imported. In 1944 some 58,000 tons of Ammonium Sulphate were imported and in the first half of 1945 another 30,000 tons are expected. Comparatively small quantities of other chemical fertilizers have also been received. Indents have been placed for importing 171,000 tons of Ammonium Sulphate in 1945-46 in addition to other fertilizers. The imports are distributed through Provincial Governments.

AFFORDING CERTAIN MATERNITY BENEFITS TO WOMEN MINE WORKERS

1358. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:-

(a) in pursuance of his answer to starred question No. 437, asked on the 21st February, 1945, whether Government have examined the matter of extending the time when women before and after delivery should not be allowed to go within the mines;

(b) whether Government have considered the matter of every mine being provided with creches for children of mothers working in mines; and

(c) whether, in view of the fact that statements have been made in the House by Members with personal experience that these creches are not functioning regularly, Government have taken or are taking steps to see that these are properly functioning?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The necessary Legislation is already before the House.

(b) and (c). The whole question of the compulsory provision of creches in mines is under consideration.

SCHEME FOR TRAINING IN TECHNICAL INDUSTRIES ABROAD

1359. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) apart from the training given in universities to students, as mentioned in the press communique of the Education, Health and Lands Department, whether Government have any scheme to depute and train men in technical industries; so that they can be used in the starting of industries in the post-war period;

(b) whether the Government of India have negotiated with the Government or industrialists of the U. K. or the U. S. A. to get such men trained; and

(c) if so, in what industries?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes. Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Labour Department letter No. TRC-II-1140, dated the 12th December, 1944, a copy of which was placed on the table of the House on the 14th February, 1945 in reply to his question No. 198.

(b) With the Governments.

(c) Negotiations on general lines and not confined to specific industries have taken place.

APPOINTING SCHEDULED CASTE MEMBER ON FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

*** 1360. *Mr. Piare Lal Kureel:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheduled caste person has ever been appointed on the Federal Public Service Commission; if not, why not; and

(b) whether Government propose to appoint a scheduled caste person on the Federal Public Service Commission if and when a vacancy occurs in future?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No person belonging to the scheduled castes has hitherto been appointed as a Member of the Federal Public Service Commission. The Chairman and other Members of the Commission are appointed by the Governor-General in his discretion under section 265 of the Government of India Act, 1935.

POSTPONED STARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

WRITTEN ANSWERS

(Postponed from March 8, 1945)

ANGLING AT OKHLA

820. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state the conditions on which fishing is allowed to anglers at Okhla in the Province of Delhi? Who are the authorities who control the same?

(b) Who is the authority for issuing licences for angling at Okhla? What position do the Delhi Anglers' Association occupy in this matter? What conditions have the individual anglers, who may not apply through the Delhi Anglers' Association, to satisfy for the purpose of getting a licence?

(c) Will the Honourable Member please state the number of annual fishing licences at Okhla granted for the fishing years 1943-44, and 1944-45, separately, mentioning how many of them were granted to members of the Delhi Anglers' Association, or persons applying through the said Association, and how many to those who had applied independently of the Association? Is it a fact that annual licences have been granted on a restricted scale in 1944-45 as compared with the previous year? If so, under whose orders has this restriction been effected? Have any restrictions in the matter of issuing of licences been placed by the Canal authorities, or the Chief Commissioner of Delhi in his capacity as the administrator of the Delhi Province? If any restrictions have been so placed, what are those restrictions, and why have they been placed?

(d) Have any complaints been received by the authorities concerned regarding the rejection of applications for licences? If so, what is the substance of such complaints, and what enquiries have been made into them and with what result? Is it a fact that, while licences have been granted to peons and domestic servants in the year 1944-45, they have been refused in several instances to landlords, income-tax-payers and non-gazetted officers of Government? If so, why?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Fishing at Okhla is regulated by a set of rules issued under section 75 of the Northern India Canal and Drainage Act 1873. A copy of the rules is placed on the table of the House. The rules are administered by the Chief Commissioner, Delhi.

(b) The Executive Engineer, Upper Division, Agra Canal, is the licensing authority. He consults the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi or the Delhi Anglers'

Association in doubtful cases. In the case of anglers applying otherwise than through the Delhi Anglers' Association, the Chief Commissioner has to satisfy himself that they are *bona fide* amateur anglers of known status and not likely to employ methods which might cause wholesale destruction of fish.

(c) A statement is laid on the table.

The number of licences granted in 1944-45 is lower than in the previous year as a result of instructions given by the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, in consultation with the Superintending Engineer of the Canal. The Chief Commissioner considered that the scrutiny of applications had become somewhat lax and he decided to tighten up the administration of the rules in order to safeguard the position regarding fish breeding at Okhla.

(d) Yes, complaints are received from time to time from persons who have failed to secure licences, but there is no reason whatever to think that the rules are enforced otherwise than in a proper and reasonable way. No licences have been issued to private servants or peons except in one case where permission was given to enable the peon of an Indian Business man to hold the master's fishing rod while the latter was angling.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER, DELHI

NOTIFICATION

Delhi, the 11th December 1934

No. B-95/34-Industries.—Under the provisions of section 75 of the Northern India Canal and Drainage Act, 1873, the Chief Commissioner, Delhi is pleased to make the following rules which are hereby published for general information.

Rules.

1. No person shall without the permission in writing of the Divisional Canal Officer, kill, catch or angle for fish in that portion of the Jumna river between the Hindan Escape above Okhla weir to Groyne No. 8 below it and in those portions of the Agra, the Hindan and the Eastern Jumna Canals lying within the boundaries of the Delhi Province.

2. The Divisional Canal Officer may attach to a permit to fish any conditions necessary and may also levy the following fees:

(i) Rs. 10 for an annual permit commencing from October 1, in one year to September 30, in the following year.

(ii) Re. 1 for a permit for one day commencing 6 A.M. and ending at 8 P.M. of the same day.

NOTE.—Soldiers in uniform will be charged only 0-8-0 (eight annas only) for daily permits.

3. No annual permit holder or daily permit holder shall be permitted to fish between 8 P.M. and 6 A.M.

4. Any breach of these rules will be punishable under section 70 (12) of the Act by a fine not exceeding Rs. 50 or to imprisonment not exceeding one month or both.

5. The Chief Commissioner's Notification No. 7617-Industries, dated the 3rd September, 1929 is hereby cancelled.

L. N. G. JOHNSON.

Statement

	1943-1944	1944-1945
i) Licences granted to persons recommended by the Delhi Angler's Association.	38	21
ii) Licences granted to persons applying independently of the Delhi Anglers Association.	122	52
Total	160	73

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

TONNAGE ON WHICH SOFT COKE CESS HAS BEEN REALISED.

104. **Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the tonnage on which the Soft Coke Cess Committee realised its cess on despatch on Soft Coke during 1941 to 1944?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The information is as follows:

1941	957,553 tons	1943	354,835 tons
1942	431,858 tons	1944	445,721 tons

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, the following message has been received from the Council of State:

"I am directed to inform you that the Council of State at its meeting held on the 22nd March, 1945, agreed without any amendment to the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, for certain purposes, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 10th November, 1944."

THE INDIAN ARMY (AMENDMENT) BILL

Sir George Spence (Secretary, Legislative Department): Sir, may I with your permission, move the motions standing in the name of Mr. Ram Chandra, because he has been detained?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Yes.

Sir George Spence: Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Army Act, 1911.

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Army Act, 1911."

The motion was adopted.

Sir George Spence: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN AIR FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Sir George Spence (Secretary, Legislative Department): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Air Force Act, 1932.

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Air Force Act, 1932."

The motion was adopted.

Sir George Spence: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the Finance Bill. Sir Henry Richardson.

Sir Henry Richardson (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, this morning we raise the curtain on the last act of this annual Finance Bill drama. It is not my intention to take much time of the House for, after many days of debate, in which I believe over 40 speakers have taken part, a very wide range of subjects has already been dealt with.

Before I start upon the main remarks which I propose to make, I must touch very briefly upon the rather picturesque speech with which Mr. Anthony regaled us last Friday. I do not consider that Mr. Beverley Nichols' book "Verdict on India" merits the wasting of five minutes of the time of this House—much less the 30 minutes that Mr. Anthony devoted to it. I would no more consider seriously Mr. Nichols' strictures upon the Anglo-Indian community than I would the equally stupid remarks that he makes about my own community. To make such a publication the basis for a long dissertation upon racial inequalities not only indicates a complete lack of a sense of proportion but also a certain lack of justifiable pride in his community, which might well incline Mr. Anthony to disregard such ignorant vapourings. By his speech Mr. Anthony gave the book an importance which it in no way merits; as one "polygenetic mongrel" to another I would strongly advise him to ignore such remarks against the background of the fine achievements of his community both in the past and in the present.

Now, Sir, I wish for a moment to refer to the visit to England now being made by His Excellency the Viceroy. I have no knowledge of the intentions underlying this visit other than those announced in the Press which are known to every Member of this House, but coming, as it does, at this juncture the event cannot but help to react on the mind of political India and to stir the

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hopes which we all have, that something may now be achieved to secure the end of the present political impasse. The weakness in the present position in this Assembly is apparent to all and although the continued defeats inflicted on the Government of today may please a certain section of the Opposition, I venture to submit that there can be no real satisfaction over the confusion to which legislative procedure is thus reduced. As I have said, Sir, I am quite unaware of what fresh moves in the political field may be impending as a result of H. E.'s visit. We have been warned not to expect too much and, indeed, if I am to follow the line taken by Mr. Abdul Qaiyum in his speech of last Friday we should expect nothing at all. But this is a line of thought which I greatly deplore. If we make up our minds that nothing satisfactory is going to happen we may be quite certain that nothing satisfactory will, in fact, happen, and I suggest that it is premature to anticipate that good will not result from the Viceroy's visit. I feel that I must also point out that we have in this visit still further evidence of the sincerity of the intentions both of His Majesty's Government and of the Viceroy himself. I wish to raise no controversy but in justice to His Excellency and to the Home Government I am bound to say that their efforts in the direction of a settlement might fittingly find a responsive echo in certain quarters opposite. In spite of the gloomy prognostications of the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party I sincerely hope that they will make their contribution to the efforts which are now obviously being attempted. As I have said previously, I have no inside knowledge, but this House will realise fully the heavy responsibility which rests on the shoulders of the leaders of the two great parties opposite me, and I sincerely trust that they may be guided in the direction of a right judgment which will produce something constructive in this most difficult interim period.

I intend no reflection upon the many able men who have interested themselves in the public affairs of this country when I say that the post-war period will make demands upon this country's leaders to an extent which has never before been realised. It is not merely in the art of government that we lack experience but in all the many departures that post-war planning contemplates, the services of experienced men of high calibre will be greatly needed. Moreover the India of the future will have to deal as equals with countries whose experience in such matters has been long and more detailed, and there will be a great need for all the help that the country can produce. It is for this reason that I listened with pleasure to the remarks which fell from Mr. Ayyangar when he advocated a policy of mutual assistance between Great Britain and India in the future. In making this contribution he did no more than reiterate the policy of his leader. Mr. Gandhi and perhaps I may be permitted to quote a short extract from a speech which he made at the first Round Table Conference. He said:

"If we are intent upon complete independence, it is not from any sense of arrogance, it is not because we want to parade before the universe that we have now severed all connection with the British people. Nothing of the kind. On the contrary you find in this mandate itself that the Congress contemplates a partnership—the Congress contemplates a connection with the British people—but that connection to be such as can exist between two absolute equals."

Sir, we realise fully the responsibility which will devolve on those who will lead this country in the future but we would be rather less than generous if we did not now acknowledge the services of those who have in the interim guided this country through the stormy seas of the last five years. In criticising the present Government, a large number of speakers have been at pains to point out that their remarks had no personal bearing on the present Members of the Viceroy's Executive Council, and whatever accusations those Members may have had to face now or which may be proved hereafter, and whatever their shortcomings may be, I think we owe it to them as individuals to acknowledge the plain, simple and inescapable fact that they accepted office well knowing that, however much or little they might choose to do, they could never hope to tread the easy-going flower-strewn paths of the days of peace. The responsibilities which are involved in war time administration must in any country

constitute a heavy and nerve-racking experience but it is that very experience which enables Members of Government to shoulder such burdens and to project their endeavours into the post-war period. I will always regret that the valuable experience to which I have referred has not been shared fully by those who in the future will have to carry these burdens.

The Viceroy's Executive Council—and I refer particularly to the Indian Members—took office at a time of great danger. When they did so, they realised fully that there would be opposition from popular political parties and they realised also that the promises made by His Majesty's Government would render their tenure of office no more than temporary. I have heard it said that the life of the present Assembly is drawing peacefully towards its close and it may be that we shall see considerable alterations in the seating arrangements before we meet again. I therefore pay the tribute of my Group to those Members on my left for the courageous and patriotic manner in which they have carried on the task of Government in circumstances of unprecedented difficulty. I feel that the attacks made by the Opposition are based more upon political and constitutional grounds than upon shortcomings in administration. Indeed, Sir, votes of censure have on occasions been passed without in fact discussing the merits of the censure at all; it was merely suggested that the constitution of Government was such that they were not politically competent to handle the matter. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has answered this particular form of criticism. The backing of political parties would certainly have been of infinite value to a Government in the past five years, but if this was not possible the duty to continue to govern the country still remained. As the Commerce Member has rightly said, the present Government, whatever their shortcomings, have demonstrated their ability to steer the ship of State through most difficult waters and I for one will ever be grateful to them for accepting a thankless responsibility for reasons of the greatest patriotism. I sincerely hope that their valuable experience and their great individual gift will not be lost to the country by any political changes which may take place.

Sir, there is one other aspect which I think His Excellency's present visit to England brings into prominence and this calls for some reflection. It was, in fact, referred to by my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, when he mentioned the importance of India's representation on international organisations and as to the necessity of educating public opinion on international affairs. I entirely agree with him, for I can see nothing but good arising out of ever increasing contacts between India's representatives and those of other countries. And, Sir, it is not only in the field of politics that such contacts are productive of good, it is also such contacts as are made by businessmen, by scientists, by educationists, and last but not least, by those young ambassadors of this country inadequately termed as Bevin Boys—it is these contacts which I believe are of untold value in the affairs of this country. It is unfortunate that owing to India's pre-occupations with internal political problems and with Indo-British relations, there has been a tendency to ignore the growing importance of India's relationships with other countries. I do not want to enter into the field of controversy which has been raised in regard to India's representatives at the San Francisco Conference. I would merely state that it would be most unfortunate and a great deal of harm would be done if the present agitation should undermine the position of India's representatives in the eyes of other countries who will be present at that important conference. As I have said, I do not wish to enter that field of controversy. My point is that the appointment of representatives abroad marks an important stage in the development of India's status and I feel the House should pay a tribute to those who now represent India in other countries of the commonwealth and in the United States of America. Mr. Aney in Ceylon and Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai in the United States have been much respected Members of this Legislature, and the same remarks which I have already made in regard to the personal part played by the Members of the Viceroy's Executive Council equally apply in the cases of those Indians

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who deserve all possible encouragement in a task which has been rendered all the more difficult and delicate by the political *impasse* in this country and the widespread suspicion, sedulously propagated by certain organs of the press. We should, Sir, pay a tribute to their integrity of purpose and their loyalty to their country. I am sure that in later years it will be found that these men have served India well and have helped the countries in which they have worked, to appreciate more fully India's real status and her outstanding contribution not only to the war effort but also the development of better international relationship which is so vital a factor for the future peace of the world.

It is perhaps not sufficiently realised in this country that public attacks upon our representatives abroad by no means enhance our reputation in foreign countries. Whatever heat may be engendered in the discussion of political issues we should always bear in mind the fact that our dirty linen should be washed in private and not exported. I have followed carefully the statements made by such prominent men as Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar and Sir Muhammad Zafrulla Khan when they have visited countries abroad and I have found in none of their utterances the smallest indication of anything which might be construed as under-estimating this country and of the great future that lies before it. I would invite those who oppose them politically to observe the same wise limitations, and to be careful to ensure that their public utterances do not lead the outside world to suppose that this is merely a country of internal dissension and strife.

Finally, Sir, it falls to me to refer on behalf of the European Group to the impending departure of the Honourable the Finance Member, Sir Jeremy Raisman.

I shall respect his modesty and not indulge in a lengthy dissertation upon his many virtues. I merely offer to him the tribute of our great admiration for the courage and patience, the devotion and the skill which he has applied to his onerous duties. History will, I have no doubt, accord him his due place in the scrolls of fame. Any one less skilful less zealous and less gifted would have been unequal to the heavy burden he has carried throughout these long and anxious years of war, but on this occasion, Sir, I am thinking of him primarily as one of ourselves, an Honourable and distinguished Member of this House. He has always expounded the necessarily intricate and difficult problems of his high office with charm and lucidity. He has listened to us for long hours with infinite patience and unfailing courtesy, even though often he could not agree with us. We shall miss him when he has gone, but we wish him the full enjoyment of the leisure he has earned so well.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta, Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, about two weeks ago I discussed at some length the question of Defence expenditure. Today I wish to discuss very briefly the expenditure on the Civil side of the administration and then pass on to a brief discussion of some of the important points which were raised by my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, in the course of his Budget Speech. But before I do so, I wish to say a word about the observations made by my Honourable friend the Finance Member in the course of his reply to the General Debate on the Budget.

My Honourable friend, the Finance Member, after paying some compliments to me, for which I feel thankful to him, observed:

"I find it difficult to see exactly how Dr. Banerjee 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 work out."

Sir, I did not pose any dilemma nor did I suggest any conundrum: I made my position perfectly clear. The Honourable the Finance Member is generally a very careful listener to the speeches which are made in this House but perhaps on that particular occasion his attention was diverted from the

discussion to some other point perhaps by some Member sitting by his side. If it had not been so, my Honourable friend would have spared himself the trouble of delivering a somewhat long lecture on the benefits of borrowing and the evils of inflation.

I referred to a modification of the Financial Settlement of 1940 as the remedy for the present state of things. With regard to this my Honourable friend said:

"Prof. Banerjee desires a modification of the Settlement but I am very doubtful whether he would be well advised."

Sir, he doubted whether I would be well advised; in other words there is a lurking fear in his mind that if we raise the question of the modification of the Financial Settlement of 1940, the final decision may go against us. But I do not think that that fear is well founded, because what we want is that the Financial Settlement should be placed on a fair, just and equitable basis. Can there be any objection to that? If the British Government refuse to place the Financial Settlement on a fair, just and equitable basis, they will place themselves open to the charge that they are taking undue advantage of the position of subjection in which India exists at the present moment. Therefore, Sir, I entertain no such fear. I made it clear the other day that India is prepared to make a further contribution to the war effort of the British and the Allied Nations after all the other contributions which have been made during the last six years, and I suggested that the amount of such contribution should be Rs. 250 crores, that is to say, an amount which will be available from the Indian Exchequer without unbalancing the budget of the Government of India any further. Sir, it is well-known to every Member of this House that year after year the budget of the Government of India has been unbalanced, and I think everybody will agree that it is not desirable to unbalance this budget once again.

Sir, is the amount which I propose, the amount of Rs. 250 crores, for the coming year, a small amount? It may be small in comparison with the huge expenditure on war effort made by the United States of America and the United Kingdom, but, when we compare the accumulated wealth of India and the *per capita* national income of India with the accumulated wealth and the *per capita* national income of the United States of America and the United Kingdom, it will appear to every fair-minded person that India's contribution for the coming year is a pretty large sum. Sir, what is the accumulated wealth of the United States and the United Kingdom? It is many thousand times greater than that of India. And the *per capita* national income of those countries is more than hundred times the *per capita* national income of India. Therefore, Sir, I plead for justice, I plead for fair play, and it is not my intention to bring about any diminution in the war effort of the Allied Nations.

Sir, coming to civil expenditure we find that in 1937-38 it amounted to less than Rs. 10½ crores, but in the budget for the coming year a sum of over Rs. 27½ crores has been provided. Is this not a very large increase? As for Civil Administration I find that while in 1937-38 the amount was Rs. 1,67,00,000 it is Rs. 4,85,00,000 in the budget of the coming year. Now what is the cause of this enormous increase in expenditure in the Civil Departments of Government. I can understand a large increase in Defence Expenditure in war time, but no arguments and no facts and figures have been supplied by the Finance Member for this enormous increase in civil expenditure.

Sir, this expenditure requires retrenchment. I am glad that my Honourable friends of the European Group also suggested economy and retrenchment, but I am sorry to find that Mr. N. M. Joshi suggested only economy and not retrenchment. Perhaps he was afraid that retrenchment would hit hard the poorer classes of the people, the peasants and the workers. He perhaps also had in mind the unfortunate experience of the activities of the two Retrenchment Committees which were appointed during the last twenty-five years. It is true that these Retrenchment Committees retrenched expenditure which was necessary for the development of nation-building services, but that does

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not mean that, if attempts are made to cut down expenditure in the future the same unfortunate results will follow. I suggested in this connection last year that a Committee on National Expenditure on the lines of a similar body which has been appointed in England, should be appointed in this country to control both civil and military expenditure. As regards military expenditure, my Honourable friend, Mr. Manohar Subedar, pointed out the other day the unsatisfactory nature of several items of expenditure under the head Defence. Therefore, there is a need, an immediate need, for the appointment of a Committee which will do good work, as much good work as has been done by the Committee on National Expenditure in the United Kingdom.

My Honourable friend's reply was that the functions of the Standing Finance Committee might be expanded. I agree with him there. I have myself on many occasions urged expansion of the functions of the Standing Committee on Finance, and I will welcome such an expansion in the immediate present; but I am afraid that it will not be possible for the Standing Committee on Finance, even with an expansion in its functions, to go into the whole question of the military and civil expenditure of Government. An *ad hoc* Committee will have to be appointed, which will go into the question, sitting day after day, and arrive at conclusions at the end of the year.

Sir, I will now deal with some of the other points which were raised by the Honourable Finance Member in the course of his budget speech. In the second sentence of his speech, my Honourable friend observed "that the last twelve months was a period of relative consolidation and stability". This statement came to me as a surprise as it emanated from a person of the knowledge, experience and information of the Honourable Finance Member. Is it not absurd to speak even of relative stability and consolidation when the general index number is something between 240 and 250, the cotton goods index number is over 280, and the rice index number is over 330? Sir, it seems to me that the Honourable Finance Member was quite ill-advised in regarding this period as a period of relative stability and consolidation.

Now, Sir, what have been the causes of this great rise in prices? The rise in prices, in my opinion, has been due to three factors: first, increase of demand for consumer goods; second, diminution in supply of consumer goods; and third, issue of vast quantities of paper money.

As regards the first, it is well known that the population of India has greatly increased owing to the war activities of the Allied Nations. As for the second, it is well known that the diminution in production of goods for the civilian population has been caused in the interests of the war effort of the Government. Thirdly, we know that paper money has been vastly increased. In September 1939 the amount of paper money was only worth Rs. 172½ crores; but what does it amount to at present? It is now 1,068 crores; and what is the backing for this paper money? 44½ crores in gold bullion and coin, and the whole of the rest in sterling securities. In other words, India's paper money has a backing to the extent of only 4 per cent. in gold and the remaining 96 per cent. in paper. I need hardly tell the House that Sterling securities are also paper securities. Is this a desirable state of things? It may be pointed out further that the increase in paper money is still going on. The quantity of paper money in February, 1945 was larger than in January, 1945, and today it is larger than it was in February. Is this justifiable? One feels inclined to ask, how far will the increase of paper money be pushed. The Government may evade their own responsibility in the matter by saying that the paper money is issued not by them but by the Reserve Bank of India. It appears to me that the Reserve Bank is completely under the thumb of the Government of India, which is itself under the absolute control of the British Government. It is a pity that the Reserve Bank of India has played a subordinate and an inferior part in this matter. It was expected when the Reserve Bank of India was founded that it would function as a national bank, but what do we find now? It is functioning as an anti-national bank, because it is helping to create misery in the country.

I have dealt with the causes of the rise in prices but what have been its effects? The first and foremost effect of this vast increase in prices has been the great famine in Bengal and its after-math, which between them carried off no less than four to five millions of people. This phenomenal increase in prices has also resulted in great suffering throughout the country.

This brings me to the question of food, because the prices of food-grains have risen enormously in every part of India and has caused great suffering to the whole of the Indian population. This suffering has been the greatest in Bengal. Even at the present moment, if we look at the Calcutta Gazette, we find that the prices of rice range very high. The prices of rice range from Rs. 11 a maund to Rs. 20; and in many places these amounts are beyond the capacity of the poor people to pay. The result is that there is starvation and malnutrition. Speaking of starvation, I desire it to be made clear that, although the famine has ceased to exist, deaths from starvation still continue. Anybody who cares to read the morning newspapers of Bengal will find that the destitutes of Calcutta die in hospitals every day, but no record is kept of the deaths of destitutes in the countryside. It may be taken for granted that large numbers of people are dying every day from starvation in the countryside of Bengal. I should like to emphasise one thing about the food situation, while people are starving we find large stocks of food deteriorating in front of these people. Only a few days ago, we read in the newspapers—and a reference was made to this in the other House—that a large quantity of rice deteriorated at Munshiganj and that a large quantity of *Atta* was found to have become rotten at Dacca. Now whose responsibility is it to guard against such deterioration? The Government of India may say that it is the primary responsibility of the Government of Bengal. I admit that that is so. But if there is a great deal of criminal negligence, inefficiency and corruption in the Government of Bengal, it is the duty of the Government of India to check this state of things in the province.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): But there is inefficiency and corruption in the Government of India also.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: There is inefficiency and corruption in the Government of India also.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member): Not in the Food Department.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Therefore, it is necessary for the Food Department to be more active, more energetic, more assertive and more vigilant in the future. I am not one of those who think that the Food Department of the Government of India is a useless department. It has done a great deal for alleviating distress in Bengal, although it came rather late. I should like it to continue but with greater efficiency and with a greater sense of duty.

Sir, contrast the state of things which exists in this country with the way in which the food situation has been handled in the United Kingdom. In that country, as soon as the war broke out a Food Ministry was created and a Food Department was established which was working on a scientific basis. A food policy was adopted and nutritional standards were laid down. Large subsidies were given to the cultivators and regular imports of food from abroad were arranged for. The result is that the health of the poor people in Britain has greatly improved since the commencement of the war. But what has happened in India? Not only have so many millions of people died but the rest of the population lives in a state of semi-starvation and malnutrition. Look upon that picture and look upon this! Is it not time now that the Government of India took a leaf out of the book of the British Government and followed the example which has been set by that Government? In this connection I should like to make a concrete suggestion. A friend of mine, Rai Bahadur Chunilal Roy, who was in the service of the Government for many years has prepared a scheme for the storage of food in banks. He suggests the creation of a Central Reserve Food Bank and branch banks in the district headquarters and the villages. A similar suggestion was made about 40 years ago by a patriotic landholder of

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Bengal known as 'Dharmagolas', but the Government did not pay heed to that suggestion, and it was not given a fair trial. I hope the Food Member will consider the present scheme.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have considered it already and brought it to the attention of the Bengal Government.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: But you yourself should take it up and apply it to the whole of India. It is not for the benefit of Bengal alone but for the benefit of the whole of India.

Connected with this question is a matter which my friend Mr. Krishnamachari raised in this House a few days ago. He referred to the arrangement made with the Government of Bengal in regard to the payment of a subsidy in respect of the loss incurred by the Bengal Government by the sale of stocks of paddy and rice at prices considerably below the cost of acquisition. He also referred to the conditions imposed by the Government of India under which the subsidy was to be given, which in his opinion seemed to be rather stiff. Now it is desirable that the Government of India should depute an officer of their own so that he may make arrangements which will result in a proper settlement of the whole question.

Sir, I now pass on to the cloth position in the country. In this regard, it is known that cloth scarcity prevails throughout the length and breadth of India. But it is most acute in Bengal. It is so acute in Bengal that a cloth crisis day was observed in Calcutta, cloth raids took place in that city and today's papers report that at Munshigunj large groups assembled before the house of the Sub-Divisional Officer demanding cloth. These people were in a half naked condition. It has been said before that women committed suicide for want of cloth. The situation is so serious that a man like Sir T. B. Sapru, the veteran statesman of India, and Sir Jagadish Prasad, a former Member of the Executive Council of the Government of India, have issued a statement in which they say that it is no consolation to the poor woman who is going naked to know that there are constitutional difficulties in the way of the Central Government intervening in this matter, and they urge that the situation must be faced boldly and that a satisfactory solution must be immediately arrived at. Now, in regard to the cloth situation, my Honourable friend Sir Azizul Huque pointed out the other day that Bengal's quota had been fixed at 10 yards per head. Why was it so fixed, while the quotas of other provinces were fixed at higher figures? In regard to this question, he observed that it was believed that the consumption of cloth in Bengal in the pre-war year 1938-39 was only of this amount. How was it believed? By whom was it believed? And what was the basis for fixing this quota? I think it is a wholly wrong thing to say that Bengal's consumption is less than that of the other provinces. In future I hope this notion will be discarded and the quota supplied to Bengal will be placed on a basis equal to that of the other provinces.

My Honourable friend Sir Azizul Huque said further that Bengal had been supplied with an amount which was greater than the quota. Now, that has been vehemently denied by the Honourable Mr. Suhrawardy the Minister of Civil Supplies in Bengal. He regards the statement of the Honourable Sir Azizul Huque as a fallacious one; he did not use the word 'false' because it was un-Parliamentary. One reason of the shortage of cloth in Bengal is that no yarn has been supplied to the handloom weavers, 80 per cent. of whom are idle. If handloom weavers had been supplied with yarn the situation might have improved to a considerable extent. Besides, no encouragement has been given to hand spinning. The other day a question was asked in the other House in reply to which the Secretary of the Commerce Department admitted that no financial assistance has been given but he observed that no steps had been taken to stop hand spinning. In other words, the Commerce Department did not cut off the fingers of the hand spinners and weavers as had been done in the early years of the Company's rule in this country. For this act of mercy we should feel thankful to Sir Azizul Huque.

I now pass on to the future of the food situation. My Honourable friend Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava said the other day that as regards the future of the Food supply, there should not be over-optimism and he further observed that it was not true that there was not an over-all deficiency in respect of food production. Food production can be increased almost indefinitely as has been pointed out by Sir Phiroze Kharagat. Sir Phiroze Kharagat says that in the course of five years, the food production of the country can be increased by 50 per cent. and in the course of 15 years by 100 per cent., provided the necessary facilities are afforded. Now, Sir, we strongly insist that proper facilities be afforded.

Sir, I have dealt with some of the worst features of inflation. Now, the question is: How to fight this demon of inflation. My Honourable friend the Finance Member has three remedies in hand. First of all, taxation; second, borrowing and third, the Hydari Mission. As regards the first, we all know that he has overreached the limit of his ingenuity. As regards the second, although he does not agree with us, we think that the limit has been reached and further borrowing will cause great hardship to the poorer people of future generations. In this connection, I may point out that the loans to which reference has been made by several speakers on this side of this House have a definite inflationary, and not anti-inflationary, effect. Therefore, no further resort should be made to borrowing. But how shall we fill the inflationary gap? My Honourable friend says: We have sent the Hydari Mission to import consumer goods into this country in large quantities.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): I did not say that.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: The Honourable Member referred only to consumer goods.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I beg the Honourable Member's pardon. If he would refer to my budget speech, he would find that the primary object of the Hydari Mission was to endeavour to obtain some reduction of the load which is being put on India in the matter of war production.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: I stand corrected. But as regards importation of goods, he can bestow his attention only on consumer goods and not on capital goods. I do not know what instructions have been given to the Hydari Mission. Now my Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson, pointed out that India could with great benefit to herself import five times the amount of £ 60 million worth of consumer goods into this country. It is believed that Hydari Mission has arranged for the importation of £ 60 million worth of consumer goods.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That I may say is entirely unfounded.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: I am glad to know that that is unfounded and I hope the Honourable Member will agree with me also that the importation of five times this quantity of consumer goods would be detrimental to the economic interests of this country.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It would be impossible to get them.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: That is another matter. But this is wholly a wrong view. We should remember in this connection that as soon as the war ends, there will appear a deflationary tendency in this country and unless this deflation is regulated and checked, it will inflict great hardship not only on industry and trade, but on large sections of the population; it will create widespread unemployment. Therefore, Sir, it is undesirable to import consumer goods in very large quantities. The best remedy is to increase production within the borders of this country and to import capital goods and such consumer goods as are not produced in this country at all or are produced only in insufficient quantities. If that is done, the inflationary gap will cease to exist.

That brings me, Sir, to the question of industrial development of the country. The industrial possibilities of the country are very great. But industrial development should proceed on lines which will secure the interests of India as a whole, firstly, secondly and lastly. It is very unfortunate that this has not been the case in the past. But we should be on our guard that such provision should be made in the future.

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There is another matter which should be considered in this connection, namely, the question of self-sufficiency. Sir, I am not a believer in absolute self-sufficiency. But I think it is desirable to make the country self-sufficient in respect of such goods as are of an essential character both in war and in peace time. In this regard, we should consider the interest of the key industries. But as regards articles of luxury and artistic goods, the whole world should be regarded as one market and India should have no hesitation in importing such goods from other countries.

Sir, I will say a few words now on the urgent needs of the present hour. First and foremost, the need of the present hour is the extension and improvement of agriculture. Next in importance is the development of cottage industries. In this connection I refer Government to the forty crore scheme which has been advocated by Sir M. Visweswarayya who hopes that the giving of effect to such a scheme will not only revive the cottage industries of the country but will prove a boon to the whole population.

Then we should consider the question of motive power. In this regard I wish to observe that the coal position in the country at the present moment is a very serious one. And coal is needed not only for industrial purposes but also for household purposes; and both industry and the householder have been very seriously affected by the present difficulties in regard to coal. Now what is the way out of this difficulty? I am a believer in the nationalisation of the coal industry, but that will be possible only when there is a national Government in the country. Until then we will have to adopt other remedies, in the meantime we should rationalise the coal industry. In other words, we should take steps to prevent any waste, to raise the largest quantity with the minimum effort and to make the best use of the output. That is what I mean by rationalisation. State control should be exercised in such a manner that all these objects may be attained. Unfortunately, Government have so far bungled—and bungled very seriously—in this matter.

Allied to this question is the question of development of minerals. My Honourable friend Mr. Neogy the other day wanted to discuss this question fully, but the time at his disposal did not permit him to do so. He, therefore, handed over to the Honourable Labour Member his notes on this subject, I hope these notes which had been very carefully prepared will receive the attention which they are entitled to.

Another urgent need of the hour is the development of industries based on minerals. The genius of a Bengali scientist and the enterprise of a Parsee industrialist laid the foundations of the steel industry in India, and the protection given to that industry by the Government of India has resulted in a phenomenal development of this industry. In future, in the post-war period, there will be a further development of this industry and it will be able to stand on its own legs and will not require protection any longer. But there are certain industries based on the non-ferrous metals which require the attention of the House and of Government. These industries have not been developed; nor has a proper investigation into the condition of non-ferrous metals yet taken place. It is believed that India abounds in large quantities of non-ferrous minerals, and if they are properly developed and properly utilised there will be a large non-ferrous industry in this country.

Lastly, Sir, I wish to refer to ship-building which is also one of the most urgent needs of the country. Ship-building has not been taken up in earnest by the Government of India. But the development of this industry is important not only in the interests of the trade and commerce of the country but also in the interests of the building up of a navy. This matter was emphasised by no less a person than Vice-Admiral Godfrey the other day when he observed that a large mercantile marine was the true foundation for the establishment of a navy. Sir, during the last fifteen years very little has been done in this direction, and the recommendations of the Post-War Development Committee do not

go far enough in this respect. What the country wants is that a definite shipping policy should be laid down with the object of first reserving the whole of the coastal trade of India to Indian shipping, secondly, of acquiring a predominant share of shipping facilities in the Indian Ocean for Indian ships, and lastly, of ensuring a substantial share in international shipping. These are objects which I hope will be kept in view by the different departments of Government and by the Honourable Member in charge of the Planning Department.

Sir, this brings me to the question of planning. In my opinion the main task which faces this department is that of converting war industries to peace industries. If this task, which is a huge one and which will employ the whole intelligence, information and energy of the department over which my Honourable friend Sir Ardesahir Dalal presides, can be fulfilled in the proper manner, the Honourable Member will deserve the thanks of the whole country. As for post-war reconstruction the main purpose of this department should be of an exploratory and preparatory character. This department can do a great deal in the way of collecting material regarding the existing resources of the country, both material and human, regarding the available capital in the country, regarding the water-power resources, regarding the schemes which have been adumbrated in various parts of the country. But it will not be the business of this department to consider large questions of policy, principle or practice, such as capitalism, socialism, communism, free enterprise and things of that kind. These may be left to the future Government of the country. If they are able to prepare the ground for the future industrial and economic development of the country, my friends in this department will deserve well of us.

The time at my disposal will not enable me to discuss the other questions raised by my Honourable friend, the Finance Member. He raised such questions as sterling credits, the dollar pool, the future of Indian taxation, the Estate Duty Bill, and so on. These questions have been dealt with by other Members and I shall have an opportunity of discussing in full the Estate Duty Bill towards the end of this Session.

I shall before I conclude, say a few words about the political situation. The Viceroy of India has now proceeded to the United Kingdom. I do not know what the object of the visit is, but it is believed in many parts of the country that it has something to do with the future constitution of the country. Another event of importance is the San Francisco Conference, the object of which is to lay down principles and policy with regard to the security of the world in future. Now, Sir, these are questions which will demand the attention of this House; but they are not questions of immediate importance, and therefore I will not deal with them at the present moment. I will say only this that the war will perhaps come to an end very soon, and the war will be won by the courage, the resourcefulness, the dogged determination of the Allied Nations. But these are qualities which will not be sufficient for dealing with the question of peace. The Allies will win the war, but will they be able to win the peace? That will depend on whether there will be a moral change in their outlook, and whether they will be able to cast away the notions of imperialism and racial discrimination which has governed their attitude for so long. The great test of the sincerity of the professions of British and American politicians regarding democracy and the well-being of the world will be their attitude towards India. Is a stable peace with India in bondage possible? Will the world be secure against future wars with four hundred millions of people kept in subjection? I believe that a wider vision will dawn on the politicians and statesmen of the world and they will see that unless India is free there will be no world security.

The Finance Bill, if it had stood by itself, would have received my full support, because it does not impose any taxation which will affect the poor people of the country. But it is not unconnected with other matters. It is intimately connected with borrowing which will inflict a great suffering on the future generation; it is intimately connected with inflation which has been causing great havoc in this country; it is also connected, though indirectly, with the question of India's freedom. Therefore, Sir, I feel it my duty to oppose this Bill.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Mr. President, the policy of the Muslim League with regard to the Finance Bill has been consistently uniform since 1941. We have always opposed the measure on the ground that so long as we have no real share in the power and authority of the Government, we cannot take the responsibility of placing funds at their disposal to be spent in any way that they may like. Some people seem to be under the impression that the Muslim League has changed its policy with regard to this matter only since the presence of the Congress Party in this House. It is not so. The number of votes or the result of division is not the consideration with the Muslim League. If we believe in a principle, we stand by it irrespective of the fact whether the votes are a dozen or whether they are one hundred.

Sir, I am sorry that in spite of my request, made through my Honourable friend Mr. Essak Sait to the Whip of the Government, the Honourable Dr. Khare has not chosen to be present in the House.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Censure him in *absentia*.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I am sorry about it, because there is nothing I hate more than to say anything about the speech of an Honourable Member when he is not present. But as time and tide wait for no one, I am afraid on account of the short time which I have at my disposal I shall have to say whatever I have in this connection.

The Honourable Dr. Khare complained that he heard a whispering campaign that the reduction of the Demand for Immigration (External) was due to some personal reasons and not on merit. The Honourable Member flatters himself too much if he thinks that we on this side of the House give our decisions on account of our personal likes or dislikes of any individual Member of the Government. There were, Mr. President, during the last Budget Session three Demands that were rejected in full by this House apart from the Demand for Executive Council, one of these was Immigration (External). We rejected that demand because we found that it was the only way in which we could show our strong resentment against the policy of the Government in ignoring the unanimous opinion of the peoples of India with regard to the recall of the Agent to the Governor General in South Africa.

Now, Sir, as regards planning, it is not that we dislike our friend Sir Ardeshir Dalal more than we dislike anybody else, or that we like him less than we like other Members of the Executive Council. But it is because we felt that the future planning of the country could only be done satisfactorily by a Government which had the backing of the peoples of that country. The second consideration with us was that the Honourable Member had also refused to accept the decision of this Honourable House wherein it was resolved that a Committee of this House should be appointed to examine all the plans that may be prepared with regard to future planning.

Now, Sir, the third demand which was rejected *in toto* was with regard to the Department of Information and Broadcasting. There also it was not on personal grounds. It was because in spite of the decision of this House that the Department of the National War Front should be abolished, the Government had decided to continue with the same nefarious activities under a different name.

Sir, the Honourable Dr. Khare, whom I am glad to see in the House, was not right when he said that we had chosen certain individuals to show our particular resentment against them. As a matter of fact, we were very particular that it may not be considered that the members of any particular community were selected. We had a Muslim, we had a Hindu and a member of the minority community.

Sir, the Honourable Dr. Khare was annoyed because on the last occasion I had quoted some of his remarks which he had made to a press representative and which were published in all the papers wherein he had stated that he accepted the office in the Executive Council because he wanted a job. I am sorry, Mr. President, for having made the mistake of giving Dr. Khare credit for his believing in what he says. I apologise to the Honourable Member.

It is indeed my fault. I should have remembered the wise saying of a sage: "Don't readily believe a fool, you cannot be sure if he is not a knave." Sir, the Honourable Member suggested in his speech that the stock of the Muslim League has gone down and that is why we in this House have adopted a particular attitude. Let me assure him and the Honourable Members of the House that the stock of the Muslim League is higher if anything today than what it was before. We do not care whether we have a ministry or not. That is not our aim and object. When we find that the name of the Muslim League is being exploited by certain interested persons, then we do not hesitate to take the strongest action which is provided in our constitution against that person. It does not weigh with us whether our standing by our principles would make us lose the label of Muslim League Ministry in a certain province. The Honourable Dr. Khare stated that the Premier of the Punjab had even refused to see the General Secretary of the All-India Muslim League, and he said that it was evident from the articles in *Dawn* which were published last summer. Sir, I am not surprised that the Honourable Member is ignorant of what is happening in the country when he is completely ignorant of what happens in his own Department. Here I have, Mr. President, a letter written by the Honourable Member's Secretary, in reply to the one which was sent by Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan on behalf of the Muslim League Party and addressed to the Honourable Member himself. But the other day during question time it was made clear by the replies of the Honourable Member himself that he was not aware of the contents of this letter. Now, though this letter has been written on behalf of the Honourable Member and at his desire, still the contents of this letter are not known to him.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare (Member for Commonwealth Relations): There is nothing surprising in it!

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Nothing as far as you are concerned! I have stated that. It is signed by R. N. Banerji. The letter reads like this:

"Dear Sir Muhammad,

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 5th March, 1945, addressed to the Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare and to say that"

Now, I would like to know by whom was this gentleman desired? Was he desired by one of the peons of Dr. Khare or by the Honourable Member himself? So, Sir, I am not really surprised that the Honourable Member is totally unaware of what is happening in the country. Some secretary or steno-typist must have said: "Sir, you are having a written speech: just put this in also". The Honourable Member did not take the trouble of finding out what the facts were. Perhaps it is too much to expect intellectual honesty in the Honourable Member. But there is, Mr. President, such a thing as parliamentary honesty that when a Member of this House makes a statement on the floor of this House he should be sure of his facts.

Sir, the Honourable Dr. Khare has related a cock-and-bull story of some alleged secret agreement between myself and the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, and he also gave details of that agreement. Mr. President I should like to say most emphatically that it is an absolute fabrication. It is absurd on the face of it. There cannot be any agreement between two individuals who are not political orphans like the Honourable Indian Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council but who are members of the two most powerful all-India organisations in this country. If there is to be any agreement with regard to the Hindu Muslim problem or the constitutional question it can only be between the Congress and the Muslim League.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surma Valley *cum* Shillong: Non-Muhammadan) Has any agreement been made?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable friend will go and find out in a dictionary the meaning of the words "absolute fabrication".

Sir, the Honourable Member said that we on this side of the House have make-believe unity. The Honourable Member is absolutely wrong. We are

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not so ignorant of the position as the Honourable Member would imagine us to be. We know that the differences between the Congress and the Muslim League still exist but it does not mean that because of our differences we should go into different lobbies in this House, even with regard to those matters which are for the benefit of the peoples of India as a whole. Differences should not mean that we should not take into consideration those measures, those proposals which are designed for the benefit of the country at large. We are not here to be exploited by the Congress nor is the Congress here to be exploited by us. We are both here to serve the peoples of India. We are here to do whatever we can under the present constitution for the benefit of the country at large and if we happen to be in the same lobby, that is the only consideration with us and there is no other consideration.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Is there consideration of any future Government to be formed in this country?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I do not know what the Honourable Member means by "consideration of any future Government being formed in this country". That, I think, the Honourable Member should go and ask the Secretary of State for India. If I were in a position to say that such and such a Government shall be formed, only then the Honourable Member could have asked me that question.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Are you trying to form a Government?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: If he will say in what way I am trying to form a government, then I will be able to answer it. But, as I said, some of the Honourable Members have read some news somewhere, by some mischief-mongers, and they take it as gospel truth without trying to find the truth about it. It has always been the policy of the Muslim League and it shall continue to be the policy of the Muslim League to support any measure irrespective of from what quarter it comes, which is for the good of the peoples of India as a whole. This has been our policy throughout and this shall continue to be our policy irrespective of any other consideration.

Sir, the Honourable Dr. Khare related at great length the achievements of his Department. That reminds me of a story. A traveller with his family arrived at a village when he found that his son was not well. So he went to the village physician and before he could bring him to examine his son, he asked the physician "Are you a good physician?" This physician ordered his bullock-tonga, sat in it, asked the traveller to sit by his side and he drove out of the village till they reached a plot of land. He asked the visitor to get down and the latter found that it was a plot of land full of graves. The physician turned round to him and said, "yeh tumhare bap ne abad kiya hai".

The Honourable Dr. Khare mentioned the lot of the Indians in South Africa. We all know what the condition is there. He has mentioned his wonderful achievements with regard to the last Haj pilgrimage. I would advise him to read the speech of my Honourable friend Mr. Ghulam Bhik Nairang.

Then he talked about the great things that he had done for the evacuees.

An Honourable Member: Nothing.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable friend says 'nothing' but I will refer to something about which everybody knows. The administration in these evacuee camps was so "perfect" under the Honourable Member's Department, that in one camp alone there has been discovered (I am giving you official figures, Mr. President) an embezzlement to the extent of 73 lakhs. So these are the achievements of the Department under the Honourable Member's charge for which he wants this House to thank him.

Sir, the Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed, while speaking in the debate on the cut motion in connection with the Executive Council, stated that by "sticking to our jobs we have advanced the cause of India's freedom". I do not know how the Honourable Member says that they have advanced the cause of India's freedom. I think the Honourable Members are in fact deceiving

themselves, if they think that all the assistance that India has given in this war is due to the fact that the Honourable Members are sitting on the Treasury Benches. It is not so. It is not a fact. The two million soldiers who have gone to the army have not gone through the efforts of any one of those Members. The funds that have been subscribed to the war funds have not been subscribed because of the efforts of these Honourable Members. They have been subscribed through the efforts of the Patwari and the Naib Tahsildar, who should really claim it as their achievement in the cause of India's freedom and not the Honourable Members opposite. Statements like this would indeed be on a par with the statement of those chaprassies who are standing round this chamber, if they were to say that by our presence in this House we have advanced the cause of Parliamentary Government in India. Why make these claims when they have no truth about them? Do not think that you have advanced the cause of freedom of India? There is no truth in that. You may say that, according to your light, you have done what you thought was your duty, but do not be under the delusion that by your presence on those benches the cause of freedom of India has in any way been advanced.

I will give one instance; perhaps Honourable Members did not attach much importance to it. The other day the Honourable Secretary for War stated that it was the opinion of the military authorities that right type of Indians were not coming forward for officers' posts in the Army for all the Services generally, but particularly for the Air Force. Mr. President, I ask, do Honourable Members of this House realise the significance of this statement? Does it not mean that preparation is being made by the British to deprive India of its freedom?

India cannot be free unless it has its own national army, whether it is one India or whether it is two Indias. We cannot be free unless we have armies of our own, and if there are no officers to command, how can we have an army which can be called national in any sense of the word? Mr. President, three years after the war began, in 1942, Sir Stafford Cripps came out to India and made proposals which are quoted by my European friends as having conceded the freedom of India. The proposals which he made were that India was to frame its own constitution and that India was to have complete freedom. In other words, the British in 1942 realised that there was enough material in the country to officer the Indian Army. But to day, after the great efforts of the Honourable Indian Members of the Executive Council, we are told that the right type of Indians are not available to officer the Indian Army. Either they are in the country, or they are not. If they are in the country, then the influence of these Honourable Members is next to nothing, because in spite of there being present in the country right type of Indians have not come forward to offer their services.

Sir, my Honourable friend, Sir Jeremy Raisman, is going to retire shortly, and I would like to say a few words about him. He has been in charge of the finances of the country at a most critical time. He has been complimented for his achievements; he has also been criticised, and the criticism perhaps has been harsh in certain respects. But I would request him to look at it from this point of view. He should think, thank God, it has not been worse, because a man in his position, whoever it might have been, would, in these days, never have been able to satisfy India, even if India was a free country, and when India is not a free country, then suspicion is natural, and I do not think the Honourable Member can blame us that in spite of his efforts, he has not been able to satisfy us. I would only say this: do not care about criticism or praise. If you believe you have done your duty honestly, if your conscience is clear, well, I think that satisfaction of your own conscience should be a sufficient reward for the services you have rendered.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Does not that apply to Indian Members?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Mr. President, my Honourable friend, Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava asks, "Does it not apply to Indian Mem-

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bers? When the present Indian Members of the Executive Council are politically and administratively dead, I shall deliver the funeral oration.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That is a long time yet.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman said that people take a detached view of the war. He made this statement on the 7th March, 1945, and I would really request him to examine this statement of his. Is it that we take a detached view of the war, or is it that you do not allow us to take an attached view of it? As far as the Muslim League is concerned—and I want to repeat it once again, because I find that in spite of the policy of the Muslim League having been made very clear, from time to time, there are still people who seem to be ignorant about it—from the very beginning it realised the seriousness of the war before you realised it. In 1940, when still the British Government in this country was very complacent, it was the Muslim League that drew the attention of the Government of India and His Majesty's Government that the resources of India should be mobilised for the defence of this country, because we realised at that time that these flames of war would not be confined only to Europe, but were bound to spread all over the world. I want to make this perfectly clear to these Honourable gentlemen, because they have got into the habit of beating the Congress and the Muslim League with the same stick; be honest, I do not mind it, say we do not want your co-operation, but why confuse the issue; everywhere when any Member of Government makes a speech he says that the main parties refused to co-operate.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Did not the late Punjab Premier resign from the National Defence Council at the instance of Mr. Jinnah?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Quite right. We realised then, as we realise today, that to be a member of the National Defence Council, to be your recruiting sergeant and, your broker for collecting money, was not enough to mobilise the resources of India for this war, and we said we are not going to be deceived in this manner, and it has been amply shown that the attitude that we took up was perfectly right.

Mr. President, I was only saying that I beseech the Honourable Members on the other side of the House not to confuse the position of the Muslim League. We have at no stage stated that we would non-co-operate with the war effort. All that we have said and which we say even today, is that it is not possible for the Muslim League organisation which represents one hundred millions of Muslims in this country, to take up the responsibility of asking the Muslims and the peoples of this country to make sacrifices unless they had the right to share in the authority and power of Government. People come to me now—although I do not ask them, they come to me—a number of Indian officers who have joined the Army—and pour out their tale of woe: how they are being treated, how they are being dealt with. I am helpless, I cannot do anything, but I feel that is not my responsibility. Therefore, it has been the position of the Muslim League throughout that we are not against the war effort. It is not because you are winning the war now that we are saying, this, even in your darkest hour, the policy of the Muslim League was the same. Sir, I would ask you, when you talk of the parties and peoples of this country, kindly to make a distinction. For whatever one party may have done, do not blame the rest of India and try to get away with it. If you have not been able to secure the honourable co-operation of the Muslim League and such other parties in the country that wanted to co-operate with you, the responsibility is entirely yours, and you cannot today come forward and tell me that the people take a very detached view of the war. You have not made it possible for us to do anything more.

There is just one point with regard to the financial position: expenditure in this country is going up by leaps and bounds, specially the defence expenditure. We all realise that at a time of war the expenditure must rise. But the people are very restive, because we are not given any

information: and therefore I would request the Honourable Member to consider this carefully, if it is not possible for him and for his successor to take at least the Leaders of Parties in this House into confidence with regard to the expenditure. Surely you could not expect the peoples of India to take it as gospel truth that whatever you say about the allocation of expenditure and so on is all right. We can realise, we can understand that it may not be in the public interest to place all the proposals openly before this House; but you must satisfy the peoples of this country, on whom you are putting the burden to bear.

My Honourable friend Sir Henry Richardson referred to the San Francisco Conference. He said that nothing should be done or said which would undermine the position of India's representatives at the conference. It is indeed very unfortunate that the Government were not able to allot an official day for the discussion of this important matter. I must say that they were more accommodating in the other House—an official day was allotted.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Because they have a majority in the other House.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: for the discussion of a non-official resolution. But whatever the reasons may be—and the reasons are obvious—as reference has been made to the delegation to this conference, I should like to say a few words. When this matter was being discussed in the other place, the Honourable Sir Olaf Caroe opposed that resolution which wanted that non-official Indians should be in the delegation, and he opposed it on two grounds. One was—and I suppose he was meaning the Congress—that those who have not helped in the war effort have no business to take part in the establishment of peace after the war. But what about those who had not been opposed to the war effort? Surely the whole of India has not been opposed to the war effort. Surely there have been other people who have not been opposed to the war effort. Then the Honourable Member said—and there I think he was referring to the Muslim League—that if any representatives of the Muslim League went, will they talk of one India or of two Indias? I want to ask my Honourable friend a question—of what India will these two gentlemen talk at the San Francisco Conference? Sir Olaf Caroe recognised that in this country there are two opinions, one is for one united India, and the other is for two Indias or more as the case may be. He says that these parties cannot be represented at this conference, because of these differences. I was not sure before I heard this speech that these united nations are collecting at San Francisco to frame the future constitution of India—I was not aware of that fact. I only thought that this conference was being held to devise ways and means of keeping peace in the future. Whether there is one India or whether there are two Indias everybody will be interested in maintaining peace in the future. So I do not know how that remark of the Honourable Member was relevant. I want to know, as I said just now; which India are these two gentlemen going to represent at this conference.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: One India.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: The Honourable Member for Food says "One India". Which India? He has not replied to my question— which India?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The India which exists today.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: That India is not being represented at this conference. The India which is being represented at this conference is the India which is kept under subjection with the help of British bayonets in this country. Why do you not say that? What is the use of talking of the India that exists and of one India and all that? You know it very well. This Government is there not as a representative of the peoples of India. This Government is there of an India which is kept under subjection with the help of British bayonets and the delegation is representative of that India. So, what contribution will they make at this conference? They will only make a contribution which an India like that, which is kept under subjection with the help of

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British bayonets; can make; and yet Sir Henry Richardson says that we should not say anything which would prejudice their representative character at this conference. Let me tell him that the world today is wiser than what it was a few years ago. These gentlemen might have been passed off as India's representatives a few years ago. But today everybody knows—and when I say that I am not lowering their prestige or their position—but I do want the world at large to know that the agreement which may or may not be signed or any arrangement which may be arrived at by these two representatives is not an agreement which India is going to accept, unless it is an agreement which is approved of and accepted by the peoples of India. Therefore, I want the Honourable Members to be quite clear as to the representation of India at this conference. The Honourable the Food Member who, as a rule, is very silent, is today full of beans.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Did you say beans?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Yes; beans: you are in charge of the Food Department.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: French beans!

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I do not know which beans you like. The Honourable the Food Member, when Dr. Banerjee was saying that inefficiency and corruption exist in all the departments, said: "Not so in the Food Department". It is a claim which is not based on facts. There is corruption and nepotism in the Honourable Member's department. There is discrimination where the servants in his department are concerned. When a question was asked of the Honourable Member if he would be good enough to give the number of contractors in his department and as to how many of them belong to one community and how many to the other, he refused to disclose that information. And now, let me give him the information. He knows nothing about his department.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Come and be the Food Member then.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: There are 500 contractors in the Honourable Member's department and only 11 out of them are Mussalmans. There are a number of contractors who are directly connected with some of the officials in your department. What is the use of coming here and saying that there is no corruption and favouritism?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I deny that.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I challenge the Honourable Member to deny that my information is not correct. I challenge the Honourable Member to appoint an impartial committee of this House. Is he prepared to accept my challenge? It is no use his merely saying that this is not correct and that is not correct. If we have been quiet all this time, he should not get away with this idea that all is well in his department. If we have not chosen to attack his department particularly, it is because we know that the same state of affairs obtains in every department. When Dr. Banerjee referred to corruption in all departments, my Honourable friend got up and said that it is not true in regard to his department. He did not say that it was not true of other departments also.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It was not at the expense of other departments that I referred to the Food Department.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: He said that corruption did not exist in the Food Department, thereby meaning that it may be in other departments.

My Honourable friend Mr. Chattopadhyaya made an appeal to the House and to us particularly. He said "Why do you say you want Pakistan. Why don't you say you want freedom". Sir, if my Honourable friend had carefully studied some of the latest speeches that were made by the President of the

All-India Muslim League as well as by my humble self he would have realised that Pakistan means freedom. Pakistan does not mean foreign domination in this country. Pakistan means freedom both for Hindus and for Mussalmans.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Question.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable friend Sardar Sant Singh says 'question'. It is easy to question a proposition but it is difficult for the Honourable Member to establish the validity of his question.

Sardar Sant Singh: This is not the place to establish it.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I have only two minutes left.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: When are you going to deal with the Finance Bill?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I am explaining my attitude to the Finance Bill. Sir, it is difficult to deal with a problem like this in two minutes. I say, Sir, that the Muslim League stands for the undiluted freedom of India. We believe that peace and prosperity in this country can be established only if the two major communities at least, the Hindus and Mussalmans, are given equal opportunities of sharing the benefits and the fruits of this country.

Sardar Sant Singh: We agree there.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: That position cannot be achieved unless we have separate States for the Hindus and Mussalmans.

Sardar Sant Singh: There we differ.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: We want separate States, so that each of these communities may develop in accordance with its own culture, its own ideology and ideals. Let me tell you that Pakistan is not a demand for the slavery of India. It is a demand for the freedom of India. It is a demand for the freedom of Hindus, Mussalmans, Sikhs and every one else. That is the proposition which we have put forward as the solution of the Indian constitutional problem. Some of my Honourable friends may not agree but I assure them, and I am saying this with all the sincerity at my command, that it is not out of sheer cussedness that we have put forward this demand. We want freedom for every one in this country and it is because we want freedom for all that we have put forward this proposition. We feel that this is the only way in which you can achieve freedom for this country at the earliest possible moment. We believe that this is the only way in which the future prosperity and peace of this country can be maintained. And therefore when I talk of Pakistan, I am indeed talking of freedom for India. Therefore, Mr. President, I do hope that the day will come, sooner than most people expect, when India shall be free and both Hindus and Mussalmans will live in peace. Sir, I oppose the motion before the House.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Deputy President, Sir, it is now my duty towards the far end of a long drawn out debate on this Finance Bill to say a few words to make known to this House, and not merely to this House but to the rest of the world, even though I do not belong to the All-India Radio, what our position is in the matter of impending questions now, both internationally and nationally. So many issues have been debated in the course of this debate that perhaps it would be right to select topics of matters, on what is called sometimes sky-high policy, so as to be able to say a few words on behalf of those for whom I can speak and have the right to do so. Ever since we came to this House, it has been our invariable duty and it has also been invariably our luck that notwithstanding the present constitution, no Finance Bill has yet been passed in this House. There have been an infinite variety of reasons for that purpose

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and the most outstanding reason has always been that those of us who are called upon to provide the wherewithal willingly for the running of the Government by the gentlemen opposite, we certainly will not be willing parties. Whatever may be the point of view of the other side, every taxation as a taxation is an extortion, as happened in occupied countries all over Europe recently. For indeed, it is not an uncommon phrase known here, known even to English Members that India still has an army of occupation and it is an occupied country, by whatever name you can call it. There are those who pretend that we are part of a Commonwealth; let them say so, if they like, it is a commonwealth of a very extraordinary paradoxical type, their wealth is their own, my wealth is theirs and therefore we become a commonwealth. Therefore, a new name has been given to a gentleman who is sitting on the other side of the House. I have no desire to enter into this controversy, or enter into any personal recriminations of any kind whatsoever. If I happen to have displeased anybody by any public criticism, it has been in the performance of a duty which I could not help performing. If, therefore, I happen to say a few words here and there, stray words, which any of my Honourable friends may or may not like, I hope they will understand that it is not just in a spirit of reciprocity but in a spirit of performing one's own duty.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I will enjoy them.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: The fact remains that even that invitation from the gentleman opposite cannot be noticed too often, so that I must continue whatever I wish to do, notwithstanding the invitation offered to me. In fact, there are many people who love to be notorious in the world only because some better man happens to mention them and hence it is that the gentleman on the other side cited the supposed certificate from Mahatma Gandhi for the work he has done, but after all you cannot live on other's praises.

The position before the House today is that this Finance Bill has been brought under circumstances of immense strain. The world is no doubt in a turmoil and I have no doubt that we shall soon be called upon to face problems probably greater and graver than the mere task of mutual suicide that is going on. Some time the world will have to come to a state of sanity, and some time the world will have then to begin to think how to feed, to clothe and house and educate and thereby alleviate the fate of mankind and ultimately raise the future status of manhood, in spite of the state of bestiality which is now the common fate of the world. It is with that background that I propose to say what I wish to say on this occasion. The first and the foremost thing is the question that has been raised by some of my Honourable friends and it refers to the task very nobly performed by the Honourable Members sitting on the Treasury Benches. Each of them is giving himself a certificate of achievements that he had made. One of them actually said, "don't you know what I have done in many ports for our sailors". That is the last of the great performances that I heard. But if this is the sort of legacy that you are handing over, then let me tell my Honourable friends that whether the Estate Duty Bill is passed or not, we are not those who would wish to inherit this legacy. If we cannot manufacture our own capital, I think they may keep their legacy to themselves, so that this idle pretence to say, "we are doing something which you are going to continue and well, therefore, why don't you congratulate us on our achievements", this is an unction which they lay usually to flatter themselves, but that is something which this side of the House cannot possibly accept.

Therefore, Sir, I come back to the two main topics which I wish to deal with, because we have voluntarily limited the time of our speeches to day. The first and the foremost topic is one which the Honourable the Leader of the European Group broached this morning. In fact, he probably broached it in a somewhat indirect way. The first thing he said was, it is a paternal advice, which unfortunately, I am not old enough or young enough to accept,—the first

thing he said was this, please see that you say nothing so as to undermine the position of the representatives of the India Government at the San Francisco conference. I do not know what he meant. Perhaps he did not realise, except for the reasons which I shall presently give, that the gentlemen who are going there are not representatives of the people of India. They have no prestige of any kind or sort, they are jackdaws and there is therefore nothing to detract from them. Therefore, there is no question of undermining a thing which does not exist, because if the real people of India went, that is where you ought to say, do not undermine their position. Contrast what is going to happen. They will go there as my Honourable friend Sir Olaf Caroe displayed, typical of the arrogance of the Government which is running the administration and what Sir Olaf Caroe told us in the House is extraordinarily typical example of arrogance combined with ignorance. He says that the Government of India will give them brief and they will take a page from that brief and speak in the name of the country. Sir, it is very much better that this country went unrepresented rather than that people of this type should go and talk in the name of the country, and if I can do anything to repudiate that right to speak in the name of my country, then it will be my duty, it will be my endeavour to do so until they go and come back. So that there is no question of softening in this matter at all, notwithstanding the paternal advice, very well meant, but I am too old to be young enough to accept advice of this character.

This brings me to a few words which I may tell my Honourable friends or the European Group because I intended to say that irrespective of the occasion which has now been created by reason of this advice. They have supported in good weather and bad, a bureaucratic and tyrannical Government in this country by invariably casting their votes with them, whether they are right or whether they are wrong. It has given me great pain to watch during the last few years that I have been here that not once have they thought that we were right and Government was wrong. We cannot surely always be so universally bad as that, and I therefore feel that rather than become friends of our enemies at least we might become friends of ourselves.

Sir, the issue on which I ask for a vote on this occasion is the issue of India's freedom, and if they fail us they fail us at their peril. Because, it is no use pretending that the war has got to be run and therefore this Bill has got to be passed. We are fully aware that whether the House passes this Bill or not they will find this money, by exaction or extortion or by any means they can. Therefore let us have no pretence about this. I here and now ask that if they are going to remain in this country, where we are going to come into our own they should remain as our friends and their lot is with us and not with our dominators. And they must remember that if they fail to do that they will be serving their constituents very ill-indeed. For, hear what Colonel Oliver Stanley said only two days ago:

"After the war we have got to depend as never before on our export trade,—that comfortable cushion on which we sat so long, like our fathers and grandfathers before us. We are sitting now on bare boards. We have got to export in future not to be comfortable but to live."

I hope my Honourable friends who have lived on that cushion in this country will not find themselves on bare boards, for no fault of ours. For it is time that their support of this bureaucratic Government, through good report or evil, whether they are right or whether they are wrong, is a matter of which we cannot fail to take notice. If they represent any interest that is anything like India their place is with us and not against us; and I am glad that the Honourable Leader of the European Group gave me an occasion to tell them what have been long wanting to tell them. It is good to tell it publicly, not good to bear a private grudge of any kind.

The next thing he said was this: "I am not in the know of what is happening Lord Wavell has gone and may be, there is something or may be, there is nothing". And he has written what struck me as a very good obituary notice.

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of the departed or departing deity, of course, in a political sense. And indeed he gave his praises all round, nobody was left out; a sweet for every child, and at the end of it all he said, "After all is said and done, while you are there you are our friends". Sir, a benevolent attitude of that kind does not serve any useful purpose. We have got to judge our future as never before. The comfortable cushion is gone, the bare boards are there for the world to live on. The world is bleeding, the world is sore, and on that we have got to build our future. And if we have to build our future on that let us see that we build our future on a proper basis.

That reminds me of what the proper representatives of India if they went to the San Francisco Conference would say. The first and foremost thing they would say is, "Do we stand here as free people or is it like what happened at the time of the inception of that great dead institution at Geneva?" We were taken there after having signed a peace treaty, and on the second day after the peace treaty was signed by the then supposed representatives of the Indian people, a proclamation came from London that of the questions that would be brought before the Geneva meeting the only questions would be between two independent States and not between independent States and dependencies. So we were taken there on a fool's errand, made to sign a treaty as if we were independent. That is the language which the Secretary for External Affairs used. He said, "You have assisted us in the war, and therefore you go as a separate people". I suppose he knows English and therefore he knows what it means, in any language that conveys the constitutional sense. The position is that if there is to be any delegation, I will tell here and now, notwithstanding the desultory discussion that took place in the other House, that none of us is degraded enough to go as an appendage of these people; not as advisers of those who will represent others with opposite views. We will go on our own, or we will not go; and we will go on our own only when we are a real proper sovereign free State. And therefore it is that we will not allow any man to go and masquerade in others' feathers; I call them jackdaws, because I believe them to be so. They cannot go and say that they speak in the name of India. Of course they can speak in the name of themselves, with all the patriotism that they have and which they try to impress on the House time and again. But it is not a place for giving individual views, it is a place for representing countries and for representing the interests of countries. And nobody has the right to go and tell any other country or any public assembly in the world that he represents India. Therefore it is that I should be the last person to see anybody go on behalf of India. Of course we may be told, as Sir Olaf Caroe said, "Well, you have not participated in the war; you cannot be our partners". All right; do not take us as partners, and we shall see what happens to you. We do not want to be partners; we wish to be partners if you have the sense to be partners. But having decided not to be partners tell us in good time that you do not want to become partners. If we are going to be a dominion with right of secession, I think Sir Olaf Caroe understands that that kind of challenge will only end in cleavage; and I hope and trust that those who employ him understand that he has very little sense of his own responsibility when he talks like that in this House. He may afford to do so under the aegis of a constitution of this character but he cannot afford that very long. As I said, the world is out of joint and it will take a long time to put the joints together, if we are to connect the joints in the manner we desire.

Sir, that conference at San Francisco reminds me of what happened with reference to us in the country in which it is going to be held. I very much appreciate the spirit in which the Honourable the Home Member keyed or attuned his speech; not being a musician I cannot use the exact expression. But there is sufficient suavity in all that he says there is in it. He first gave us the arithmetic. He said, "You vilify the Government of this country by saying that it is a concentration camp. Here are Indians going out in this country and here

is my Honourable friend the Leader of the House who wants to say, 'In the interest of truth, gentlemen, we as the only truthful people will go out in the world and whenever you make any incorrect statement we will correct it.' That is the business of Government! That is the business of spending my money and that is what he supposes to be his duty! If that is what he conceives to be his duty I think he should quit his place and go out into the world as a critic proper and use his own money for the purpose of telling the truth if he wishes to. And I think it is good to quit when the going is good. The place will become muddy and will be a little more muddy and boggy and probably your feet will stick into it before you go. Therefore it is good to go when the going is good, as they say. But what I was told was that only 1500 prisoners were there, and you have the temerity to go into outside countries and call this country a concentration camp. Sir, I hope my Honourable friends who spoke that language understand English language very well and more than English, understand English patriotism, and more than English patriotism, the English idea of freedom. And if they think that the mere fact that a few people are locked in a jail makes a place a concentration camp, I believe they do not understand the true significance of the words 'concentration camp'. Compared to the forty crores of the population of this country, what does it matter, according to him, if there are 1500 political prisoners? I suppose, if he went, as he must have gone, to many of these matches that are played in England—football matches—and if two or three people died, and I suppose if his mathematics was correct, he would perhaps say 'there were lakhs of people who attended the play, two people died and if you take the proportion, you will find that nobody was scratched and therefore nobody died.' That is his mathematical logic by which he asks me to judge those who are in prison now—the truest democrats of this country. He keeps them in prison and if it had happened in his country, he would call it Nazi methods, but I prefer saying that this is a concentration camp. And then they say 'who is this woman going about this world maligning us, saying that India is a concentration Camp?' Has India any freedom? Crores and crores of rupees have been spent for the prosecution of the war notwithstanding the fact that the budget is thrown out—it is certified by the Viceroy—and is it not spent against my will?, and then he calls it freedom and he prevents me calling it a concentration camp? I dare say, there is complacency that beats me. Of course it is a concentration camp. There are no barbed wires, but it is a concentration camp in so far as that this country has no real, genuine freedom. What is the definition of a concentration camp? Has there got to be a physical change under which you people will go—some day you might, we don't know—but you mean to tell me that it is a physical change that makes a concentration camp? There is no such thing as human freedom, and therefore it is that if any friend of ours, any genuine representative went to that Conference, the first and foremost thing that he will do there will be this: He will first demand that he will not remain there unless and until Indian was recognized and declared by Britain by her own free will as an independent country, otherwise his duty will be to walk back.

I am told that great issues will be decided in that Conference, but now let us analyse the issues. I have turned over them in my mind so that I may plainly tell our views on the two great topics so that all the world may know. The world may know that there is nothing to be lost so long as our true representatives as free people are in that place. It is going to be a world security conference,—Mr. Eden illustrated what he called the objects of that Conference, world security. Mr. Churchill's Victory Message, which was published day-before-yesterday, runs as follows:

"Once the river line is pierced and the crust of German resistance is broken, decisive victory in Europe will be near. May God prosper our arms in the whole adventure after our long struggle for King and country, for dear life and for freedom of mankind."

For freedom of mankind indeed! Could he ever have said that with his hand on his conscience if he had known, as he knows, too well, that we have

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been made to fight and we have been asked to fight in the name of the freedom of mankind and yet unless we are recognized as men I suppose there is no freedom for us? That is the fight for freedom of mankind. We have got to fight the war with our men, money and resources, whose war, and for whose benefit? For the freedom of mankind. Then I am a man, I proclaim myself and I proclaim my country, and I want any one of those gentlemen there to get up and say that I am not a man that we are not men and we do not deserve freedom. Let us have no shibboleths. Let us be true. I hope the Honourable the Leader of the House will flash a message outside this country that what Mr. Churchill is stating is untrue because this is not a fight for the freedom of mankind. Supposing we went and asked the Conference 'for whose security are you going to make the world peaceful?' If you are going to make the world peaceful in order that England and America and Russia and perhaps China—I am very doubtful about that—are going to be free countries, and it is for that you have fought and bled and still ask us to gloat over the victories, we cannot do so, we are honest men, we do not want false compliments. Having made us fight for our freedom, they cannot at the end of it say that it is not a war in which we can get our freedom.

Sir, I make no apology whatever, apologies there are many. I would have fought the war. Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan has stated the terms on which he offered to co-operate. I wish to remind you of the terms on which we offered to fight—and this was only a few months after the war was declared—and I shall repeat it again. We said that the war aims should be declared. And what was the object? The object was to find out whether at the end of the Second War we are going to be exactly in the same place of subjection as we were in at the end of the First War, which was also fought for the freedom of smaller nations. We had that experience before and indeed we were cautious enough to find out where we stood. If you want to fight the war, get money from your own country and fight it, but don't exact it from me and expect me to be proud about it. How could you? That is the position, and therefore it is that if this Victory Message is the victory for your freedom and my subjection, it is a Victory Message in which, as men, you could not be proud, you could not accept it. Tear out your 'V' from your car and from your caps.

The fact remains that the position today is this, that if we went to the San Francisco Conference, we shall only go there as free men, because then our share in fashioning of the world security would be rich. China has come in. You are trying to save China from Japan, and it is a friendly power. You want to fight Japan in order to free China, and when we want to fight you to free ourselves, that is wrong that question does not arise. Is not this hypocrisy? They shall not go, except for our voice and it will reach there—whatever censorship you may exercise on our speeches it will reach the world—that no representative of this country will go except on the undertaking of absolute equality and as a member of the free nation. They alone then will be able to take part in a genuine conference for the security of the world peace.

Allow me to say this while this war has yet to end that if you think or imagine that they will keep India in bondage and fight Japan to free China, and don't fight their own selfishness to free us, you have not solved the problem. You have not made your task easy. If you want to continue the hypocrisy of this type of Government, then I dare say that it is better that nobody should go. Where is the question of undermining the prestige or position of anybody? It never existed and we shall proclaim to the world that it does not exist. It will be our duty to say that it does not exist. Therefore it is that we are opposed to sending anybody. China is of course a friend. But where do we come in? With our civilization; with our resources, with all the blood that we shed, with all the money that you exacted from us, where do we come in? Do you think that in this world India is any less than China if it came to the question of setting big nations in order that they may collect together for the security of

the world? India has more to contribute than any other country at this Conference. Not merely with men, money and resources, but with that civilization that still pleads for the goodwill of mankind.

I assure you that not all those king's horses and king's men and not even all the Churchill Tanks will keep the peace of the world very long. If the

3 P. M. three powers combine together in order that they may join an army and then keep down anybody else, are we expected to hitch our wagon to that star? No, Sir. Our star is bright and rising and we shall go up the steep ascent and come down. Therefore it is that so far as the San Francisco Conference is concerned, it is dead as mutton. You may keep it. They may maintain the peace of the world but they will do so at their peril. Look at Asia—the subject part of it, from Teheran eastwards. I hope some day you will look at your geography. It is not a free place. It is a spoil of the western countries. Until Asia is free and India is the pivot of that freedom, and until we find that our houses are our own and that our neighbours have their own houses—Java and Sumatra, Indo-China and the Malay States—however long the fight for freedom may be delayed, we shall proclaim the freedom of the world for all the fellow-sufferers like ourselves. Therefore our message is not a petty thing. Let them have a few planes and a few dinners and sit in their hotels. What have they to tell the world? Nothing. All they say is what their Governor-General in Council has given to them. "Yes, yes," they say, "we want peace. You keep it and I remain subject! That is very good." Extraordinary. It is a delusion which requires to be torn up, every inch of and every ounce of it in order that I may make you see. Your eyes have scales, gentlemen, if you cannot see such a thing to tell us, "Oh, yes, go to the San Francisco Conference. Why not two of you go as advisers?" But whose advisers? Who are they to ask us to be advisers? And therefore, it is, Sir, that on the most momentous issue before the House and before the world today I wish to proclaim, I wish to tell what exactly the position of India is so that there may be no doubt as to where we stand because our future depends on that. Our future does not depend when the Conference is over. Our future depends on the actual position of India before the Conference meets, i.e., unless we are free people before that Conference meets. As a matter of fact that Conference is a sham. It is very much like the same farce that was enacted at Geneva. The same thing: "Oh yes, we and our dependencies is a domestic issue. The only issue is the issue between us and the independent States". Well, all right, we have been subject races for 150 years and odd. May be, we may remain subject a little longer notwithstanding everything that is happening contrary to our faith. But one thing is certain that we shall not be a subject race very long. Supposing you attempted to do so. The only result will be that there will be another world war in which you will not be there to be anybody's master at all. But you cannot go on fighting. There is such a thing as Nemesis in the history of mankind. Those who attempt to enslave others very soon drag themselves to the position of slaves. Let there be no mistake. As long as Asia and Africa remain the divided property of the white people, there shall not be peace in this world and therefore it is that when the San Francisco Conference is held, it should be plainly understood that if our freedom issue is not there—and that is the first and foremost issue—we go back home. And if you don't say, that we will compel Great Britain to recognise your freedom and we shall insist on making the world secure, peaceful and honest and not hypocritical, that is not what we shall be a party to. Hence it is necessary that those who now govern should know that going to this Conference and not going to that Conference, and the question of omission or defalcation, and our case going by default, are excuses too childish and puerile. Who is going to judge? Where are rules of justice? Who is there to call in question my right of freedom? I like any gentleman over there to get up and say that. If there is none, then his proper place is to go away from that place. It is not for him to advise me to accept this and pay a tax for the subjugation of my own people.

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Then we come to the next; a smaller issue raised by my Honourable friend, the Leader of the European Group. He said Lord Wavell has gone. I do not know what he has gone there for. And then he said, and I think he meant it that there will be a change in the seating arrangements—whatever that may mean and that each one of those who will be unseated there deserves some appreciation, I would like to believe it to be prophetic!

He said Mr. Abdul Qaiyum did not sound a very hopeful note. Well, if we are not very hopeful, it is not our fault. We have been promised times out of number and we have been asked to rely on the sincerity of words and promises, but it has just stopped there. It is time now there was a little more sincerity of action. Hence if we doubt a little, it is not with a view to cast any despair. We have no desire to say of prophesy that whatever is offered is not genuine, that it will not be accepted. Why? My Honourable friend Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan told you and I am here to say it that if we had been entrusted with the Government of this country and asked to defend our country and also defend those parts of the world in which our country has a stake we would have given that help in no unmeasured terms. My language may not be Nawabzada's but my language is equally clear and has no doubt about it. Anyone can read the speech I delivered in this House when the war budget came up in 1939. That is the time we wanted to test the opinion of this country. There was no need to call a second war budget in the month of October. It was done in the belief that they would persuade the world that India at least was now with them in this war. At that time I made it clear,—and I make it plain again even when the war is going on—that if you make it our job as free people to defend ourselves and to defend those of our brothers in arms who are with us, we still make the same offer. Of course we will not do so as your henchmen. We will not do so in order that we may be subject again. We will not do so in order that some of our friends on the other side may enter into some commitments on our behalf. That we will not do. It may be that in all human affairs things do not right themselves quickly. But I do think myself and I am entitled to think so. What has the war given to this country, notwithstanding the apparent comfort of this House? There is a famine in this country. There is a pestilence in this country. There is nakedness in this country. There is a load of debt in this country. There is a sterilization of commodities in this country on account of every means adopted by which this country could be drained. Notwithstanding this sorry state of affairs we are expected to pass this. There is one thing that I will say that in the midst of all that gloom, I do not forsake hope at all and I will say this, and even to say that, because I believe it, with the poet:

"Father touch the East

Unlight the light

When hope was born."

And when that is fulfilled, then alone shall we vote. Sir, I oppose the Bill.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: This is at least the sixth occasion on which I have had to answer to a long-drawn-out debate on the Finance Bill and have found myself at the end of periods varying from four to eight days, having to answer on the last-day speeches which touched very little, if at all, on finance.

My Honourable friend, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, asked us on these Benches to refrain from using the same stick to beat the Party on his right and his own Party. It seems to me that the position is that the one matter on which my Honourable friends opposite are agreed is that they shall use the same stick to beat us with. I find it very difficult, I must admit, to understand exactly how the double grip comes on to this stick but the fact remains that what they are agreed about is that there is a stick and that that is the stick to be used.

I remember, when replying to the debate last year, I asked in all sincerity whether my Honourable friends opposite had agreed on anything further than

the voting down of the Finance Bill and I still find myself in the position of wondering whether we may hope that this state of deadlock or frustration will give way to something more satisfactory from the point of view of everybody in this country. Speaking as an official who has spent most of his life in this country, I must admit that it is no pleasure, it is not a congenial task to have to carry out one's duties in the atmosphere which now exists: and whatever may be said about my Honourable colleagues on this side, I for one am conscious that without their courage and their self-sacrifice in coming forward, the business of Government which, after all, must be carried out for four hundred million people, could not have been possible. I do not know what at this moment would take the place of the Government which is now being carried on. I realise, Sir—I am prepared to agree—that self-government is better than good government: but I think there is an even prior axiom to that and that is that government is better than no government. I am no politician, I have always spoken as an administrator, which is what I am trained and brought up to be: but the simple fact which I cannot get away from is that at no time have I been able to see in these last few years, these critical years, that there has been an option other than the one between no Government and Government. If I am wrong, then I apologise to those who know better but that seems to me to be the issue most of the time, that the Government of this country had to be carried on and had to be carried on in circumstances of a world crisis, in circumstances of most tremendous difficulty. I think that this country, whatever may happen, whatever may happen in the next few weeks or months or in the next few years—this country will have cause to be grateful to those who undertook the burden and, in many ways, the thankless task of carrying on the Government.

I am afraid that it is not possible for me to continue the debate on the high level to which it was taken by my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition. I cannot deal with the question of San Francisco nor yet can I say anything useful about the immediate political future of the country. I do not know whether at the end of a week of so-called discussion on the Finance Bill the House wishes to concern itself at this late hour with matters dealing with expenditure and the contents of that Bill and all that it implies. But many things have been said in the course of a week's debate which as Finance Member and not merely as the last spokesman on behalf of the Government—many things which, as Finance Member, I shall have to say something about.

First of course comes the old question of Defence expenditure and the Financial Settlement. It is in no spirit of logic-chopping or sophistication that I said the last time I spoke that it is difficult if not impossible to talk on this matter, when you have so little common ground as I have with some of the speakers on the other side. But the fact remains that their approach to the whole question of the war and of India's participation in the war is so entirely different from that of the Government of a belligerent country that every argument and every statement takes on a novel complexion according to whether one stands on one or the other side of this particular issue. From my point of view, a speech such as that of Mr. Manu Subedar's can only be a series of distortions, of misrepresentations, a continuous travesty of the whole financial conduct of the war. War is a chaotic and confused thing. It is a very difficult thing at any time and in any country to evolve an ordered set of accounts out of the huddled and chaotic transactions of war. It is very difficult thing for accountants, however well qualified, and for a system of financial administration however efficient to catch up on all these manifold transactions and to evolve some sort of order out of the confusion and to present it in a way in which the man in the street will be able to understand what has happened. That difficulty is the same in all countries. I do not believe for a moment that the ordinary Englishman has any clearer idea of the financing of the war in England than people in this country have of the financing of the war in India. It simply cannot be made so plain and so clear as to appeal to the intelligence

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of the ordinary man. It is intrinsically a very difficult and complicated thing. When, in addition, you have certain sections in the country, when you have people like some of the speakers whose whole object is to discredit the Government, and to attempt by insinuation and innuendo to convey the impression that everything is fraudulent and *mala fide*, then I must admit there is no answer to it. It all depends on where you stand in relation to the main issue. However long I took up the time of this House, I could not catch up with the tissue of misrepresentations that fell from the lips of such a speaker as Mr. Manu Subedar. I do not wish to harp on that particular speaker, but he presents himself as the essence of that particular attitude, the attitude of distortion, travesty and misrepresentation, against which it is my duty to defend this Government.

The same thing, Sir, arises in connection with the issue of inflation. Inflation is an inevitable accompaniment of war. There are means of counteracting inflation, but it is very hard and difficult task. Inflation can only be combated by a people who grit their teeth and accept certain extremely unpleasant, but inevitable sacrifices during a period of war. It is possible, it has been proved possible, for Governments to explain to some extent to the people of their countries how inflation may be mitigated, if not avoided. It is very difficult thing, but it has proved possible. It has proved possible to say to the people in war time—"There are few things to buy, but there will be much money going out, you will be paid more, you will be busier, but yet there will be fewer things for you; if you will put aside the money, if you will submit to taxation, if you will lend the money, then the worst evils of inflation can be avoided". Now, if Government can succeed in getting that message across to the people, it may avoid inflation to a large extent. That has been done in a country like England; to some extent it has been done in the United States of America; but it cannot be done, Sir, in a country in which there are a large number of people going about saying, "You must not co-operate with Government, you must resist any attempt on their part to enlist your co-operation, you must not lend them your money, you must not submit to controls which they consider necessary". So long as that happens, Sir, it is impossible to prevent inflation in time of war.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural): Is inflation in England half as much as it is in India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Certainly not, there is not the same degree of inflation in England as there is in India. I have explained why it is so. It is idle to pretend that you can separate the economic issues from the political issues. You cannot get away from the fact that in the circumstances of this country, unless you could somehow abstract this country entirely from the belligerent world, it was impossible to prevent inflation. Unless my Honourable friends opposite, unless all my Honourable friends opposite, came to a frame of mind in which they were prepared to co-operate whole-heartedly with Government or participate in the Government for the conduct of war.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: That is better.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I will put it in the way you like. I am now trying to put the matter objectively. What I say is this. From whatever causes it might arise, I will not even presume to judge on the merits of these causes, but from whatever causes it might arise, because of the fact that there were large elements in this country who were disposed not to co-operate with Government, who would not assist people to recognise what was necessary in order to prevent inflation, you could not prevent a certain degree of inflation.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why spend on account of U. S. A. and England? If you do not do so, then there will be much less inflation.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am grateful to my Honourable friend. He says: do not spend on account of U. S. A. and England. In other

words, as I said a little while ago, take this country off this planet, take it for the time being to a planet where America and Britain are not fighting this war, for after all the essence of the situation is that a war is being waged, and that America and Britain are fighting the Japanese in countries contiguous to India and in India. Therefore the expenditure was bound to happen in India unless my Honourable friend was prepared to give his services or products entirely free, but if he was not prepared to do that, then that expenditure was bound to happen in this country. Or does he also suggest that the whole of this country could have been kept in a state of depression or in the doldrums when the rest of the world was engaged at the highest level of economic activity of the last century? Does he think that was possible in the alternative?

Well, Sir, I do not wish to labour the point, I have spoken on it many times, nobody could have regretted more than I that during the period of my office this degree of inflation with the miseries attendant on inflation, should have been inflicted on the people of this country. But if I were to appear at any time before a tribunal of competent and critical judges, and if they were to ask me what I had to say in my defence, I would have told them something of what I said in the last few minutes, and in addition I should have said to them: "You must read the debates in the Legislative Assembly that took place during the period of my office, and not least those that took place towards the end. I must remind you, My Lords, that at this stage I was subjected to a vote of censure in this House because in the course of the savings drive it was suggested that some of the methods used amounted to compulsion. You must remember that, My Lords. You must also remember, My Lords, that in spite of my efforts at taxation, my Finance Bill was thrown out". This would be my reply to the Tribunal sitting in judgment upon me for having inflicted inflation on this country. I would tell them: Oh, Ye Economists and Experts, I know that your prescription for preventing inflation is taxation and borrowing. This is what happened to my taxation, and that is what happened to my borrowing. So I now ask you to judge and decide what the verdict should be, and what should be the sentence.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Six years simple imprisonment.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Perhaps it will be no worse than that. But to what will they sentence you, a Professor of Economics? You told the people not to pay taxes, you told them not to lend money to Government, and yet you knew that unless they did that they were bound to suffer from inflation. You sinned against the light.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We showed you light, but you would not see.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I must go on. I wish to deal now with certain points of a less general character, which were dealt with by my Honourable friend, Mr. Neogi. But, first of all, I must traverse certain remarks in regard to the position of the Auditor General and the Financial Settlement. As the House has frequently been informed, the Auditor General of India is entrusted with the responsibility for seeing that the allocation of Defence expenditure between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government is in accordance with the settlement. In thus acting as an arbiter in matters of allocation of expenditure, the Auditor General must, like any other arbitrator, be guided by facts. Such, for instance, as the strengths of the forces certified by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to be necessary for India's local defence. It is not possible for the Auditor General to attempt to go behind that military judgment any more than it is possible for me. My Honourable friend, Mr. Neogi, suggested that I had become an Honourable Member for Arithmetic and not for Finance; but I would like him to show me any country at war in which the Chancellor of the Exchequer dictates to the War Minister what the size of the army shall be.

This does not, however, as Mr. Neogi suggests, reduce the Auditor General to complete impotence in the matter of allocation of expenditure. All new measures are scrutinised most carefully by the Auditor General's representative

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in conjunction with senior officials of the Military Finance Department, to ensure that the cost of such measures is properly allocated and that the orders sanctioning them contain correct directions regarding the incidence of cost. There is no question of the Auditor General or his representative being faced with a *fait accompli*, for even if expenditure on any particular measure had been incurred before its incidence was thus examined, the ultimate adjustment of the expenditure in the accounts would be in accordance with the decision reached at that examination. I hope I have made that point clear. There is no question of finally debiting expenditure to particular revenues before this examination. In important cases in which doubts arise in regard to the correct allocation of expenditure on any particular measure, and in all cases of disputed incidence, the advice of the Auditor General is formally sought, and so far has been invariably acted upon. Should the Government of India feel compelled to disregard such advice, a most unlikely contingency which has never occurred, the Auditor General would bring the matter to notice in his Audit Report. I hope that has made the position clear.

In regard to the expenditure on the two air fields, referred to in para. 29 of the Audit Report of 1944, I would repeat that the Auditor General was consulted before the matter of allocation was finally settled, and it was with his express concurrence, given after considering a very full statement of all the relevant circumstances, and not a bare assertion, that the air fields were for India's local defence, with his full concurrence given after such consideration, that the expenditure on these air fields was charged to India. I have stated those words in very careful language because the position of the Auditor General is one which must be maintained both for the sake of this House as well as for the sake of all canons of public expenditure; and it is not the case that in this or in any other arrangement the Auditor General could accept a position in which he was considered to have discharged his function without actually himself applying his mind to the merits of the matter. It is this same Auditor General, I must point out, who has censured various transactions which have been quoted with great approbation by Honourable Members opposite. It is this same Auditor General who has certified that as far as he could find out the allocation of the defence expenditure was in accordance with the financial settlement. Now, I myself have very little to do, as I have often stated, with that allocation. I am anything but an expert on the multifarious transactions which take place before the accounts are finally made up. But I am quite prepared to answer on my own behalf and on behalf of those who work under my orders, to any committee or tribunal which wishes to question us on these matters.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I point out that we do not object so much over the allocation of items, as to the financial settlement itself?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: There are two issues. I am glad my Honourable friend said that. The whole tenor of the speech of the Honourable Member who sits beside him, Mr. Manu Subedar, was that this was a very cunning series of slim financial transactions, that somehow or other—I do not know how he contrived to throw mud and ink all round the place—but he gave the impression that what was being done was something which was exceedingly, well, *mala fide* to say the least of it; and it is that part of the criticism or attack which I am answering now. Mr. Subedar adopted a more conciliatory note and he did not use the same offensive expressions which he had used in his first speech; but actually the tenor of his speech in my opinion was at least equally offensive; and I would rather—if he wants to call me a cheat and a liar and a fraud—that he would use those words, and not say that he is casting no doubts whatsoever on my integrity or my *bona fides* but that I have lent myself to a series of transactions which amount to a complete fraud on the Indian taxpayer: I would much rather that he used direct language so that we knew exactly where we stood.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, says the point is another one altogether. As I understand his point, his objection is to the financial settlement itself, not that it has been fraudulently administered, but that the settlement itself is wrong. In regard to that, all I can say is that extreme discontent with it has also been expressed on the other side; that if I am to be called to account before any tribunal over the financial settlement, I would like at least to have the advantage of being subjected to a single trial at one time and that my accusers from both sides should come together. I do not see how it is possible to answer both sets of charges unless one is dealing with them at the same time. My Honourable friends here suggest that the financial settlement is an act of extortion and gross injustice to the Indian taxpayer; there are a lot of very voluble critics on the other side who say that it is a monstrous imposition on the British taxpayer; and I find myself in the difficult position of balancing on a knife edge.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: On which side are you?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I hope that I am on the side of truth and justice, at any rate.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: You are really very dispassionate in this matter: we expect you to be very much attached to the Indian side.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My affections are very heavily engaged with the country in which I have spent so large a part of my life. At the same time, I am now answering charges coming from two directions; and if I said to my Honourable friend that I had favoured him in this matter, I should give away his case to the critics on the other side.

I am glad that my Honourable friend, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, used the words which he did this morning. My own position is—and I have no desire to be smug or self-satisfied—my position is that in my own conscience I am satisfied: I am prepared to meet any committee which may be set up at any time on this matter and I am prepared to answer all questions which may be asked from me. I shall answer any summons whenever I am called. My conscience is perfectly clear and in that I am happy. And that is why, as he rightly says, the very harsh criticisms which have been made—though they may have tried my patience—have not upset my fundamental equilibrium.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Except once.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It may be. After all we are all made of human flesh and blood and nerves.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): I thought you were made of straw and sand!

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: . . . and when we sit day after day listening to criticism it may be that we do not always maintain that perfect calm which more angelic creatures would do; if I have fallen short of the high standard which Honourable Members opposite expected in that matter, then I can only express my regret.

There is one other specific matter which I should like to mention because I think it was used to imply that I had been less than frank in putting forward the figures. I was reminded that I had not given to the House the share of His Majesty's Government of the total defence expenditure booked in India. I must apologise for not having done that, as it is a matter of interest to the House although strictly speaking it is not part of the Government of India's budget. But I will now make good that omission. The figures in the Revised estimates for 1944-45 are 439.53 crores and the figures in the Budget for 1945-46 are 488.8 crores.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): May we have the accounts of last year too?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I had intended to give my Honourable friend the figures he had asked for when I replied to the general debate on the budget but it slipped my mind. I have them here now. In the accounts

[Sir Jeremy Raisman.]

for 1943-44, the total defence expenditure was 774 crores of which His Majesty's Government's share was 378 crores and I have given the revised estimates for 1944-45. The total figure is 896 crores of which His Majesty's Government's share was 439 and our forecast for the budget for 1945-46 is 901 crores of which His Majesty's Government's share is 489. Altogether my impression is that taking the last six years India's share of the total defence expenditure has been a little less than half.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is all that money spent in India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is the expenditure in India that I am now talking about. Of course His Majesty's Government's expenditure outside India, including expenditure for operations in India, that is to say, supply of munitions and so on, is very much larger. The expenditure that I am talking about is actual rupees put out in India, and the way in which they are debited is shown by the figures that I have just mentioned.

My Honourable friend Mr. Neogy dealt at some length with the question of lend-lease and I do not know whether the House would like me to go into details on that matter. I have actually prepared a summary on the matter and I will, if the House desires, take them through it once again. I would remind the House that India was declared by the U. S. Government eligible for lend-lease, in conformity with the Lend-Lease Act of Congress of the 11th November 1941. Lend-lease began to reach India in substantial quantities from 1942 onwards. As the House knows, lend-lease is not a gift. There is a consideration attached to it. The nature of the consideration which America expects to receive is indicated in what is known as the Mutual Aid Agreement of the 23rd February 1942 entered into between His Majesty's Government and the United States of America, a copy of which I am placing in the Library of the House. This agreement does not apply directly to either the Dominions or to India and none of the Dominions or India has, in fact, signed it. It contains in Article 2 an obligation to render reciprocal aid and in article 7 an acceptance of the principle of the elimination of discriminatory treatment in international commerce and of the reduction of tariffs and other trade barriers.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Is the Honourable Member referring to the Lend-Lease Agreement? The reciprocal agreement has been signed by two of the Dominions.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am referring to the Mutual Aid Agreement, the Master Agreement. I was going on to say that as American forces began to go to overseas theatres in increasing numbers in 1942, the United States Government raised the question of their local supplies being obtained on reciprocal aid as adumbrated in this Mutual Aid Agreement. Later, on the 3rd September 1942 the United Kingdom entered into a reciprocal aid agreement with the United States of America agreeing to provide certain types of assistance to the United States or to its armed forces. Shortly after, both Australia and New Zealand signed a similar agreement, somewhat more restricted in scope, with the United States of America and in these agreements the Mutual Aid Agreement of February 23rd, 1942, was specifically referred to and these principles, including those of Article 7 were specifically accepted. So that although New Zealand and Australia have not signed a separate lend-lease agreement with the United States of America they have formally accepted the principles and conditions of lend-lease. I have placed copies of these agreements in the Library of the House. South Africa has not entered into either a lend-lease or a reciprocal aid agreement with the United States of America nor has Canada. The latter country, Canada, I believe, deals with the United States of America on a cash basis. Now, the question of India signing a similar reciprocal aid agreement with the United States of America, confined at that time to the needs of the U. S. Forces in India was discussed by the Government of India direct with the U. S. Government in January 1942. I think I mentioned at that time in reply to questions in this House that those discussions were going on. As in the case of Australia and New Zealand

this would have involved our accepting the lend-lease agreement with its Article 7. This is a somewhat delicate matter but the fact is that the Government of India did make an endeavour to detach the question of a signed agreement with the United States of America from certain implications of Article 7 of the main agreement. It was not possible to secure that, for reasons not specifically connected with India but because that article had already been subscribed to by other countries and because of the effect which it might have on certain other signatories who had already accepted the implications of Article 7 of the main lease-lend agreement.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Now, Sir, I want to make it clear that it was not that the Government of India wished to pursue a policy of extreme isolationism or anything of that kind. They were broadly in sympathy with the general objects of international economic co-operation which are expressed in this document. But they feared that the use of certain phrases in relation to tariffs might give rise to misunderstandings. My Honourable friend Mr. Neogy has pointed out that although Great Britain signed that agreement, they did not consider themselves as being automatically precluded from, say, the continuance of imperial preferential tariffs thereby. That is true. They have made it clear that that is their view of the matter. But the Government of India found it difficult to obtain sufficient categorical indication of what the position would be. Therefore they decided that it was better, since they did not think it absolutely essential to execute a formal agreement in order to secure what each side desired in the matter of reciprocal aid, they came to the not unnatural conclusion that it was better to keep clear of any phraseology which might afterwards be thrown up against India in connection with post-war fiscal policies. Now, Sir, I do not see why the Honourable Member has come to the conclusion that that was in any way disadvantageous to India. I do not think it had any effect on the actual transactions. I think it was entirely to India's advantage to make her position clear in the matter. After all, India has always put forward the argument in regard to infant industries and the peculiar position of backward countries. It might well be that a formula which appeared to be harmless to other countries would have been embarrassing, if it had been subscribed to by the Government of India.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Were any notes exchanged with U.S.A. Government on this matter?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Actually notes were not exchanged because it would have been impossible to do that in any non-public manner and the same disadvantages would have arisen as would have arisen from a public contracting-out of some of the implications of Article 7 of the Lease-Lend agreement. When we came to the case of Canada, then at a certain stage the Government of Canada realised what our difficulties were in regard to that matter and they so re-worded the comparable article that we found no difficulty in signing the agreement with Canada.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: If my Honourable friend would not mind my interruption, do I take it then that the economic clauses of the Atlantic Charter constitute the economic policy of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No, Sir. I did not put it like that. All that I said was that the Government of India were broadly in sympathy with the aims of general international economic co-operation which were expressed in some of these documents, but at the same time, their attitude towards them was a little more than critical than that of some of the other participants and therefore they came to the conclusion that they had better not subscribe to them in so many words. I want to make it clear that the Government of India in declining to accept the implications of those words was not sticking to a policy of extreme isolationism, because, I think it is realised by everybody that although the interests of India must be safeguarded, India will not be able to live in an economic or geographical vacuum. She will have to maintain relations with the rest of the world and in those relations, there are certain fundamental principles which have to be accepted. However the Government of

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India, I think, in this matter, has done the most it can to preserve the utmost liberty of action for its successors, and I do not see that in that matter, they are susceptible to criticism. We continued to receive lend-lease supplies, continued to grant reciprocal aid without any formal agreement with U.S.A. Government and that is the position today. As far as I am aware, many other countries are in the same position. They came to the conclusion that whereas reciprocal aid was a sensible arrangement in war time it was not absolutely inevitable that it should bring in its train, that it should be tied up with, certain undertakings in regard to the future. So, without signing any document, they merely entered into a mutual aid arrangement. Now, Sir, my Honourable friend appeared to me to be critical of the gradual extension of the scope of reciprocal aid granted by India. He wished to know what were the reasons for the expansion of the scope of that aid. It is quite true that whereas in relation to our defence expenditure generally the criterion of the local defence of India is applied, it is not applied now in regard to reciprocal aid to America. I cannot go into the history of this matter in any detail, it is hardly possible to state in public the exchanges that have passed between the Government of India and the Government of U.S.A. on this subject. I am sure my Honourable friend will recognise that in a matter of this kind, if the desire of the other side is for certain facilities and if the facilities which we are to receive are ultimately dependent, on our meeting the desire of the other side, then we are in a difficult position. Indeed, India was very badly in need of certain supplies which could only be obtained on lend-lease. My Honourable friend will perhaps remember that when certain supplies were put on the lend-lease list, they were no longer obtainable for cash. There was a time in which certain articles could only be obtained on lend-lease terms and could not be bought or obtained by gold or in any other way. The position was that the U.S.A. said: "these things are essential to the conduct of the war, and therefore, if we are to supply them at all, we supply them because we recognise that they are necessary for the conduct of war, and we supply them on lend-lease terms and they cannot be supplied to anybody else". Now India required certain things and had to get them. There were two parties to the arrangement and it was not possible to maintain the position that India was bound in all circumstances to be a net beneficiary. It is quite possible that India in the last resort will be a net beneficiary and it is quite clear to the Government of India that in no circumstances will the reverse position be allowed to occur. But, short of that, I do not see, what ceiling, in the circumstances, the Government of India could place on this reciprocal aid. I must make it quite clear that nothing is supplied which the country cannot afford to supply, that is to say, our own decision is necessary to the provision of any type of supply and naturally nothing is supplied unless India can afford, can spare those particular supplies, but subject to that over-riding criterion, the Government of India was more or less bound to reciprocate. Acceptance of certain essential supplies through the lend-lease arrangement meant that you were in principle bound to reciprocate. It is true that one might have hoped that so much would not have been called for from this country. And undoubtedly at earlier stages of the war it seemed improbable that the demands on this country would be at all comparable with the benefits which this country could expect to receive from lend-lease. But all that I can say is that in the event that expectation has not been fulfilled and is not being fulfilled to the extent which appeared probable. I would not like my Honourable friend to go away with the impression that the Government of India complied with every request that was made of them. They did not, but the present situation is the result of what they felt they had to agree to.

Now, my Honourable friend asked for certain figures, and I have some figures here with me which I could give to the House. These figures are very difficult to compile. Lend-lease transactions originally, as far as we understood, were meant to be transactions from which the dollar sign and of course the pound or the rupee sign had been excluded. In other words we did not

embark on the business of valuing each consignment; so that later on when we found ourselves under the necessity of preparing some kind of accounts it was a matter of considerable difficulty. And that is the reason why when my Honourable friend said that it is extremely difficult for Members to find out what is happening or to follow the financial magnitudes of these things, I reminded him that that is a difficulty which is not confined only to Honourable Members opposite; we ourselves have at different times found ourselves in great difficulties over these matters.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What was the object of removing the dollar values on those shipments? It could only be to hide the actual cost of those shipments.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I would remind my Honourable friend that lend-lease was a new conception in international co-operation during war time. The idea no longer was that you lend to your allies something which can be valued in terms of money and which forms a war debt but that you freely contribute. Therefore it seemed, at that stage at any rate, that there was no need for the recipient ally to keep any accounts of it. I hope my Honourable friend has understood the point.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I have understood the point but I am not convinced of the fairness of the arrangement.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It was not my arrangement; I am explaining how lend-lease was first conceived. Undoubtedly it has undergone certain modifications and developments as the war developed. Originally, of course, lend-lease was provided at a stage when America was not participating in the war to the same extent as she is now. And naturally as American participation in the war in other ways expanded, the people of America felt that the conception of lend-lease should be adjusted to the altered circumstance. Thence arose the request for something in return, for reciprocal aid and the present conception of mutual aid. If the House would like me to read out some of these figures I will do so.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Sir, the House does not seem to be much interested in all these details, but if my Honourable friend will kindly make an attempt to have an exhaustive note prepared before he leaves this country and have it published, that would be a great favour to some of us who take some interest in this question.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I agree with my Honourable friend that the House possibly would not wish to follow the details. I was merely anxious to absolve myself of the charge of having been less than willing to provide my Honourable friend with such information as we have. But I agree that the course which he suggests is probably more suitable.

There is one other topic with which I should like to deal before I sit down and that is the question which was raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson regarding the post-war price level. I say it was raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson but actually the theme was suggested to him by myself, because I was surprised to find during the debate in this House on the cut motion by the European Group that nearly everybody was talking in terms which I found difficult to distinguish from the old-fashioned retrenchment notions which followed the last war. It has been generally recognised that the retrenchment idea of the early twenties which was pursued in many countries set in motion deflationary and contractionist tendencies which eventually led to the unprecedented economic depression of 1929 and onwards. And I was surprised to find that in a House so well-informed as this and on the motion of no less a person than my Honourable friend the discussion was entirely of the old type, of an axe-wielding character. I had no time then to develop the theme; but I said to myself, "Can it really be that this House, after all that has been said and written since the crisis and depression of the early thirties, is thinking merely in crude terms of retrenchment of contraction and of deflation?"

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have forgotten whether my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga spoke on the motion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I spoke and I made it clear that we do not want any retrenchments on the development of social services and departments.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Thank you. It was for that reason that I threw out the question which, I was glad to see, resulted in the speech which my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson made the other day. At the same time I cannot say that he has done very much more than pass the baby back to me. After all, who started the discussion? He said, "I want expenditure to be cut down". I said to him, "Are you aware that expenditure is going to come down with a bang? And does that suggest nothing to you?" And he said to me, "What do you propose to do when expenditure comes down with a bang?"

Sir F. E. James: My Honourable friend said that he proposes to hand the baby on to his successor.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Whatever I may say today, a real live baby will have to be handed on to my successor or rather to our successors. It is not merely a matter for the Finance Member.

I must point out that the Government of India as a whole are acutely aware of the whole complex of problems that underlie this question of the post-war price level. To talk of the post-war price level, I suggest is somewhat to oversimplify the issue. The level of prices at any particular time is the resultant of a large number of factors and I do not think that there would be much hope in attempting to operate directly on the price level. You have got to think of all the factors at work which go to make that result and to see to what extent you can intervene and help.

I was saying that after the last war we had a crisis brought about by contractionist and deflationary methods. The idea was to cut down costs, to reduce wages, to discharge superfluous labour and somehow or other to bring about a state of affairs in which private enterprise felt that it could operate profitably again and float the ship of the economy off the rocks on to which it had got. As far as I can make out, in the world today there is one thing which almost everybody is agreed upon and that is that the post-war problem however it is tackled, should not be tackled in that particular way, that whatever may be right that method is wrong—the method of merely cutting down, of attempting to balance the budget at the lowest level to which you can get. The way it was actually put to me, rather graphically, by no less a person than Prof. D. H. Robertson, Professor of Political Economy at Cambridge, in the course of an informal chat, was this. He said, "It seems to me that you can either obtain a balance—not merely of the Government Budget but the whole national economy—at the highest possible level, or you can obtain a balance at the minimum level". And he said, what happened last time was that everybody tried to get down to the barest possible economy and at that stage they found eventually a balance but it was only after inflicting the most terrific suffering and misery on very large sections of mankind. It seems to be generally agreed that whatever you do this time you will not do it that way. And so the expansionist philosophy now holds the field and it is held by some very distinguished thinkers—by men like Lord Keynes and Sir William Beveridge—it is the philosophy which was being put into practice in the course of the New Deal in America by President Roosevelt and his advisers, and it is the philosophy which may be said to underlie the British White Paper on employment which is one of the most remarkable State documents which was ever produced. I must make it clear that it has never yet, as far as I am aware, been demonstrated that a balance can be achieved at the highest level. It involves something of an act of faith. It has not been actually historically carried out. But the economists have pursued a line of thought which leads them to think that there is more hope at any rate in that direction than in the other, and as I say it has been pretty generally agreed that it is that direction in which the world

should move and that Governments should not follow the course which they pursued after the last war, which eventually led to the crisis of the early thirties. The Government of India does not live in a vacuum although many people seem to think so; the Government of India is very conscious of these currents in the realm of economic thought and its own thinking is following those lines. At the same time, I must make it clear that it is extremely improbable that any Government in the world will be able to protect its economy entirely from the effects of the jolt which will come when the war ceases. That tremendous transference of activity—the reduction of various forms of wasteful production—all those tremendous changes must have an effect and it is quite impossible for any Government, however constituted, to make such plans as to counteract every one of those effects. Therefore it is difficult to prophesy what the world post-war price level will be. It is almost certain that, no matter what is done, it will probably be a good deal lower than it is now, certainly in India. India suffers from the disadvantage that a good deal of the expenditure in this country happens to it; it is not expenditure which is consciously incurred by the Government of this country, but it merely results from the developments of the war and from the fact that this country or rather countries contiguous to it happen to become theatres of war. That determines the total volume of rupee expenditure and therefore tends to determine the total volume of economic activity in this country and the price level.

But there is another thing. As I was saying earlier in the course of my speech, we have had inflation in this country. We still are in the position that we have not entirely succeeded in raising by taxation and borrowing all the rupees necessary for the present level of rupee outgo, and therefore there is an inflationary element in our present set-up. It obviously is undesirable—as soon as that matter can be brought completely under control as it could be when Allied expenditure in this country ceased—it is obviously undesirable that that inflationary gap should be allowed to continue. To the extent that the price level in India at the present time has been determined by the existence and the continuance of an inflationary gap, to that extent it is neither possible nor desirable to maintain the price level at its existing height, so that in my opinion there would have to be a certain subsidence on the cessation of Allied war expenditure. But it would be possible for the scale of expenditure of the Government of India to continue. That does not mean, as I pointed out the other day, that forms of waste or extravagance should continue, but what I mean is that it would be possible for the Government of India to concentrate on maintaining, as far as it can, a pretty high level of useful expenditure.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Expenditure on nation-building services.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes.

Then, again we must assume that with the conditions obtaining at the end of the war economic activity on private initiative will occupy a much larger part in the picture than it does at present. After all, at present practically the whole economy is being geared to the requirements of war. When the requirements of war cease, obviously there will be enormously more scope for private enterprise to enter into fields which will not be so closely controlled by the Government. If the expansion of private economic activity is on a sufficient scale then it is possible that it may completely neutralise the effects of the cessation of Government expenditure. I hope, and I believe, that that will happen to a very great extent. Besides that, of course, we shall have export markets open to us which at the present moment are either not open or the difficult of access. That again will tend to fill the vacuum which is left by the cessation of war expenditure.

I do not wish to be thought as subscribing to all the implications of what is called the expansionist theory. I believe that it is based to a somewhat excessive extent on a somewhat optimistic estimate of the mobility of labour and of the possibility of adjusting various other sources of friction in the general economy. It is based on a certain degree of optimism about the extent to

[Sir Jeremy Raisman.] which the levers which are in the hands of Government can actually operate the whole economy. That may be true to a much greater extent in highly integrated countries like Great Britain and the United States of America. But in a country with an economy which is more primitive such as that of India, you cannot produce the same effects merely by moving the familiar handles of the bank rate and the volume of credit. There is a good deal of slack in the various joints of the Indian economy and the mere adoption of the expansionist theory and the pursuit of an expansionist policy by the Government would not in itself in the conditions of India suffice to neutralise the effects of the cessation of large scale war expenditure. Nevertheless, there are certain remedies which can be applied to mitigate the disadvantages of a post-war reaction, I will not say 'collapse' because I hope and believe that there need not be a collapse. I think that even as far as our present thinking has gone we would be in a position to prevent a collapse. After all it may even be better than having a collapse to go on maintaining an army of two million or providing them with uniforms. It may be better to take the extreme instance, to go on producing munitions which you never intend to use. That is a *reductio ad absurdum*. What it does show is that you are not entirely helpless in the face of these things. You can to some extent control, the rate at which the reaction takes place. Actually I do conceive that certainly in the matter of the demobilization of troops, it will be necessary for the Government to pursue a cautious policy in the matter of demobilization. I do not think any Government nowadays will merely turn away hundreds of thousands of men and say "we do not want you any more" without any conception of what they are going to do. That obviously would be asking for trouble of the most serious kind. So one of the policies which it is possible to pursue is to regulate the pace at which you unwind your war economy, to regulate the demobilization both of men and materials and of industry generally. Then again, although I threw some cold water on it a moment ago, the policy of cheap money has been pursued with considerable success during the war and it undoubtedly creates conditions and helps to maintain conditions favourable to a high level of economic activity. So long as that is so I have no doubt that the Government of India would continue the cheap money policy. Similarly, the control of capital issues seems to me to be a measure which will be as necessary for the health of the country in peace as it is in war. It will be just as necessary immediately after the war to ensure that the capital resources of this country are directed into the most beneficial and fruitful channels as it is now and that is one of the levers which is ready to our hands and which I hope will remain so.

Then again the Government of India hope to be able to facilitate the import of capital goods which will assist to increase the whole level of production of this country. That is one of the principal concerns of my Honourable friend, the Planning and Development Member. Obviously if we can secure imports of capital goods, then that enables us to maintain a high level of economic activity to replace the results of the cessation of war. So again with industrial rehabilitation generally.

Another policy which has been indicated in our pamphlets on reconstruction is the policy of pushing on with public works and rehabilitation of railways and so on. These are plans which have been and still are being worked out and they are capable of employing large numbers of men and also of keeping industry moving.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Can you explain how the control of capital issues after the war will help industrial rehabilitation?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: After the war it will help because any kind of chaos or uncontrolled speculation would obstruct planned economic activity and would therefore militate against bringing economic activity to the highest level. It is not a man suffering with 105 degrees of fever who is the

most energetic person, although he may seem to be. Similarly it would not be if every bucket shop were active and if people could float new issues every day regardless of their merit that the tempo of economic life in India would reach its optimum point.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: What guarantee is there that this control would be wisely and carefully exercised?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My Honourable friend touches on the whole problem of planned economy. What guarantee is there? It is assumed nowadays, and it is part of the expansionist philosophy that the giving of thought to these matters produces better results than chaotic *laissez faire*. If it should prove to be otherwise, then in twenty years' time someone standing in my place may be propounding a return of the conditions of the 30's. They may come to the conclusion that even a depression of that magnitude is better than the results of economic planning. But I do not think so. The best thought of the world today is looking to a planning of this kind and control by Governments in this way as the solution of this type of problem. They are so certain that the contractionist course is bad that they are prepared to commit an act of faith and move in the opposite direction this time.

There are certain other measures which are possible. Mr. Tyson said that he thought that this Government would have to depend on a great extension of physical controls.

Mr. G. W. Tyson (Bengal: European): I said that you would have to depend on reinforcing your money policy with the existing physical controls. I would not advocate a great extension of them.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I quite agree with my Honourable friend that the answer cannot be produced by what he called 'money magic' or mere monetary manipulation. I quite agree with that and some measures of intervention and control are necessary. Of course the existing controls are directed rather to preventing the price level from going too high. There are controls, which provide maxima at the present time. That is one thing. But if you are faced with a contractionary, with a deflationary crisis, then you have to consider the opposite type of action, namely, providing floors, not ceilings, and that is a different type of control altogether. It involves such action as going into the markets and buying up stocks when they are redundant and are depressing the price level, when prices fall below what is considered to be a desirable minimum. That type of action of course is possible and we have even resorted to it to a certain extent during this war. I must warn the House that this has very far-reaching financial implications. It is a kind of action which should not be lightly entered upon. At the same time, I conceive that the Government of this country after the war will have to maintain a sympathetic attitude towards the problem of guaranteeing a minimum return to the cultivator. It will not be in a position.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: So at last the cultivator comes into the picture!

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Not last. As far as I am concerned he is first and last. I think that is one of the important elements in the problem. If you are to prevent a disastrous drop in the whole price structure, then one of the main things which will and which must engage your attention is the problem of maintaining minimum prices for primary products. It is a very difficult problem and it has very far-reaching implications and it certainly would not be consistent with the old-fashioned attitude towards balanced budgets or with anything in the nature of a retrenchment or economy drive. It might easily land the Government into much larger sums than anything which they have yet embarked upon and if it were not very skilfully pursued or fortunately and successfully pursued, it might land the country in a degree of inflation which would be much more difficult to control than the inflation which has resulted from the war. At the same time, it is a type of remedy which must be kept in mind, because the degree of hardship and misery which could result from

[Sir Jeremy Raisman.]

a completely *laissez faire* attitude towards agricultural prices is too colossal to contemplate.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: For how long after the war will this artificial price props be necessary?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I cannot say: I would not venture to prophesy about a thing like that. I said some time ago that there would inevitably be some reduction in the price level and that will apply very definitely to agricultural products. For instance, I make no secret of the fact that I do not consider that the present price of wheat in the Punjab could possibly be maintained at anything like the existing level, nor do I think that it would be to the advantage of the country that it should be so maintained. It is cocked up high above the general average of the price level. (Interruption.) Other articles too. But the fact remains that it is in a highly artificial position due to special reasons. I merely alluded to it as one element in the situation. What will happen, in my opinion, will be a certain subsidence in prices and it may be necessary and it may be possible for a Government to intervene to prevent that fall from degenerating into collapse.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Regulate the process of deflation.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: To prevent it from going too far it may be necessary, probably, will be necessary. Even if your object is to attain ultimately a lower level it may be necessary for you to support prices at intermediate stages in order to prevent a collapse, because a situation of collapse will be one in which it will be far more difficult for you to intervene and to apply remedies. Therefore you will have to keep in close touch with the situation and attempt to adjust it from week to week and to prevent it getting beyond your control. Those are such ideas as I have to offer at the present time on what is undoubtedly a very important question. I cannot pretend in this short period to have dealt with it comprehensively. I merely indicated some of the channels of thought and some of the policies which the Government of India already have in mind for dealing with the very serious problem which Mr. Tyson mentioned.

Before I sit down I would like to express my intense appreciation of the kind words which have been uttered regarding me from various quarters of this House. I think that some of them were considerably more than I would claim as my desert. I have endeavoured in a period of difficulty to carry out my duties. I think I have been very ably assisted in that matter by the officials in my Department. I have endeavoured to follow the policies which I thought would be most advantageous to the country and I am very grateful that most Members in this House who have worked with me have, at any rate, recognised that that was my single purpose. I realise that many unhappy things have occurred during the period of my stewardship. I could have wished it had been otherwise. I believe that I did my utmost to mitigate them.

There is one other thing that I would like to say and that is in relation to my colleagues and particularly in relation to my Indian colleagues. I have worked with them now for several years and we have tackled some of the most difficult problems which could ever face any Government. I cannot imagine that any Government in this country will ever deal with problems of that character with a more concentrated and genuine intention to do the best for this country than has been exhibited by my Honourable colleagues. I have found them to be a body of sincere, devoted, and distinguished men, and I am proud to have been associated with them.

I am glad that at this stage of India's development I was privileged to play so intimate a part, and I feel that I shall carry away with me some very vivid and extremely happy memories.

Finally, I would like to say, in response to Sir Frederick James, that I agree with him that my memories of this House will not all be painful ones. I

must admit that there have been times, while I was sitting on this bench, which seemed incredibly trying, and when I returned home I wondered why anybody would want to adopt this particular form of activity for his livelihood. There have been times when it seemed to be a way of life which provided extremely few compensations. At the same time I have no doubt that when I have left this scene, the usual nostalgic effect, the kindly influence of memory, will assert itself, and that things will fall into a proportion in which the sunny aspects will stand out, and I shall be conscious of the very pleasant human relations which I have had with so many Members of this House.

That reminds me that I am quite an old Member of this House now. I have been used to regard myself as so much a parvenu in this House that I had almost forgotten that it was so long ago as 1933 that I first appeared in this House. I do not know if I can claim that in comparison with some of the real old giants such as my Honourable friend, Mr. N. M. Joshi, who is no doubt a patriarch of this institution.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): I also came in 1921.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I apologise to my friend if I have omitted to accord him equal honour. As I said, I have been here for 12 years, and 12 years is a bit of a slice in one's line, and when one comes to look back on these years, it is not easy to ignore the associations of that long time. I feel that I have made many friends in this House, and I have no doubt that I shall remember these associations and many of the interesting happenings in this House with a good deal of pleasure.

Now, Sir, in this mood I find myself tempted almost to appeal to the other side not to throw out the Finance Bill, but I think that would not be fair on my part. I realise that they have to be as inflexibly committed to the course which they have announced, as we on these Benches have to do our duty in relation to our responsibility in connection with the war. It might even cause some embarrassment if at this late stage my Honourable friends were to allow this Bill to pass through to the stage of consideration of clauses. It might be difficult to arrange the time-table so that the Bill will go through all the stages which will be necessary before the end of this financial year. I am grateful to my Honourable friends that they had this thought in mind in arranging the debate on this stage of the Bill. I cannot say I feel like King Charles walking to the block. I feel that the procedure of voting down the Finance Bill will shortly become a time honoured institution like some of the most ancient customs of Parliament. However, if that is our fate to be, we must reconcile ourselves to it. My Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, has assured the members of the European Group that it is unnecessary to attach undue significance to this action, and he appears to entertain a lively expectation that the actual financial administration for the ensuing year will not be affected. After all we cannot entirely anticipate the actions of exalted individuals, I do not know what he would say if that expectation were not realised. I must say that I would almost feel he had let me down. He would have led me up the garden path to a position which I should find extremely embarrassing for myself and for my successor. Perhaps it is unnecessary to contemplate these improbable eventualities.

I thank the House for the patient hearing which for the last time they have given to my reply to the debate on the Finance Bill.

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

5 P. M.

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1945, be taken into consideration."

The Assembly divided:-

AYES—50.

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Anthony, Mr. Frank R.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.
Bentham, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.
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 Lal.
Dala, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardeshir.
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
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.
Khare, The Honourable Dr. N. B.

Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.
Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Mehta, Mr. Jammadas 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 Chandra, Mr.
Richardson, Sir Henry.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir
Muhammad.
Sheehy, Sir John.
Siva Raj, Rao Bahadur N.
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—58.

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, 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. Jinaraia.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.
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.
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.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Satyanarayana Moorty, Mr. A.
Sham Lal, Lala.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Siddiquee, Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Srivastava, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad.
Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

The motion was negatived.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday the 27th March, 1945.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 27th 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

COLLECTION OF INCOME-TAX FROM U. K. C. C.

1361. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state what progress has been made with regard to the collection of income-tax from the U.K.C.C.?

(b) For which year have statements been called for and received so far?

(c) In view of the fact that the U.K.C.C. will be exempt from taxes in the United Kingdom, have exemptions under section 60 or under section 49 been sought by the U.K.C.C. and given by the Government of India?

(d) What is the total amount of taxes so far recovered, or the amount fixed for recovery?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my answer to part (f) of starred question No. 296 on the 13th November 1944. Detailed figures have not yet been received.

(b) and (d). The disclosure of this information is barred by section 54 of the Income-tax Act.

(c) No exemption from Indian Income-tax has been sought by or granted to the Corporation.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are they being assessed on their world income or on the basis of their Indian transactions only?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid, I cannot say. I should require notice.

SPECIAL EXCHANGE RATE FOR SALARIES OF BRITISH OFFICERS AND MEN OF INDIAN ARMY

1362. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether the salaries paid to the British officers and men of the Indian Army are at a special exchange rate;

(b) under what law is this special exchange rate given;

(c) whether any body else is being given money at this or any other special exchange rates, deviating from the normal 18d. rate; and

(d) what the financial effect of this on the Indian exchequer is?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). The reply is in the affirmative. It is a well understood practice that individuals serving in a foreign country are given some extra pay to cover their additional expenses. On the civil side, this extra pay is known as 'overseas pay'. On the military side under the British pay system, it is given in the form of a colonial allowance. Under the Indian Pay Code, it is included in the rupee rates of pay, which have been arrived at by converting the British sterling rates at 1s. 4d. No colonial allowance is given in addition to these rupee rates of pay.

(c) Certain pensioners including annuitants of the Indian Civil Service, who are resident in India or Burma, or are of Indian domicile, are entitled to convert their pensions payable in sterling, into rupees at a rate of exchange of 1s. 4d., provided that they were actually drawing their pensions on 1st February 1921 at that rate or were of Indian domicile on that date.

Pensioners who are not resident in India, Burma, Ceylon, Nepal and the French and Portuguese establishments in India are entitled to a minimum rate of exchange of 1s. 9d. in respect of pensions stated in rupees and converted

into sterling. Particulars of this concession are given in Art. 934 *et seq.*, of the Civil Service Regulations.

Except as stated above, the rate of exchange at present in all cases is 1s. 6d.

(d) The information sought by the Honourable Member is not readily available in the form asked for, and its compilation would involve a considerable amount of time and labour.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Under what law is this special exchange ratio given to these people?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is given under the rules regulating the services to which they belong which are statutory rules.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether this Legislature was consulted at any time in regard to the grant of special exchange ratio for British personnel serving in India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: These concessions have a very long history and are very complicated. No important question of principle arises in regard to them and I do not think that the Legislature ever was specifically consulted. The practice to which the Honourable Member wants to draw attention is one of very long standing and is generally understood.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that is manifestly unjust to change the exchange ratio for the benefit of particular individuals or classes of individuals, will the Government consider the advisability of not giving this concession in this way in future?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not agree that the practice is manifestly unjust. If you decide to give to certain classes of officers some additional remuneration, it seems to me to be purely a technical matter whether you give it to them as separate overseas or colonial pay or whether you produce the same effect by converting their sterling pay at a different rate of exchange.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are not the Government aware

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order, next question. You cannot go on arguing.

PERSONS RUN OVER BY MILITARY LORRIES

1363. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the War Secretary please state:

- (a) the number of people run over by military lorries in the year 1944;
- (b) whether any compensation is paid to them or their relatives when the victim is dead; and
- (c) what steps Government have taken in view of the large number of accidents?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Statistics about people who are actually run over by military lorries are not readily available. The collection of accurate information in answer to this part of the question would involve an amount of time and labour not justified in war time.

(b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to starred question No. 361 on the 19th February 1945.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know if reports of such accidents where people are run over by military lorries are sent to the Department of the Honourable Member or not?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, Sir. I think each specific case is not sent to the War Department at all. We may have some sort of statistics, but I do not think detailed statistics exist in G. H. Q. here; they may be existing in lower formations.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of instructing the military authorities to maintain statistical returns of this character in future?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I make no promise about that. But I shall certainly consider the matter.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is the Honourable Member aware that his not replying to this question makes people suspect that there are so numerous cases of people

run over by lorries that the War Department is concealing the information from this House?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The Honourable Member's inference is absolutely unjustified.

Sardar Sant Singh: How can it be unjustified when the War Department refuses to give the information asked for?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: You are asking for information of statistics all over India.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to the answer given by the Honourable Member to Sardar Sant Singh's question, is he aware that the Press in Bengal is not expected to refer to these accidents as having been caused by military lorries, but that they are expected to refer to such cases as having been due to accidents caused by special type of lorries?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I answered the Honourable Member's question some days ago and said that I was not aware of the practice, and that I was asking the Government of Bengal for a report.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know from the Honourable Member whether the labour in compiling of statistics is more costly than the lives of the people involved in these accidents?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: It would not save lives.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to part (b), may I know whether it is the policy of Government to pay compensation in these cases?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have already answered that question. If my Honourable friend would refer to the answer to the question which I referred to, he will find the answer.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Has any compensation been paid till now?

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

PROSECUTIONS AGAINST ARMY MISCREANTS

1364. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the War Secretary please state:

- (a) with reference to his answer to starred question No. 587, asked on the 1st March, 1945, how many of the 71 cases put up against the army miscreants have been brought to trial;
- (b) what punishments have been awarded to them by the courts; and
- (c) what steps Government propose to take against the recurrence of these offences?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). I am collecting the information and will lay a statement on the table in due course.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (c) of Mr. K. C. Neogy's starred question No. 587, on the 1st March, 1945.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: As far as the information is available, can the Honourable Member give me the answer to part (b), what punishments have been awarded? He must have some information.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have not got it. I was asked for information regarding 71 cases. I have not yet got the information. I am calling for it.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have there been any cases where extreme penalty has been given?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: As I said, I am collecting this information.

LAND ACQUIRED IN BENARES DISTRICT, FOR AERODROMES AND OTHER MILITARY PURPOSES

1365. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of land acquired in the district of Benares for the construction of aerodromes and other military purposes and the arrangement, if any, made to settle the villagers dispossessed of their holdings in the process, and if the compensation paid was adequate;

(b) if there is any proposal for the acquiring of further lands in the district; and

(c) if Government are satisfied that such acquiring was necessary and that the establishment of extensive military organizations around a sacred city like Benares has been justified by results?

Mr. Ram Chandra: (a) The total area of land requisitioned or acquired in the Benares district from 1941 to date is 4,424 acres, of which 416 acres have been restored to their owners. In cases where villagers were dispossessed of their holdings, it was not possible to make arrangements for settling them elsewhere, as no suitable vacant land was available; but adequate compensation was paid.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) Government are satisfied that this land was required for essential purposes. The land is situated at a considerable distance from the city of Benares, and there is no interference with religious observances in or around the city.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Did Government satisfy themselves that it was really necessary for military purposes to surround a city like Benares from all sides at Rajwari, Lohta and Babatpur?

Mr. Ram Chandra: My information is that the land which has been requisitioned or acquired is situated at a distance of 15 to 20 miles from Benares, and there is no doubt that it would not have been requisitioned or acquired if it had not been required for essential purposes.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I inform the Honourable Member that Lohta is only three miles from Benares city?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I have no information.

INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPERIOR OFFICERS RE RECEIVING VISITORS

1366. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state: if it is a fact that Government have issued any general instructions to their superior officers regarding their conduct while receiving various grades of visitors?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No such instructions have been issued.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly make sure on this subject because I have information from a non-Congress Minister?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I can hardly think of a more reliable source of information except perhaps myself.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know what the Honourable Member understood from the concluding words of the question, "regarding their conduct while receiving various grades of visitors"?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: It should be read in connection with the context which has been cut out.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have they divided visitors into various grades at all?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am afraid that I cannot understand.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it given to individual officers to treat their visitors exactly as they like? And will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of giving some instructions if no instructions have yet been given?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No instructions are, in my opinion, necessary.

MENTAL HOSPITAL AT RANCHI

1367. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether in the Mental Hospital at Ranchi Europeans from anywhere and Indians only of Bihar and Bengal are taken;

(b) the cost of maintaining the hospital, and how much is contributed by the Government of India and what part of the expenditure is met by the Bihar Government;

(c) if the Indian and European Sections are kept quite separate, and whether the doctors in charge of the European Section are also available for the Indian patients;

(d) if Indians of Provinces other than Bihar and Bengal are refused admission in the hospital;

(e) the present population of the hospital in the Indian and European Sections;

(f) whether the European criminal lunatics are also sent to the Ranchi Hospital, or whether arrangements are made for them in the ordinary institutions for such persons; and

(g) if an exception is made in the case of Indian members of the Indian Civil Service of other Provinces who are admitted to Ranchi in case they turn lunatics, and if so, why this exception is made, and if Government propose to consider the desirability of making exceptions in other serious cases also in view of the climate and equipment at Ranchi?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Honourable Member presumably wants information about the Ranchi European Mental Hospital.

(a) (i) Europeans and Anglo-Indians, subject to accommodation being available, are admitted from any of the Contributing Provinces (*viz.*, Bengal, Madras, United Provinces, Punjab, Bihar, Orissa, Central Provinces and Berar, Assam, North-West Frontier Province, and Baluchistan and also from the Kashmir Residency, Udaipur, Jaipur, and from Burma. European Patients from other Provinces and Indian States are also accepted (subject to the approval of the Bihar Government) if the contribution charges are guaranteed and accommodation is available.

(ii) Indian paying patients from any of the contributing Provinces or with the approval of the Bihar Government from outside the contributing areas, up to a maximum number of ten at any one time may be accommodated at the European Mental Hospital, provided they are accustomed to the European mode of life.

The Bihar Government have never raised any objection to the admission of Indian patients from outside the Contributing areas, provided accommodation has been available, and the contribution charges have been guaranteed.

(b) The total cost of maintaining the hospital during the financial year 1943-44 was Rs. 6,91,522 (the *per capita* cost per patient was Rs. 2,281).

The Government of India do not contribute to the hospital. The Bihar Government (like all other contributing Governments) pay contribution charges for the number of patients from Bihar Province only. The charges are assessed by the Examiner of Local Accounts, Bihar, on the basis of the number of days spent in the hospital by each patient.

(c) No; the services of the entire Medical Staff are available for all patients, whether European or Indian.

(d) No, but attention is invited to the answers given to part (a).

(e) On 19th March, 1945, the number of patients under treatment was as follows:

	Male	Female	Total
Europeans	65	36	101
Anglo-Indians	70	102	172
Indians	2	2	4
	137	140	277

(f) Criminal patients (European and Anglo-Indian) are admitted to the European Mental Hospital, but, so far, no enquiries regarding Indian Criminal Patients have been received.

(g) No.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I take it that the U. P. is a contributing province and that Indian members of the I.C.S. in that province who happen to become insane are admitted into this hospital?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I am not trying to be flippant. There was an actual case as the Honourable Member knows.

PUBLICITY AMONG PRIVATE CITIZENS OF REGULATIONS AND ORDERS UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA ACT AND RULES

1368. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) whether he proposes to consider the desirability of publishing and broadcasting some handy booklets giving instructions to private citizens as to what they should do in the various Departments of their social and economic life, in view of the endless regulations and orders under the Defence of India Act and Rules thereunder; and

(b) if he is aware of how innocent citizens are being harassed and punished for their most *bona fide* actions due to excusable ignorance of restrictions imposed upon them?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) No. But I should like to add that whenever new rules or regulations are introduced and whenever it is felt necessary to explain to the private citizen how they would affect his economic and social life, instructions and explanations are published through various media by the administrative departments concerned. In all such cases the resources of the Information and Broadcasting Department are placed at the disposal of the Department concerned.

(b) No. There may be rare cases, but wherever excusable ignorance is established, I have no doubt the Magistrates take due notice of it in awarding punishment.

STERLING DEBT OF INDIA

1369. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the sterling debt of India at the end of this financial year; and

(b) whether, in view of the sterling balances, attempts were made to liquidate these debts?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraphs 33 and 34 of my Budget speech.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether they are sending out any deputation to delegation to the U. K. to talk over this Matter?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have already answered more than one question on this subject and have nothing to add to what I have said.

OFFICERS RECRUITED FOR DEFENCE FORCES

1370. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the number of officers recruited for the Indian army, navy and air force since the beginning of the war;

(b) how many of these were Indian and how many British; and

(c) whether any non-Indian and non-British officers have been recruited in the Indian army, navy and air force; if so, from what countries and nationalities?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (a) of his starred question No. 1261 on the 22nd March, 1945, and add that with the exception of the officers enumerated in my answer to part (c) below, almost all the non-Indian officers in the Royal Indian Navy and Indian Army are British.

(c) All the officers of the Royal Indian Air Force are Indians. As regards the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Army, I lay a statement on the table.

Statement showing nationalities of non-British and non-Indian officers of the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Army.

Nationality.	Royal Indian Navy. Number of officers.	Indian Army. *Number of officers.
Afghan		19
American	1	20
Argentinian	...	5
Armenian	...	6
Assyrian	...	1
Austrian	...	1
Czechoslovakian	...	11
Danish	9	7
Dutch	1	6
French	1	3
Goanese	...	2
Greek	5	1
Iraqi	3	2
Jewish	...	9
Nepalese	...	24
Norwegian	11	...
Polish	...	1
Portuguese	2	1
Russian	...	1
Siamese	...	2
Swedish	2	1
Syrian	1	...
Turkish	1	...
Yugoslavian	1	...

* Figures corrected up to 1st June 1944.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Among the officers are there any non-Indian and non-British officers?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have laid a statement on the table.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Who are those nationalities?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: There are Afghans, Americans, and so forth.

Sardar Sant Singh: We want to know who are the non-Indian and non-British officers in the army and to what countries they belong, particularly if any one belongs to South Africa or to the Negro class as well.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: A statement has been laid on the table.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I want to know whether there are any South Africans.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: South Africans are subjects of the British Commonwealth, and the Honourable Member asked about non-Indian and non-British.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, "British" does not mean the British Commonwealth. I want to know whether South African officers are there.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have not included them in the statement. If the Honourable Member will put down a question clearly specifying what he wants, I shall be glad to give an answer.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is the Honourable Member, being an Indian himself, ashamed of having South African officers in the Indian army and that is why he is not giving the answer?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is not a proper question.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have already said that if about South Africans a specific question is put to me I shall be glad to answer it.

ASSURANCE TO BETEL-NUT GROWERS OF SOUTH KANARA RE EXCISE DUTY

1371. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government assured the betelnut growers of South Kanara in March 1944 that the excise duty would not affect the growers of betelnut; if so, whether it was kept up;

(b) whether Government have received complaints from that district that lowest grade of betelnut called "Koka" could not bear the heavy duty; if so,

whether that question was considered and what action is being taken thereon; and

(c) the market price including duty per cwt. in January, 1945, of this lowest variety "Koka" in Mangalore market and how much of it represented the duty paid?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I do not know to which assurance the Honourable Member refers. It is the case, however, that Government intended that the excise duty on betelnuts should be borne by the consumer. Complaints have however been received that some wholesale traders have deducted the tax from the purchase price paid to the producer and the matter is being investigated.

(b) Representations to this effect have been received and have been carefully considered. It is, however, impossible to draw a clear dividing line between different grades of betelnut and the tax can only, therefore, be levied on the total quantity marketed, irrespective of quality. The proportion of lowest grade betelnuts to the whole crop is very small.

(c) The price prevailing in January 1945, is not immediately available but the ex-duty price during 1944 in the South Kanara District ranged between Rs. 5-8-0 and Rs. 20 per cwt.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: With reference to part (a), is it not a fact that an assurance was given that this excise duty would not affect the growers?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have not been able to trace the specific assurance to which the Honourable Member refers, but I have said that it was the intention of Government that the excise duty should be passed on to the consumer.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: How are you going to see that it is passed on to the consumer and does not affect the grower?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is up to people who are concerned in this trade to resist attempts by traders to lodge the duty on the producer.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that owing to their poverty these growers are not able to resist these traders?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am having the matter investigated.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have you already got a committee to go into that or are you going to have a committee?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am having it investigated now.

COFFEE CULTIVATION IN BRITISH INDIA

1372. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total area under coffee cultivation in British India;

(b) the total excise revenue collected from coffee in 1944-45; and how a greater revenue is expected during 1945-46;

(c) whether Coffee Marketing Board increased the price of coffee to the extent of excise duty levied on it thereby throwing the burden of duty on consumers; and

(d) how Government propose to throw the burden of excise duty levied on betelnut on consumers which is now borne by the producers?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) About 114,000 acres.

(b) The revenue collected during the eleven months ending February 1945 is about Rs. 14 lakhs. The estimated revenue for 1945-46 is Rs. 30 lakhs. The coffee consumed during the current year included stocks which had been cured prior to the introduction of the excise and were not therefore subjected to the duty.

(c) Yes.

(d) Government have no reason to believe that the excise on betelnuts is in general borne by producers. Where on investigation it appears that such is the case in any area, the possibility of assisting primary producers with a view to their obtaining a fair market price will be examined.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Was it not intended that the betelnut excise duty should not fall on the raw betelnut but on the cured product?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, certainly that is the statutory position.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If so, may I know how many factories there are and how the question arises regarding the producers themselves being affected in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is quite possible for producers to preserve or cure the betelnuts.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Would Government take any steps to protect these betelnuts growers in the same way as coffee producers are protected by their Marketing Board?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My idea is that it is in some such way that they might be protected against the wholesale trader.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will such steps be taken by the Government of India or by the Provincial Government?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It may be that the powers in this respect are to be exercised by the Provincial Government, but I am having the matter enquired into with a view to seeing what remedies can be applied.

BETEL-NUT PALM CULTIVATION IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS

1373. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land under betelnut palm cultivation in the following districts of—

Madras—(i) South Kanara, (ii) Malabar, (iii) Coimbatore and (iv) Nilgiris;

Bombay—(i) North Kanara and (ii) Ratangiri;

Bengal—(i) Noakhali, (ii) Chittagong, (iii) Bakarganj, (iv) Khulna,

(v) Jessore; and (vi) Midnapur;

Assam—Sylhet; and

Coorg Province;

(b) the annual yield estimated in the above respective districts;

(c) the excise revenue collected from each of the above districts in 1944-45;

(d) the excise revenue collected from each of the above districts on crops harvested before the 1st April, 1944; and

(e) whether any area was exempted from the excise duty on betelnut; if so, for what reasons?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have called for a report and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

GIVING VEGETABLE PRODUCT AND DEHYDRATED MEAT TO INDIAN SOLDIERS

1374. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** (a) Will the War Secretary kindly state whether it is a fact that Indian soldiers are now given vegetable product with dehydrated meat? If so, why?

(b) Are Government aware that military experts had opined right upto 1943 that vegetable product is not substitute for the milk ghee and such also is the opinion of Dr. Akroyd?

(c) Are Government aware that most of the Indian Army is averse to take vegetable product as also dehydrated meat, which are against their habits?

(d) Have there been severe complaints about the quality of the *atta* that was being supplied to the troops on the border of Assam during last year? If so, what action has been taken in this connection?

(e) Are European soldiers given vegetable product in place of butter or fat? If so, how many times a week?

(f) Is butter and/or fat imported for European soldiers? If so, is their cost less than that of vegetable product?

Mr. G. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes, Sir, I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to my reply on the 14th March to starred question No. 1000.

(b) The opinion of the military experts which is the same as that of Dr. Akroyd, is that there is no difference from the nutritive point of view between milk ghee and the vegetable product. The latter however lacks the vitamin 'A' content of milk ghee.

(c) No complaints have been received about the use of the vegetable product, but naturally no soldier prefers dehydrated meat to fresh meat. I should add, however, that all dehydrated meat is sent to forward areas where the issue of fresh meat is impossible.

(d) Some complaints were received. These were due to the milling of some old wheat which came on the market when foreign wheat was imported. This cause of complaint has since been remedied.

(e) British troops are issued with hydrogenated cooking oil which is an indigenous vegetable product in their daily ration scale. Indigenous margarine is also issued when available.

(f) Small quantities of butter are now being imported for eating, but not for cooking. The cost of this butter is annas 0-15-0 per lb. Vegetable product costs annas 0-10-0 per lb.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: As butter is supplied to European soldiers for consumption and not for cooking purposes, why not an attempt be made to supply ghee to Indian soldiers for consumption though not for cooking purposes?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: We should very much like to supply the Indian soldier with milk ghee every day, but there is not sufficient quantity of milk ghee available. If the Honourable the Food Member makes more ghee available to us, we should be only too glad to meet this demand of the Indian soldiers.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Why not supply butter to Indian soldiers inasmuch quantity as it is supplied to the European soldiers?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The British soldiers do not always get butter often they get margarine. Butter is only given when it is available, but very often butter is not available.

SAILORS IN ROYAL INDIAN NAVY AND INDIAN MERCANTILE MARINE

1375. *Mr. Ramayan Prasad: Will the War Secretary please state:
(a) the number and proportion of British, Indian and other sailors of different ranks and grades in the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Mercantile Marine;

(b) the number of sailors and other ranks in the Indian Navy and the Indian Mercantile Marine from the province of Bihar;

(c) the number of British workers and Government shipyards;

(d) whether Government have prescribed any racial qualification and discrimination for the recruitment to the Indian Navy, just as they have got a martial and non-martial classification for the recruitment to the Indian Army; and

(e) if the answer to (d) be in the affirmative, what that qualification is?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b) In so far as the Indian Mercantile Marine is concerned the question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Commerce Member. As regards the Royal Indian Navy, I lay a statement on the table.

(c) On the assumption that the Honourable Member wishes to know how many British workers are employed in Government shipbuilding yards, I may say that there are no Government owned shipbuilding yards in India.

(d) No, Sir. I should add that the use of the term "martial" to distinguish those classes recruited before the war has been discontinued.

(e) Does not arise, in view of my reply to part (d).

Statement showing the percentage of British, Indian and other officers and rates in the different grades in the Royal Indian Navy on the 1st March, 1945

(i) Officers

Rank	British	Indian	Others
Captain and above	1.2	...	1
Commanders	3.2	0.1	
Lieutenant Commanders	8.6	1.5	
Lieutenants	26.2	18.1	
Sub-Lieutenants	8.7	18.0	
Midshipmen	1.2	4.2	
Warrant Officers	1.7	6.3	1
Total	50.8	48.2	

(ii) Rates

Rank	British	Indian	Others
Chief Petty Officers	...	2.6	...
Petty Officers	...	8.9	...
Leading	...	9.9	...
Below Leading	...	73.8	...
Boys	...	4.8	...
Total	...	100.0	...

Statement showing the percentage of officers and rates in the Royal Indian Navy from the Province of Bihar

Officers	Rates
0.8	1.2

DESIRABILITY OF MUSLIM INCOME-TAX COMMISSIONER FOR THE PUNJAB CIRCLE

1376. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) if in the past a Muslim officer was ever appointed as Income-Tax Commissioner in the Punjab; if so, for how long;

(b) if Government ever gave an undertaking to consider the question of appointing a Muslim Income-Tax Commissioner in the Punjab, North-West Frontier and Delhi Circle; if so, why it has not been fulfilled;

(c) if the reply to (b) is in the negative, will Government be prepared to consider the appointment of a Muslim Income-Tax Commissioner; if not, why not; and

(d) if the appointment of a Muslim officer as Income-Tax Commissioner in the Punjab, North-West Frontier and Delhi Circle was considered at the time of retirement of the last Income-Tax Commissioner in September last; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes. A Muslim officer held the post of Commissioner of Income-tax in the Punjab from the 1st to the 21st September, 1944.

(b), (c) and (d). In reply to a question in the Council of State on 15th November, 1943, Government undertook to consider the claims of suitable Muslim officers, if any, for appointment should the then Commissioner vacate the post; and when the then Commissioner vacated the post last September, Government did consider the claims of suitable Muslim officers.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it a fact that no suitable officer was available?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have indicated that shortly afterwards a Muslim officer was appointed for a certain period.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I am referring to the Commissioner's post. Is it because there was no suitable Muslim officer that one was not appointed?

(No reply was given.)

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

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS OF INCOME-TAX, ETC., IN THE PUNJAB CIRCLE.

1377. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the number of Assistant Commissioners of Income-Tax in the Punjab, North-West Frontier and Delhi Circle, and the community to which they belong; and how many of them are Muslims;

(b) the number of administrative posts of the Income-Tax Department in the Punjab, North-West Frontier and Delhi Circle and the number of such posts held by Muslims; and

(c) the number of administrative posts held by Muslims and Hindus respectively in the Central Board of Revenue above Rs. 1,000 grade?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) There are 9 Assistant Commissioners of Income-Tax in the Punjab, North-West Frontier and Delhi Provinces: five Hindus, two Muslims, one Jain and one Sikh.

(b) and (c). I regret I am unable to understand which posts the Honourable Member has in mind.

RECOMMENDATIONS RE CLASS I INCOME-TAX OFFICERS FROM THE PUNJAB CIRCLE.

1378. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state;

(a) if any recommendations have been made by the Income-Tax Commissioner, Punjab, North-West Frontier and Delhi Circle to the Central Board of Revenue for consideration for class I of Income-Tax officers; if so, what is the number of the officers so recommended and how many of them are Muslims;

(b) whether Government are aware that the administrative posts including the Commissioner of Income-Tax in the Punjab, North-West Frontier and Delhi Circle in the Income-Tax Department are mostly held by Hindus, and that the rights of Muslim Income-Tax officers, have been overlooked by them, in making the recommendations for class I posts, and that these recommendations are being confirmed by those having the administrative control in the Central Board of Revenue; and

(c) if the Honourable Member proposes to look into this matter and see that suitable Muslim Income-Tax officers are given proper consideration and representation?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes. The Commissioner's recommendations are, however, confidential and cannot, it is regretted, be disclosed.

(b) No. Several administrative posts are held by non-Hindus also. I am satisfied that the claims of Muslim Income-Tax Officers for promotion to the New Grade I in the Class I Service, were duly considered and will continue to be considered in future.

(c) Promotion to Grade I of the Class I Service is made by selection on the basis of merit in consultation with the Federal Public Service Commission and there need therefore be no misgiving that Muslim officers, if they are suitable, will not be considered and promoted.

INDUSTRIAL PANELS OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

1379. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please lay on the table of the House a complete statement regarding the industrial panels that have so far been set up to advise his Department regarding post-war development? If not, why not?

(b) Is it a fact that not one of the Chairmen of the panels so far formed is a Muslim? If so, what is the reason for this omission?

(c) What are the special qualifications of the gentlemen who have been appointed as chairmen of the various panels set up so far?

(d) Is it a fact that a number of Government officials have been appointed as chairmen and members of some of the panels? If so, what are their qualifications?

(e) Were no Muslim Government officers, of the same or similar qualifications and experience, available? If there were such officers, what is the reason for not inviting them to serve as chairmen and members of the panels?

(f) Does the Honourable Member propose to give an assurance that the personnel of the existing panels will be modified so as to include an adequate number of Muslims as Chairmen and Members of the panels? If not, why not?

(g) Does he also propose to give an assurance that in the panels, which have yet to be formed, the percentage of Muslims amongst chairmen and members of panels will not be less than 25 per cent.?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) and (d). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b), (c), (e), (f) and (g). I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to part (a) (ii) of the reply given by me to starred question No. 116 for the 10th February 1945, and to my speech on the Finance Bill on the 21st March. Muslims have been nominated to the panels whenever men with the required qualifications were available.

LIST OF PANELS CONSTITUTED

- (ii) Dr. E. Schoenberg, General Manager, Upper Indian Couper Paper Mills, Lucknow.
- (iii) Mr. G. P. Birla, Orient Paper Mills, Calcutta.
- (iv) Mr. Jagraj, Technical Director, Straw Board Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Saharanpur.
- (v) Mr. Bhargava, Pulp Section, Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun.
- (vi) Mr. Laiq Ali, Sirpur Paper Mills, Ltd., Hyderabad (Deccan).
5. *Sugar, Alcohol and Food, Yeast:*
 - (i) Sir Shri Ram (Chairman), Banker and Millowner, Delhi.
 - (ii) Mr. R. C. Srivastava, Indian Central Sugar Committee.
 - (iii) Mr. Lalchand Hirachand, President, Indian Sugar Mills Association.
 - (iv) Mr. M. B. Amin, Alembic Chemical Works.
 - (v) Mr. Vishan Sahay, I.C.S., Sugar Controller to the Government of India.
 - (vi) Mr. S. N. Dhar, Development Commissioner, Bihar.
 - (vii) Dr. P. C. Guha, Chief Technical Adviser, Food Department.
 - (viii) Mr. W. N. A. Webb, Sugar Expert of the Aluminium Plant and Vessel Co., Ltd., United Kingdom.
6. *Refractories and Ceramics:*
 - (i) Mr. M. G. Bhagat (Chairman), Bengal Potteries.
 - (ii) Mr. K. B. Sen, Chief Chemist, Bird & Co.
 - (iii) Dr. N. K. Mitra, Refractories Engineer, Tata Iron & Steel Company.
 - (iv) Mr. C. P. Shah, Bombay Pottery & Tile Works.
 - (v) Dr. Atmaram, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.
 - (vi) Mr. Krishen Singh, Ceramics Engineer, Delhi.
7. *Soaps and Oils:*
 - (i) Mr. P. A. Narielwala (Chairman), Tata Oil Mills, Ltd. (Not yet accepted).
 - (ii) Mr. S. G. Shastri, Retd. Director of Industries and Commerce, Government of Mysore.
 - (iii) Mr. A. K. Menon, Retd. Superintendent, Kerala Soap Institute, Calicut.
 - (iv) Mr. Shiv Dayal Kapoor, Krishna Kapoor and Co., Amritsar.
 - (v) Dr. S. S. Solatore, Lakshminarayan Institute, Nagpur.
1. *Iron and Steel (Major):*
 - (i) Sir Padamji Ginwala (Chairman) Director and Adviser, The Steel Corporation of Bengal.
 - (ii) Sir J. J. Ghandy, General Manager, The Tata Iron and Steel Co.
 - (iii) Mr. S. M. Bashir, Director, Juggi Lal Kamlapat, Iron & Steel Co., Ltd.
 - (iv) Mr. Hain, Managing Director, Braithwaite & Co.
 - (v) Mr. Frank Parr, Steel Commissioner to the Government of India.
2. *Iron and Steel (Minor):*
 - (i) Rai Bahadur Aftab Rai (Chairman), Materials Economy Officer, Supply Department.
 - (ii) Mr. Chiswell Jones, Metal Box Co., Hide Road, Kidderpore, Calcutta.
 - (iii) Mr. N. N. Rakshit, National Iron & Steel Co., 4, Dalhousie Square, Calcutta.
 - (iv) Mr. B. Viswanath, lately of Mysore Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Govt. of Mysore.
 - (v) Mr. Bajinath Bajoria, M.L.A., I.B., Halwasiya Road, Calcutta.
 - (vi) Mr. S. M. Bashir, Director, Juggilal Kamlapat Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., Cawnpore.
 - (vii) Mr. Ajaib Singh, Indian Steel and Wire Products, Tatanagar.
 - (viii) Mr. Rafi Butt. (Not yet accepted).
 - (ix) Dr. Venkat Rao. (Not yet accepted).
 - (x) Lt.-Col. D. M. Reid. (Not yet accepted).
3. *Heavy Chemical Industries:*
 - (i) Sir Shri Ram (Chairman), Banker and Millowner, 22, Curzon Road, New Delhi.
 - (ii) Mr. Kapilram Vakil, Director, Tata Chemicals Ltd., Mithapur, Kathiawad.
 - (iii) Dr. M. S. Patel, O. S. D., I. & C. S. Department.
 - (iv) Mr. Seshasayee, Director, The Mettur Chemical and Industrial Corporation, Ltd. Mettur Dam.
 - (v) Mr. S. G. Shastri, Retd., Dir. of Industries, Mysore, Sir Krishna Rao Road, Basavangudy, Bangalore City.
 - (vi) Mr. P. R. Crear, Director of Chemicals, D. G. S.
4. *Paper, Pulp, Wood Pulp Chemicals, Cotton etc.:*
 - (i) Mr. M. L. Narasimha Iyengar (Chairman), Director of Industries, Mysore, Incharge of Paper.

8. *Paints and Varnishes* :

- (i) Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, M.L.A. (Chairman), Businessman, Madras.
- (ii) Mr. P. C. Chanda, President, Indian Paint Manufacturers Association.
- (iii) Mr. Hampson, Director, Paints & Gases, Directorate General of Supply.
- (iv) Mr. B. D. Gupta, The Sun Colours and Paints Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Jamnagar.
- (v) Mr. F. H. Kemple, Director Goodlas Hall (India) Ltd.
- (vi) Dr. R. Bhattacharya, Deputy Director, Paints and Gases Directorate, Supply Department. (Not yet accepted).

9. *Electro-Chemical Industries* :

- (i) Sir J. C. Ghosh (Chairman), Director, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
- (ii) Dr. B. K. Ram Prasad, Hydro-electric Engineer, Grid Scheme, Govt. of Bombay.
- (iii) Mr. Kenneth Hall, General Manager, Indian Aluminium Co., Ltd., 5, Council House St., Calcutta.
- (iv) Dr. M. S. Patil, O.S.D., I.&C.S., Department.
- (v) Mr. Kapil Ram Vakil, Tata Chemicals, Ltd., Mithapur, Kathiawad.
- (vi) Mr. Parker, Alkali and Chemical Corporation, C/o. I. C. I. (India), Ltd., Queensway, New Delhi.

10. *Silk* :

- (i) Mr. N. Rama Rao (Chairman), Mysore Silk Filatures, Ltd., T. Narasipur, Bangalore.
- (ii) Mr. R. Peychand, General Manager, Government Silk Filatures, Kollegal.
- (iii) Mr. H. Pullman, Manager, Mysore Spun Silk Mills, Chennappatna (Mysore State).
- (iv) Mr. Rutnam, D. F. A., Supply.
- (v) Mr. Bose, Special Officer, Silk, Government of Bengal.

11. *Coir, Rope and Cordage* :

- (i) Mr. Karunakaran (Chairman) Managing Director, Alleppey Co., Ltd., Alleppey.
- (ii) Mr. W. G. Grant, M.L.A., Messrs. Aspinwall & Co., Cochin (Malabar Coast).
- (iii) Mr. Rutnam, D.F.A., Supply

12. *Hosiery* :

- (i) Mr. H. G. Misra (Chairman), Misra Hosiery Mills, Cawnpore.
- (ii) Mr. H. R. Dando, Swadeshi Manufacturing Syndicate, Ltd., Ludhiana.
- (iii) Mr. A. K. Chowdhury, Bengal Hosiery Manufacturers' Association, 81, Talpukur Road, Beliaghata, Calcutta.
- (iv) Mr. Fakhruddin, Messrs. Vallibhoj Kamruddin & Sons, 101, Abdul Rahman St., Bombay-3.
- (v) Mr. Firth, Kesoram Cotton Mills, Ltd., 5, Royal Exchange Police, Calcutta.
- (vi) Mr. A. W. Tatlow, Cawnpore Woollen Mills, Cawnpore.

13. *Ready-made Clothing* :

- (i) Mr. S. Jajodia, Associated Agencies, 9, Mount Road, Madras.
- (ii) Mr. Khandke, Bhawoo Kashinath & Co., 63, Bhadain St., Bombay No. 4.
- (iii) Mr. Wachel Molla, Wachel Molla & Sons, Dharrumtolla St., Calcutta.

- (iv) Mr. Narendra Singh, Controller of Clothing Factories, Lahore. (Under D.G.S.)

14. *Non-Ferrous Metal Industries* :

- (i) Dr. A. H. Pandya (Chairman), D.G.M.P., Supply Department.
- (ii) Mr. A. Schwartz, Indian Smelting and Refining Co., Ltd., Bombay.
- (iii) Mr. R. H. Kamani, Kamani Metal Refinery and Metal Industries, Calcutta.
- (iv) Dr. Malhotra, Metallurgist, B. B. & C. I. Railway.
- (v) Mr. Motichand Saha, Motichand & Co., Bombay.

15. *Leather and Leather Goods* :

- (i) Rai Bahadur B. M. Dass (Chairman), Superintendent, Bengal Tanning Institute, Tangra, P. O., Calcutta.
- (ii) Sir M. Balasundaram, Naidu, Hide and Skin Merchant, Ritherdon Road, Vepery, Madras.
- (iii) Mr. A. C. Inskip, General Manager, Cooper Allen & Co., Cawnpore.
- (iv) Mr. Kaiser Ahmad, Hides and Skins Merchant, Sahola Buildings, Hornby Rd., Bombay.
- (v) Mr. Bhool Chand, Dayalbagh Industries, Dayalbagh, Agra.
- (vi) Capt. P. S. Choudhury, Directorate General of Supply.

16. *Scientific Instruments* :

- (i) Dr. Meghnad Saha (Chairman), Calcutta University.
- (ii) Prof. G. R. Paranjpe, Royal Institute of Science, Bombay. (Not yet accepted).
- (iii) Dr. Venkat Rao, Messrs. Powells Ltd., Bombay.
- (iv) Mr. Rafi Dutt, Messrs. Ghulam Nabi & Sons, Lahore.
- (v) Mr. A. Lacamp, Mathematical Instruments Office, D. G. M. P. (Not yet accepted).
- (vi) Lt.-Col. D. M. Reid, Asst. Director of Armaments, War Department. (Not yet accepted).
- (vii) Dr. P. N. Ghosh, University College of Science, Calcutta.

17. *Light Chemical Industries* :

- (i) Col. Sir R. N. Chopra (Chairman), Director, Drug Research Laboratory, Kashmir.
- (ii) Dr. Hameed, Managing Director, Chemical, Industrial and Pharmaceutical Laboratory, Ltd., Bombay.
- (iii) Dr. J. N. Ray, Director of Drugs and Dressings, Directorate General of Supply.
- (iv) Mr. M. B. Amin, Alembic Chemical Works, Baroda.
- (v) Mr. Adhikari, Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works, Calcutta. (Not yet accepted).
- (vi) Dr. Habib Hasan, Industrial Chemist, Hyderabad State. (Not yet accepted).
- (vii) Mr. Fielder, Shalimar Tar Products, Bombay.
- (viii) Col. S. S. Sokhey, Director of Haffkine Institute, Parel, Bombay. (Not yet accepted).
- (ix) Dr. Mukherji, Biochemical Standardization Laboratory, Calcutta. (Not yet accepted).

18. *Glass*.

- (i) Mr. Y. D. Varshney (Chairman), U. P. Glass Works, Bhajai.
- (ii) Mr. D. N. Sen, New India Glass Works, Calcutta.
- (iii) Mr. P. Ogale of Ogale Glass Works. (Not yet accepted).
- (iv) Mr. Sridhar, Messrs. Bishamber Dyal Srinivas, Bangle Manufacturers, Firozabad.
- (v) Mr. R. D. Chandorkar, Vijay Glass Works, Mozgaon.
- (vi) Dr. Atmaram (D. S. I. R.).
- (vii) Dr. A. Nadel, O. S. D. Glass (D. G. S.).

19. *Wool* :

- (i) The Hon'ble Lala Ramsaran Das (Chairman), Member, Council of State. (Not yet accepted).
- (ii) Mr. Jiwandas Bhagwandas, Indian Woollen Mills, Bombay.
- (iii) Mr. W. R. Watt, Director, British India Corporation.
- (iv) Mr. S. Ratnam, D. F. A. (Supply).
- (v) Mr. J. O. Lal, Director, Wool, I. & C. S. Department. (Not yet accepted).
- (vi) Mr. A. K. Watal, Shree Karam Singh Woollen Mills, Ltd., Srinagar, Kashmir.

20. *Ship-Building and Marine Engineering* :

- (i) Sir B. Rama Rao (Chairman), Chairman, Port Trust, Bombay.
- (ii) Mr. M. A. Master, Scindia Steam Navigation Company, Bombay.
- (iii) Mr. Henderson (D. G. S. R.), Supply Department. (Not yet accepted).
- (iv) Mr. Taylor, Garden Reach Workshops Ltd., Calcutta.
- (v) Sir Abdul Halim Ghaznavi, M.L.A.
- (vi) Mr. Shivrattan Mohatta, Messrs. Harman and Mohatta, Lahore.

21. *Industrial Plant and Machinery* :

- (i) Mr. G. L. Mehta (Chairman), Scindia Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Calcutta.
- (ii) Mr. K. K. Birla, Birla Bros. Ltd., Calcutta.
- (iii) Mr. S. L. Kirloskar, Kirloskar Bros. Ltd., Kirloskarwadi.
- (iv) Brig. Cox, D. D. G., Armaments Production, Supply Department.
- (v) Mr. Malgaokar, Associated Cement Co., Ltd.
- (vi) Mr. P. F. S. Warren, Jessop & Co., Ltd. (Not yet accepted).
- (vii) Mr. Barraclough, Chief Mining Engineer, Andrew Yule and Co., Ltd. (Not yet accepted).

22. *Machine Tools* :

- (i) Sir Lakshmipathi Misra (Chairman), Member, Railway Board.

- (ii) Sir Dhunjishah Cooper, Cooper Engineering Works, Satara.

- (iii) Mr. S. L. Kirloskar, Messrs. Kirloskar Bros. Ltd. (Not yet accepted).
- (iv) Mr. J. Hodgkinson, Dy. M. T. C., Directorate General of Munition Production.
- (v) Dr. Seth, India Sewing Machine Co., Lahore.
- (vi) Mr. Latif, Batala Engineering Co., Batala, Punjab.
- (vii) K. B. A. G. Khan, Dy. C. G. I., M. G. O. Branch, War Department.

23. *Rayon and Artificial Silk* :

- (i) Dr. Nazir Ahmad (Chairman), Director, Technical Laboratory, Indian Central Cotton Committee. (Not yet accepted).
- (ii) Mr. M. Subba Rao, Technical Director, Messrs. Poddar & Sons. (Not yet accepted).
- (iii) Mr. P. N. Sinha, Messrs. Birla Bros. (Not yet accepted).
- (iv) Mr. M. P. Bhargava, Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun. (Not yet accepted).
- (v) Mr. Gautam Sarabhai, Messrs. Ambalal Sarabhai & Sons. (Not yet accepted).

24. *Plastics and Celluloid* :

- (i) Dr. John Mathai (Chairman), Director, Messrs. Tata Sons, Ltd. (Not yet accepted).
- (ii) Dr. S. Siddiqui, Acting Director, Chemical Laboratories, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Delhi. (Not yet accepted).
- (iii) Mr. Akbar Fazhalboy, Messrs. Fazhalboy, Ltd. (Not yet accepted).
- (iv) Dr. M. S. Patel, Officer on Special Duty, I. & C. S. Department. (Not yet accepted).
- (v) Dr. H. K. Sen, Director of Industries, Government of Bihar. (Not yet accepted).

25. *Light Engineering Industries* :

- (i) Mr. B. M. Birla (Chairman), Messrs. Hindustan Motors, Ltd.
- (ii) Mr. P. N. Krishna Rao, Deputy Controller General of Civil Supplies. (Not yet accepted).
- (iii) Mr. Kishen Chand, Kayce & Co. Ltd., Lahore. (Not yet accepted).
- (iv) Dr. Wahid, Messrs. Feroz Sons, Ltd., Lahore. (Not yet accepted).
- (v) Mr. G. D. Naidu, Autoservices, Coimbatore. (Not yet accepted).
- (vi) Mr. Sahai, Hindustan Bicycle Co., Ltd. Patna. (Not yet accepted).
- (vii) Mr. Bishendas Basil, Ragho Engineering Works, Ltd., Delhi. (Not yet accepted).
- (viii) Col. R. C. Lyons, M.C., Chief Inspector of Armaments, Calcutta. (Not yet accepted).
- (ix) Mr. S. L. Kirloskar, Messrs. Kirloskar Bros. Ltd. (Not yet accepted).

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know what was the machinery which chose those chairmen or those panels and whether the Honourable Member himself was associated with their choice or not?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Every single member and every chairman has been chosen personally by me.

SPECIAL PAY OF (PERSONAL ASSISTANT) STENOGRAPHERS

1380. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether certain stenographers in the various departments of the Government of India are given special pay when they are attached to work with Honourable Members, Secretaries, Additional Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, etc.? If so, what are the objects which such allowances cover?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes. Special pay is given to the stenographers of the officers named in the question in view of the arduous nature of their duties and the increased responsibility which they have to undertake in handling the secret and confidential papers of the officers to whom they are attached.

INCREASING THE FAMILY ALLOWANCE TO WIFE OF S. NIRANJAN SINGH TALIB

1381. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether there has been any increase in the family allowance given to the wife of S. Niranjana Singh Talib during the last year;

(b) if the answer to (a) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to consider the question of increasing it in view of the high prices of consumers' goods; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider his release on the grounds of health as he has been ailing for a long time?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: With your permission, Sir, I shall answer questions Nos. 1381 and 1382 together.

The family allowance of Mr. Niranjana Singh Talib was increased by 50 per cent. in May 1944 with retrospective effect from June 1943. As regards his health, the latest report is that his general condition is satisfactory. He had been complaining of various symptoms due to slight enlargement of the prostate gland and rhinitis but his condition has improved and does not justify release on medical grounds.

Sardar Mangal Singh: What is the total allowance?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have not the figure.

HEALTH OF S. NIRANJAN SINGH TALIB

1382. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) the latest condition of health of S. Niranjana Singh Talib, a security prisoner now confined in Gujrat special jail;

(b) whether there had been an improvement in his health after he was discharged from the Mayo Hospital; and

(c) the treatment he is getting now and with what effect?

GAZETTED POSTS IN OFFICES OF SUPPLY ACCOUNTS AT NEW DELHI, BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA

1383. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the number of gazetted posts in the offices of Supply Accounts at New Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta, respectively;

(b) the number of Sikhs holding those posts;

(c) the number of Accountants lent by other offices; how many of them are Sikhs;

(d) how many of these Accountants were promoted to the gazetted ranks since 1940; whether any Sikh was promoted to such post; and if not, the reasons for such supersession;

(e) the number of Assistants-in-charge and Assistant Superintendents; how many of them are Sikhs;

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1381.

(f) if it is a fact that several clerks have been promoted as Assistants-in-charge and Assistant Superintendents; how many of them superseded the Sikh clerks; whether any Sikh was promoted as Assistant-in-charge; if so, what is the number;

(g) whether it is a fact that while making the promotion from clerk to Assistant-in-charge, no definite criterion is maintained; and

(h) whether it is a fact that, when other offices demand the services of Sikhs on promotion to higher posts, the services of Sikhs are not spared while in similar demands, Muslims and Hindus are spared; if so, the reasons for this discrimination against the Sikhs?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) New Delhi—20, Bombay—12, Calcutta—18; Total—50.

(b) None.

(c) 110 of whom four are Sikhs.

(d) 25 Accountants have been promoted to gazetted rank since 1940, none of whom were Sikhs. Appointments to the rank of D. A. C. are made strictly by selection but in making these appointments no Sikh was actually passed over.

(e) There are 40 Assistants-in-Charge and 119 Assistant Superintendents of whom one and three respectively are Sikhs.

(f) It is a fact that several clerks have been promoted as Assistant Superintendents. Promotions to the rank of Assistants-in-Charge are generally made by selection from the rank of Assistant Superintendents, who in turn are selected from among efficient clerks. Three Sikh clerks were passed over in the Delhi office when promotions to the rank of Assistants-in-Charge were made. No Sikh was passed over in the selection for Assistant Superintendents. One Sikh was appointed as Assistant-in-Charge.

(g) No.

(h) No. There is no discrimination against Sikhs.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member how is it that there is so much paucity in the gazetted posts he mentions and then again what are the reasons why these Sikhs were superseded by the Non-Sikhs?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: To take the second question first, I imagine that they were superseded because they were not competent for promotion. As regards the other question, well, I must ask it of my Honourable friend. I suppose the reason is that sufficient qualified personnel from his community were not forthcoming.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I inform the Honourable Member—and I have drawn Government's attention to this repeatedly—that this plea of the non-availability of the Sikhs is a flimsy plea. It was tried with the Muslim League but now that pressure is coming from that quarter, the same difficulty is not felt. May I ask that enquiries be made to ascertain that these supersessions are not due to communal feelings?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am assured that there is no question of discrimination against Sikhs in this Department.

OFFICERS IN THE MAINTENANCE, RESEARCH AND INSTALLATION DEPARTMENT OF THE ALL-INDIA RADIO

1384. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) the number of Gazetted and non-Gazetted officers in the Maintenance, Research and Installation Department of the All India Radio and how many of them are Muslims;

(b) how many of the posts in the above cadres are permanent and what the proportion of Muslims and Non-Muslims in these posts is;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to give Muslims their proper representation in the cadres referred to above; and

(d) whether Government propose to give an assurance that Muslims will be given their share in permanent and non-permanent posts under the All India radio posts in respect of both Gazetted and non-Gazetted appointments

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the table of the House.

(c) and (d). Communal proportion in the various cadres in All India Radio is maintained *not* in individual offices, but in the All India Radio as a whole. Every effort is made to give each community its due share in posts in All India Radio.

Statement showing the total number of Gazetted and non-Gazetted officers, the number of total posts held by Muslims, the number of permanent posts and the proportion of Muslims and non-Muslims in the permanent posts in the Maintenance, Research and Installation Department, All India Radio.

Total number of posts	Number of Muslims	Number of permanent posts	Proportion in permanent posts	
			Muslims	Non-Muslims
92 (including 8 vacant and one exempted from application of communal orders.)	24	32 (including 6 vacant.)	Per cent. 12	Per cent. 88

PILFERAGE OF GOODS CARRIED BY STEAMERS.

1385. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: Is the War Secretary aware of the fact that pilferage of goods carried by steamers is frequent and wide-spread? If so, what steps does he propose to take to put a stop to this?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: On the assumption that the Honourable Member refers to the steamers of the Joint Steamer Companies, Rivers Steam Navigation Company, Limited, and India General Navigation and Railway Company, Limited, the answer to the first part is in the negative. The second part of the question does not therefore arise.

WHITE SOLDIERS IN INDIA

1386. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) whether he is aware that Mr. Churchill said in the House of Commons some time back that there were more white soldiers in India now than ever before;

(b) the exact number of such troops now in India for security and garrison purposes, and if the exact number cannot be given, their proportion to Indian troops;

(c) number of Indian troops that are employed on garrison and security duty, and their proportion to the total strength;

(d) the considerations which prevent the white soldiers here from being transferred to the Italian and other European fronts and the Indians fighting on those fronts being transferred back to India;

(e) if there are any Indian soldiers stationed in the Middle East; if so, whether they cannot be replaced by other empire soldiers;

(f) if the number of soldiers, sailors and other fighting forces among the United States army, navy and air force are constantly given out in American papers; if so, why such details are not given out in India; and

(g) the probable saving in cost of transport and food and other matters if white soldiers are kept in Europe and in other fighting fronts and the Indian soldiers necessary for garrison and like purposes are retained in India itself?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes Sir,

(b) and (c). In the interests of security I am unable to quote actual numbers, but I may say that the number of British troops employed on Frontier Defence and Internal Security is only 8.5 per cent. of the number of Indian troops similarly employed, and the number of Indian troops so employed is 10.9 per cent. of the number of Indian troops in the India Command.

(d) and (e). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the supplementary questions and answers to starred question No. 453 on the 16th November 1944.

(f) The gross strength of the Royal Indian Navy, the Indian Army and the Royal Indian Air Force is frequently publicised in the press in the same way as is that of the United States of America's armed Forces, but neither the United States of America nor any other nation present vital information to their enemies by publishing detailed fighting strengths.

(g) I cannot agree to the expenditure of time and labour which would be necessary for preparing a reply to this hypothetical question.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the Government have any fixed percentage for British and Indian troops which they consider essential for the better security of this country?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: As far as I know there is no such percentage.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are the British now in India very much higher in number than before the war, and if so, by what proportion has the number gone up?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Will the Honourable Member repeat his question?

Mr. Manu Subedar: Isn't it a fact that the number of British troops in India is higher now than before the war, and if so by what proportion has this number gone up?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The Honourable Member knows that previously there was no war. Now there is a war against Japan and the proportion of British troops must obviously go up.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who decides this proportion? Is it the Governor General in Council or the Commander-in-Chief on his own responsibility?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: There is no proportion laid down between British and Indian troops.

(At this stage Prof. Ranga again rose in his seat.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is no use arguing unnecessarily. Next question.

REQUISITIONED HOUSES AND FLATS FOR MILITARY PURPOSES IN BOMBAY

1387. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state:

(a) the number of houses or flats and the total accommodation requisitioned in Bombay within the city's municipal limits for military purposes;

(b) how many families have been displaced in order to make room for military personnel;

(c) how much, if any, material has been given by the military and other departments in order to rebuild, at least in part, the area devastated by the explosion of April, 1944;

(d) if the military department cannot build hutments in vacant areas in government-owned lands inside and outside Bombay city limits, within a few months; if so, why they did not do this before; and, if not, why not;

(e) if this requisitioning has been greatly increased in recent days with the result that 600 families in and about Marine Drive and other areas have been given notice to quit, without any provision being made for their stay elsewhere;

(f) if the Bombay Municipality and other bodies and persons have emphatically protested against this further infliction on an already over-populated area; and

(g) if Government propose to shift all the central departments situated in the city to places less congested outside Bombay; if not, why not?

Mr. Ram Chandra: (a) The number of residential premises requisitioned in Bombay for military purposes since the beginning of the war is 150.

(b) I regret that information is not available.

(c) 60 lakhs bricks, which were reserved for military works, were released for civil consumption from October 1944 to January 1945. I have no information regarding material made available by other Departments.

(d) All possible building has been undertaken within the available engineering resources in the Bombay area.

(e) If the Honourable Member is referring to the two buildings about which questions have recently been asked in this House, my information is that only about 24 civilian families have been given notice that their premises are likely to be requisitioned. The Government of Bombay is considering the question of providing alternative accommodation.

(f) A representation has been received from the Bombay Municipality. I am also aware of the anxiety expressed in various quarters.

(g) It is impossible to move all Central Departments from Bombay. But a general review is being undertaken to see whether any removals are feasible.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What steps were taken to find houses for the two hundred thousand people who were thrown out of their homes on account of the explosion?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I require notice of this question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government consider the removal of some of the Central Government Departments which are in Bombay to one of the suburbs of Bombay in order to utilise that space instead of requisitioning houses any more?

Mr. Ram Chandra: The question whether any removals are feasible is being reviewed.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government considering the removal of refugees and evacuees before throwing out *bona fide* residents of Bombay from their homes?

Mr. Ram Chandra: This question is also under consideration.

DETENTION OF PT. AMARNATH VIDYALANKAR

1388. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if Pt. Amarnath Vidyalkar of Amritsar, a 1942, detenu is detained in the Lahore Central Jail, under the orders of the Government of India? If not, under which Government's orders is he detained?

(b) In case Mr. Vidyalkar is detained under the orders of the Government of India, does the Government of India or the Punjab Government review his case periodically?

(c) Was Pt. Amarnath ever convicted or tried in a court of law for an overt act as part of his political activities? If so, when, and for what period?

(d) Is it a fact that the reason for Mr. Vidyalkar's detention is that he keeps correspondence with people outside the Punjab, particularly with one who was his class fellow when they were reading together? If so, will Government please state if there is anything incriminating in the correspondence?

(e) If the reply to (d) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to consider the desirability of placing the correspondence before a high judicial authority?

(f) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of trying Mr. Vidyalkar in an open court? If not, why not?

(g) Is it a fact that Mr. Vidyalkar has been running low temperature and that he was recently operated upon for a throat trouble? Has the temperature disappeared? If not, do Government propose to release him so that he can have himself treated privately?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no information.

Pt. Amarnath Vidyalkar is not detained under the orders of the Government of India.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable Member inquire into the matter?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No, Sir.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Why not?

(No reply was given.)

PAUCITY OF HIGHER GRADE RECEPTIONISTS IN HOME DEPARTMENT

1389. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please say whether it is a fact that the rules about communal representation apply to each grade separately?

(b) Is it a fact that there are two grades of Receptionists in the Home Department?

(c) Is it a fact that there are no Muslims in the higher grade of Receptionists? If so, will he kindly say why appointments to the higher grade have not been made according to rules of communal representation?

(d) Is it a fact that one of the Muslims appointed to the lower grade is on a fixed pay?

(e) Will he kindly say why some posts are on the fixed pay and others on the time scale?

(f) Does he propose to consider the desirability of bringing the post on the fixed pay also to the time scale?

(g) Is it a fact that at the time of appointment, advance increments have been allowed to some of the Receptionists? If so, is any Muslim included among those granted advance increments?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The cadre of receptionists was created piecemeal as necessity arose, with the result that some posts were created on a time-scale and some on a fixed pay. The questions of putting all posts on the same scale and of abolishing the two grades of receptionists are at present under consideration. The communal percentage was applied to both grades taken together but its application to this case raises difficulties that are being examined. After the examination of these points has been completed, I hope that no legitimate ground will remain for thinking that Muslims have not been treated fairly in this cadre.

Permanent Government servants appointed receptionists were given pay corresponding to the pay they were drawing before being so appointed.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Will the Honourable Member please state what is the total number of receptionists employed both on time scale and fixed pay?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Eleven, I think, is the number.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What are these Receptionists and what are their exact duties?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: If the Honourable Member will come to see me in my office he will find out.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member assured that these gentlemen are necessary?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am assured.

DECLARATION RE SELECTION POSTS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT

1390. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is a fact that it was represented by Muslim Members of the House that if Government were not disposed to apply the communal rules to posts filled by promotion, it should at least be seen that senior Muslims are not superseded in the matter of promotion?

(b) Is it a fact that as a result of (a) above, the question, about declaring posts in the Government of India Secretariat as selection and non-selection posts, was taken up by the Government?

(c) Is it a fact that as a result of that examination, all posts in the Secretariat, with the exception of a few of them, have been declared as selection posts?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). Allegations were made that Muslims were treated unfairly in the matter of promotions and that they were adversely affected owing to the absence of clear instructions stating which posts are selection posts. Government have since issued orders designed to ensure that there should be no indefiniteness in this matter.

(c) No.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Will the Honourable Member please state whether it is a fact that most of the posts in the Home Department are selection posts?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Can the Honourable Member give any idea as to how many posts in his Department are known as selection posts?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am afraid not.

ORDERS RE. ADJUSTMENT OF UNDER-RECRUITMENT OF MINORITIES, ETC.

1391. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Will the Honourable the Home Member please lay on the table of the House a copy of the orders on the following subjects:

- (i) adjustment of under recruitment of minorities;
- (ii) filling vacancies in replacement; and
- (iii) selection and non-selection posts in the Secretariat?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Copies of the orders on the subject are placed on the table of the House.

COPY OF AN OFFICE MEMORANDUM NO. F-14/1/37-ESTS. (S), DATED THE 6TH JANUARY, 1938; FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, HOME DEPARTMENT, TO ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, ETC.

SUBJECT.—Interpretations of the orders relating to communal representation in the services

In connection with the application of the orders mentioned above, the question has been raised whether the over-recruitment or under-recruitment of members of minority communities in one cycle of rotation should or should not be adjusted in subsequent cycles. As regards over-recruitment, the view hitherto taken has been that under Supplementary Instruction 7(b) there should be subsequent adjustment; while no ruling has been given in regard to under-recruitment.

2. In so far as the first matter is concerned, it is obvious that if no limit is placed on the process of adjustment against over-recruitment, the minority communities will never get more than their reserved shares. This is contrary to the intention of the Government of India, since unreserved vacancies are open to all communities alike. It has therefore been decided that the unit for this purpose should be a year, not a cycle or a particular number of cycles, and that there should be no adjustment from year to year. If a cycle is not completed in a particular year, the next year's recruitment will start with the next point in that cycle. The intention will be clear from the following example. Suppose there are, in a particular year 50 vacancies in a service for recruitment area in which the reservation for Muslims is 8½ per cent., and the cycle of rotation comprises 24 vacancies, the 4th and 17th vacancies being reserved for Muslims. If Muslims obtain, on their merits, 6 vacancies in first cycle the 4th and 17th vacancies in the second cycle and the 4th vacancy in the third cycle will be treated as unreserved in pursuance of Supplementary Instruction 7(b); but no adjustment will be made in the following year in respect of the remaining excess of one. On the other hand, if there is under-recruitment of Muslims in the first cycle and it cannot owing to shortage of qualified Muslims, be made good during the year, the reservation will lapse under paragraph 7(1) (v) of the Resolution of 4th July 1934.

3. It is to be clearly understood, however; that the over-recruitment of candidates belonging to a minority community, which is not to be adjusted, must have been due to vacancies in excess of its reserved share having been obtained by merit. If the community has been given excess appointments by reservation, such appointments must be cancelled as irregular, unless they were made in pursuance of the provision in the latter part of Supplementary Instruction 7(a), when subsequent adjustment must be effected, even though this has to be done in another year.

4. The under-recruitment in respect of which no adjustment is to be made in a subsequent year or years must have been due to shortage of qualified members of minority communities. But to justify a statement that there was such a shortage it is necessary to show that the various steps prescribed in Supplementary Instruction 8 have been duly taken.

5. All recruitment made to permanent posts or vacancies (including those temporary but likely to become permanent), since the date of application of the orders relating to communal representation in the services, should be reviewed in the light of the above orders, and if a cancellation of an appointment seems called for the case should be referred to this Department.

COPY OF AN OFFICE MEMORANDUM NO. 14/13/38-ESTS. (S), DATED THE 15TH JULY, 1938; FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, HOME DEPARTMENT, SIMLA, TO ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

SUBJECT.—ADJUSTMENT OF OVER- AND UNDER RECRUITMENT OF MEMBERS OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES

The undersigned is directed to invite a reference to this Deptt. O. M. No. F-14/1/37-Ests. (S), dated the 6th Jan. 1938, and to state that it has been decided, in partial modification thereof, that a shortage in the recruitment of members of minority communities should be carried forward for one year only. The intention will be clear from the following example. Suppose in a service 12 vacancies are filled every year and the reservation for Muslims is 25 per cent. If in one year, say 1939, only 2 qualified Muslims are available, the third vacancy shall be treated as unreserved and filled in accordance with

merit. In 1940 four vacancies instead of the normal 3 shall be reserved for Muslims; but if in that year also only 2 qualified Muslims are available, the reservation carried forward from 1939 will lapse, and only the shortage of 1940 will be carried forward to 1941. In order further to explain this, a chart is appended to this Office Memorandum.

2. The above procedure will apply to services to which recruitment is made on the results of a competitive examination. Where recruitment is made by selection, the reserved vacancy for which a qualified Muslim is not available should be filled temporarily and efforts made to attract more candidates of the Muslim Community. In this connection use might be made of communal organisations as laid down in the latter portion of Supplementary Instruction 8.

3. The procedure will be the same in the case of the other minority communities, except that if a shortage of one year cannot be made up in the next year, the vacancies should, instead of being treated as unreserved, be treated as reserved for Muslims, in accordance with para. 7 (1) (iii) of the Home Department Resolution No. F-14/17-B/33-Ests., dated the 4th July, 1934.

4. Attention is once again invited to the second sentence of para. 4 of the O. M. of 6th Jan., 1938, which lays down that to justify a statement that no qualified candidates of minority communities were forthcoming, it is necessary to show that the various steps prescribed in Supplementary Instruction 8 were duly taken.

5. There will be no change as regards adjustment of over-recruitment of minority communities. In other words, if members of minority communities obtain, in any year, more than their reserved share, no corresponding reduction shall be made in their share for the next year.

6. These orders will have effect from the 6th January, 1938.

7. The orders in paras. 1 and 2 above will not apply in the case of Divisional Accountants in the Indian Audit Department.)

() To Finance Department only.

Adjustment of under-recruitment of Muslims owing to lack of qualified candidates on the lines suggested by the deputation, taking a cycle of 12 vacancies

Year	Number of vacancies reserved	Number of qualified candidates available	Number of Reserved vacancies unfilled owing to lack of qualified candidates	Number of unfilled reserved vacancies carried forward to the next year
3	2	1	1 (1938)	1938
3(1939) + 1 (1938)	2	1 (1939) + 1 (1938)	1 (1939)	1939
3(1940) + 1 (1939)	3	1 (1939)	Nil	1940
3(1941)	Nil	3 (1941)	3(1941) Nil	1941
3(1942) + 3 (1941)	4	2 (1941)		1942

COPY OF AN O. M. NO. 31/7/44-ESTS. (S), DATED THE 6TH DECEMBER, 1944; FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, HOME DEPARTMENT, TO ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, ETC.

SUBJECT.—Adjustment of under-recruitment of members of minority communities.

The undersigned is directed to invite a reference to this Deptt.'s O. M. No. 14/73/38-Ests. (S), dated the 15th July, 1938, which lays down *inter alia* that a shortage in the recruitment of members of minority communities should be carried forward for one year only. According to para. 2 of the O. M., this procedure is to apply only in cases in which recruitment is made by competitive examination. Where recruitment is made by selection, the reserved vacancy for which a qualified candidate is not available, is to be filled temporarily and further efforts made to attract suitable candidates of the community concerned. It has been represented that certain Deptts. have been continuing such temporary arrangements for periods exceeding a year—in some cases for several years—and that this practice causes hardship to the persons employed on a temporary basis. There appears to be no justification for differentiating, in respect of the period for which reservations should be carried forward, between services or posts to which recruitment is made by competitive examination and other services or posts. It has therefore been decided that the one-year limit should apply in all cases, whether recruitment is made by competitive examination or by selection. Should there be no recruitment in the year immediately following that in which the reservations were originally made, they should be carried forward to the next year in which recruitment is actually made. In all cases the reservations carried forward will lapse after the expiry of the year in which recruitment is actually made, irrespective of the number of vacancies available during that year.

COPY OF AN OFFICE MEMORANDUM No. 23/1/39-Ests. (S); DATED THE 4TH SEPTEMBER, 1942; FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, HOME DEPARTMENT, NEW DELHI; TO ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

SUBJECT.—Representation of minority communities in posts filled by promotion

The undersigned is directed to invite a reference to this Department Office Memorandum No. 23/1/39-Ests. (S), dated the 16th August, 1941 and to say that after considering the views expressed by the departments on the proposals contained in that Office Memorandum it has been decided to adopt the following principles:

(a) There should be no indefiniteness about the normal mode of filling vacancies for any uncertainty about the proportions to be filled by direct recruitment and by promotion. The practice, where it is not sufficiently well-defined, should be settled for the future.

(b) No variation in existing rules or practice which would have the effect of increasing the present proportion of vacancies filled by promotion, nor any departure from the pre-determined proportions, should be made without the orders of Government.

(c) Except in certain classes of appointments which must be defined as open only to selection, seniority must as a general rule be given its due weight and good men should not be passed over by their juniors merely because the juniors might, other things being equal, be judged to be better than they.

(d) Without prejudice to the position of the War Department *vis-a-vis* Naval, Army and Air Headquarters, each Department should be responsible not only for the accuracy of the communal returns from each of its Attached and Subordinate Offices, both in form and substance, but also for submitting a consolidated return for all its offices to the Home Department by a specified date each year, accompanied by brief remarks on any defects or departures from the rules that may have come to its notice. It should be the duty of the Home Department not to check the returns of other Departments but to consolidate them further without delay and review the general working of the rules as disclosed by the returns.

2. In order to comply with principle (c), Departments will have to prepare lists of appointments which may be filled only by selection of the best candidates available. So far as posts in the Secretariat Ministerial Staff are concerned, the list will be prepared by Home Department after consulting the other Departments.

3. As regards (d), the departments are requested to submit to Home Department consolidated returns for 1941 as soon as possible and thereafter by 1st April of each year.

COPY OF AN OFFICE MEMORANDUM No. 31/23/42-Ests. (S), DATED THE 1ST APRIL, 1943; FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, HOME DEPARTMENT, NEW DELHI; TO ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, ETC.

SUBJECT.—Selection and non-selection posts in the Secretariat ministerial staff.

The undersigned is directed to invite attention to paragraph 2 of the Home Department Office Memorandum, No. 23/1/39-Ests. (S), dated the 4th September, 1942, and to say that the question of classifying the various posts in the Government of India Secretariat and its Attached Offices at headquarters as "selection" and "non-selection" posts has been under the consideration of this Department. It is proposed to treat these posts, when filled by promotion, as follows:

(a) Selection posts (i.e., posts which should be filled by the selection of the best candidates available):

(i) Posts of Under Secretary and Assistant Secretary.—These are important posts carrying great responsibility and call for the exercise of considerable discretion and initiative. The best candidates available should therefore be selected for these posts.

(ii) Posts of Establishment Officer, Administrative Officer, and Officer Supervisor.—The remarks against item (i) above apply to these posts also.

(iii) Posts of Superintendent and Chief Superintendent.—Since 1920, when the time-scale was introduced, selection has been the normal rule for filling these posts. This was further emphasised by the Maxwell Committee. In view of the increasing complexity of work and the consequent need for proper supervision and control, it is perhaps more important now that these posts should be filled by selection.

(iv) Posts of Assistant-in-Charge and Assistant in the Upper time scale.—What has been said above of Superintendents is generally true of Assistants-in-Charge as well. They are Superintendents in all but name, status and pay, the difference being based not on the nature of duties and responsibilities but on the size of the Branch controlled and the quantity of work in it.

As regards assistants in the upper time scale this grade is normally the recruiting ground for Superintendents and as such the best men eligible should be selected.

(v) Clerks-in-charge of Issue Section, etc., and Cashiers.—These posts involve duties and responsibilities of a much higher standard than other posts in the Division in which they are included. They should therefore be filled by the best available candidates.

(b) Non-selection posts (i.e., posts to which promotion should usually be made by seniority subject to fitness *vide* paragraph 1(c) of the Home Department Office Memorandum referred to above.)

(i) Assistants (ordinary grade).—Although at present, these posts are treated as selection posts when filled by promotion, it is not considered that there will be serious loss of efficiency if in future they are filled according to seniority subject to the rejection of the unfit.

(ii) Clerks, Second Division (Ordinary and the Selection grades).—The ordinary grade of the Second Division is in the process of abolition and the Selection grade is intended mainly to provide a *solatium* for those not good enough for promotion to the First Division.

2. It is requested that the views of the Finance Department, etc., on the above proposals, as well as their recommendations in respect of any other posts in that Department or in its Attached Offices at headquarters which are not covered by these proposals, may kindly be communicated to this Department at an early date. Pending a final decision in the matter, promotions may continue to be made in accordance with the existing rules.

No. 31/23/42-ESTABLISHMENTS (S)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 2nd September, 1943.

To All Departments of the Government of India, the Political Department, the Crown Finance Department, the Secretaries to the Governor-General (Public), (Reforms), and (Personal) and the Secretary, Executive Council.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT.—Selection and non-selection posts in the Secretariat Ministerial Establishment.

The replies to the Home Department Office Memorandum No. 31/23/42-Ests. (S), dated 1st April, 1943, reveal that the great majority of Departments have accepted the proposals made therein. It has accordingly been decided that the posts specified in clause (a) of paragraph 1 of that office memorandum should be classified as "selection" posts and those mentioned in clause (b) thereof as "non-selection" posts, when they are filled by promotion. This means that when posts of the first category are to be filled by promotion, merit will be the primary criterion; while when posts of the second category are to be filled by promotion, the criterion will be seniority subject to fitness for the post in question.

2. It has also been decided that the posts of Personal Assistants to Honourable Members of the Executive Council and of stenographers to Secretaries, Additional Secretaries and other officers, which carry special pay in addition to grade pay, should be classified as "selection" posts.

3. The above orders apply only to posts in the Departments of the Government of India Secretariat proper and their Attached Offices at headquarters.

4. Departments should themselves decide how the other posts under their administrative control and not covered by the orders contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 above should be classified.

H. K. CHAINANI,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 31/23/42-Ests. (S), NEW DELHI, THE 2ND SEPTEMBER 1943.

Copy forwarded to the Federal Public Service Commission, the Federal Court, the Military Secretary to H. E. the Viceroy; and the Director, Intelligence Bureau, for information and guidance. (The classification proposed in his memorandum No. 25/Est./42, dated 16th October 1942, is approved.)

() To D. I. B. only

By Order

F. WARD,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

COPY OF AN OFFICE MEMORANDUM No. 31/23/42-Ests. (S); DATED THE 12TH FEBRUARY, 1944; FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, HOME DEPARTMENT, NEW DELHI; TO ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, ETC.

SUBJECT.—Selection and non-selection posts in the Secretariat Ministerial Establishment.

As will be seen from the last sentence of para. 2 of the Home Department O. M. No. 31/23/42-Ests. (S); dated the 1st April 1943, it was not intended to give retrospective effect to the orders contained in the Office Memorandum No. 31/23/42-Ests. (S); dated the 2nd September, 1943. It has accordingly been decided that permanent, quasi-permanent and provisionally permanent vacancies which occurred before the 2nd September 1943 in posts which were previously selection posts but which are now classified as 'non-selection posts' should be filled in accordance with the rules previously in force, that is, by selection. Permanent (including quasi-permanent and provisionally permanent) vacancies in such posts arising after the 2nd September 1943 must, however, be filled according to seniority subject to fitness; but any persons appointed in a provisionally permanent capacity before that date should be preferred to others even if the latter are senior to them.

Memorandum of Supplementary Instructions connected with the orders contained in the Government of India, Home Department, Resolution No. F. 14/17-B/33-Ests., dated the 4th July 1934.

1. *Minority communities.*—Subject to any special orders which may be issued in connection with Section IV of the Resolution, the term "other minority communities" covers the following four communities only, viz., Anglo-Indians including Domiciled Europeans, Indian Christians, Sikhs and Parsis.

2. *Application of orders to inferior posts.*—Subject to any special orders which may be issued regarding any particular class of inferior servants; the orders contained in the Resolution do not apply to inferior posts.

3. (a) *Application of orders to temporary appointments.*—The orders contained in the Resolution apply to temporary vacancies lasting three months or longer (including vacancies in permanent posts filled temporarily by persons not permanently in Government service). Vacancies for a period of less than three months may, if suitable candidates belonging to a particular community are not readily forthcoming, be filled without regard to communal considerations. Similarly, vacancies originally sanctioned for a period of less than 3 months and extended thereafter need not necessarily be filled in accordance with the orders contained in the Resolution unless the period of extension is 3 months or more. But special care must be taken to see that the orders are strictly applied in all cases in which posts, though originally sanctioned on a temporary basis are likely to become permanent. If any doubtful cases arise they should be referred to the Home Department.

3. (b) "A person holding a purely temporary vacancy, who has no substantive post under Government, must, if appointed to a permanent post, be treated as a direct recruit."

4. *Application of orders to paid apprentices.*—As has already been provided in the case of Special Class Apprentices in the Mechanical Engineering and Transportation (Power) Department of the Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways [vide Railway Department (Railway Board) Notification No. 2387-E. G., dated the 18th October 1934], the orders contained in the Resolution apply to paid apprentices.

5. *Application of orders to each grade or division of a service, etc.*—(a) The percentages prescribed for minority communities are to be applied to vacancies (as distinct from posts) in each grade or division of a service to be filled by direct recruitment and not to vacancies to be filled by promotion, which will continue as at present to be made solely on merit and seniority. It is not the intention to reserve all future vacancies for Muslims and other minority communities, or to stop or postpone recruitment from the majority community, till the prescribed percentages of posts in a grade, division or service are held by Muslims and members of other minority communities.

(b) A person holding a post to which the orders contained in the Resolution do not apply (e.g., an inferior servant) must, if appointed to a post to which the orders do apply, be treated as a direct recruit.

6. *Minimum standards of qualifications.*—In accordance with rule (v) in para. 7(1) of the Resolution, minimum standards of qualifications applicable to all communities alike should be prescribed for each grade, division or service to which recruitment is made direct. No fresh restrictions in other respects should be introduced except with the previous approval of the Governor General in Council.

7. (a) *Procedure for filling vacancies.*—A minimum of 12 vacancies (out of which 3 will go to Muslims and 1 to other minority communities) is required to give proper effect to the rule reserving 25 per cent. of vacancies for Muslims and 8½ per cent. of vacancies for other minority communities. If the number of vacancies in a particular year is less than 12 (or is not a multiple of 12) it will be necessary to keep a running account from year to year as in the model rotation below:

1. Unreserved vacancy.	1 Unreserved vacancy.
1 Muslim.	1 Other minority community.
2 Unreserved vacancies.	2 Unreserved vacancies.
1 Muslim.	1 Muslim.
1 Schedule Castes.	1 Unreserved vacancy.

It is not necessary to adhere strictly to the rotation as shown in the model rotation above but Muslims, or other minority community candidates may be taken at an earlier stage of the rotation if the actual composition of the service at the time suggests that such a course would be desirable. In any case, the filling of the four reserved vacancies in every twelve should not be postponed until the eight unreserved vacancies have been filled.

(b) Unreserved vacancies are open to all communities on their merits, but when a member of a minority community obtains an unreserved vacancy, a corresponding reduction should be made in the number of vacancies reserved for that community. For example, if Muslims are entitled to three vacancies out of twelve and one Muslim obtains an unreserved vacancy on his merits, two more vacancies only should be given to Muslims by reservation; if Muslims obtain on their merits more than the number of vacancies reserved for them, no vacancies should be given to them by reservation. It is open to minority communities to obtain on their merits more than the percentage of vacancies reserved for them.

"(c) A vacancy caused by the termination of the services of a probationer should not be treated as a fresh vacancy, but should be treated as (i) unreserved or (ii) reserved for Muslims or the other minority communities, according as the vacancy in which the probationer was originally appointed was treated as unreserved or so reserved.

8. *Steps for securing a supply of suitable candidates from minority communities—Communal Societies.*—So far as services recruited on an All-India basis are concerned, no serious difficulty is anticipated as regards the supply of candidates, but all vacancies in such services should be advertised in the following papers:—

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) The Madras Mail, Madras | (9) The Eastern Times, Lahore. |
| (2) The Hindu, Madras. | (10) The Indian Nation, Patna. |
| (3) The Times of India, Bombay | (11) The Hitavada, Craddock Town, Nagpur. |
| (4) The Statesman, Calcutta. | (12) The Khyber Mail, Peshawar. |
| (5) The Star of India, Calcutta. | (13) The Hindustan Times, Delhi. |
| (6) The Leader, Allahabad. | (14) The Tribune, Lahore. |
| (7) The Pioneer, Lucknow. | (15) The Dawn, Delhi. |
| (8) The Civil and Military Gazette, Lahore | |

As regards locally recruited services, the question as to the papers in which vacancies should be advertised is left to the local Head of the Department. If in any area a sufficient number of qualified candidates for a particular service or post are not forthcoming from the minority communities to fill the reserved percentage of vacancies, the local Head of the Department should communicate the deficiency of qualified candidates to the Societies, if any, recognized by the local Government concerned as representative of the minority communities in the locality and should invite the Societies' co-operation in bringing the existence of vacancies to the notice of suitable candidates. It should, however, be made clear to the Societies:—

(1) that their functions are limited to the following matters:

(a) to bring to the notice of suitable candidates any examinations for recruitment to the services for which they could usefully enter and any advertisements of appointments to be made by selection;

(b) to advise candidates about the examinations for recruitment to the services for which they should enter or the appointments for which they should apply;

(c) to advise candidates on any matters which might be of assistance to them in preparing for, or applying for admission to, examinations for recruitment to the services; and

(2) that it will not be their function to press the claims of any individual candidates, who should submit their application direct to the appointing authorities.

9. *Annual returns.*—With reference to paragraph 5 of the Resolution, the Government of India have prescribed two annual returns as in the model form attached. Subject to slight modifications of detail which may be decided upon in connexion with locally recruited services, the form should be suitable for all services to which the orders apply. Particulars in regard to each service should be furnished in this form each year, those due in 1935 being sent as soon as possible, and those due in subsequent years being sent so as to reach the Government of India in the Home Department not later than the 1st April.

10. *Non-observance of orders.*—Any appointment made contrary to the orders contained in the Resolution, read with the foregoing supplementary instructions, should be regarded as null and void and should be cancelled by the Head of the Department concerned as soon as it is brought to his notice through annual returns or otherwise.

COPY OF AN O. M. No. F. 14/1/37-Ests. (S), DATED THE 18TH AUGUST, 1937; FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, HOME DEPARTMENT; TO ALL DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, ETC.

SUBJECT:—*Supplementary Instructions connected with the Home Department Resolution No. F. 14/17-B/33-Ests., dated the 4th July, 1934, relating to communal representation in the services, and instructions for filling the statements prescribed in Supplementary Instruction 9.*

A doubt has been expressed as to whether a vacancy caused by the premature discharge (for e.g., unsatisfactory work) of a person holding a temporary post or vacancy should or should not be treated as a fresh vacancy, and if not, whether the procedure will not be in conflict with Instruction C-2 for filling the annual communal Statements. Such a discharge is akin to the termination of the services of a probationer, which is governed by Supplementary Instruction 7(c), and failure to treat the resultant vacancy as a fresh one does not conflict with Instruction C-2 of the Instructions for filling the communal Statements. It has accordingly been decided to make the following addition to Supplementary Instruction 7(c), namely:—

"A vacancy caused by the premature discharge of a person holding a temporary post or vacancy should be similarly treated."

2. As regards Instruction C-2 of the Instructions for filling the communal statements, the intention will perhaps be clear from the following example. Suppose a person "A" in an office goes on leave, and his return to duty synchronises with the going on leave of another person, "B", in the same office. Then, according to the Instruction, the vacancy caused by "B's" going on leave is a fresh vacancy and not the same as caused by "A's"

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[27TH MAR. 1945]

going on leave. The vacancies should be reckoned as the separate vacancies for the purposes of the communal roster and the communal statements, even though they happen to be filled by the same person (which is possible if both vacancies are unreserved).

No. 31/12/44-Ests. (S).
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME DEPARTMENT.

New Delhi, the 31st March, 1944.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT.—Question whether vacancies caused by resignations, etc., of persons appointed in temporary vacancies should be treated as fresh vacancies or filled "in replacement."

Under clause (c) of paragraph 7 of the Supplementary Instructions relating to communal representation in the services inserted by the Home Department's Office Memorandum No. F. 14/41/35-Ests. (S), dated the 4th June 1936, a vacancy caused by termination of the services of a probationer is not to be treated as a fresh one but as (i) unreserved or (ii) reserved for Muslims or other minority communities according as the vacancy was originally treated as unreserved or so reserved. This is based on the view that until a probationer is confirmed, the arrangements made are only provisional and that a reserved vacancy can be said to have been filled from a particular community only when a member of that community has been made permanent in it.

2. In 1937 the question arose whether vacancies caused by the premature discharge of temporary men should be treated as fresh vacancies or not for purposes of the communal roster. It was decided that such vacancies should be treated as if they had been caused by the discharge of probationers [vide paragraph 1 of the Home Department's Office Memorandum, No. 14/1/37-Ests. (S), dated the 18th August 1937]. The effect of this decision is that a temporary post or vacancy once filled from any particular community must always be held by members of that community. This amounts to a reservation of posts and not vacancies and therefore is not in accordance with Government's declared policy in the matter. The grounds for the treatment accorded to a vacancy held by a probationer do not apply in the case of other vacancies. In view of these considerations, the orders contained in paragraph 1 of Home Department Office Memorandum No. 14/1/37-Ests. (S), dated the 18th August 1937, are hereby cancelled. In future all vacancies, whether permanent or temporary, except those caused by the termination, due to whatever cause, of the services of a probationer or of a person appointed 'on trial' for a specified period during that period, should be treated as fresh vacancies for purposes of the communal roster.

By Order
F. WARD,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

To

All Departments of the Government of India [including Joint Financial Adviser (Supply), Additional Financial Adviser (Munitions Productions) etc.]; the Political Department; the Crown Finance Department; the Secretaries to the Governor-General (Public), (Reforms) and (Personal); the Secretary to the Executive Council; the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy; the Director, Intelligence Bureau and the Federal Public Service Commission.

SETTING UP OF INDEPENDENT PENSION APPEAL TRIBUNALS

1392. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please refer to his answer to Starred question No. 644 of 21st November, 1944, and state when Government propose to set up Independent Pension Appeal Tribunals?

(b) Does he propose legislation after the model of the War Pension Act, 1915 to 1920?

(c) What interim measures does he propose for the revision of cases dismissed without reference to the position recognized in the War Pensions Acts, 1915 to 1920 and other statutory protections contained in Section 136 of the Army Act and the preamble to Pension Regulations?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to starred question No. 1279 on the 22nd March 1945.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Pensions Act, 1915 to 1920 does not apply to personnel under the rule-making control of the Governor General. Section 136 of the Army Act applies to pay only and not to pensions. The preamble to Pensions Regulations for the Army in India has no bearing on entitlement to pension. The question of any interim measures does not, therefore arise.

Sir F. E. James: With reference to the answer to part (a) of the question, will the Honourable Member tell the House the substance of the reply to which he has referred?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Certainly. "Every effort is being made to set up Pension Appeal Tribunals as early as possible."

Sir F. E. James: With reference to that particular answer my Honourable friend is aware that the matter was raised in the house a year ago. Can he give any indication that the matter will reach completion in the near future?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I think we have gone a long way. We have created a new Pensions Branch in the War Department. The machinery is very nearly being got ready, and we will establish Pension Appeal Tribunals as soon as possible.

PROCEDURE RE ADJUDICATION OF WAR PENSIONS CLAIMS BY INDIAN PERSONNEL

1393. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if his attention has been drawn to the fact that claims to War Pensions in the case of Indian personnel have been and are being adjudicated by the War Department under the rules and procedure of its own making, whereas in the case of all other personnel of His Majesty's 'regular forces' such claims have been adjudicated by War Pensions Acts 1915 to 1920?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will he please state the authority for this discrimination with special reference to the amendment made in 1916 to Section 84 of the Government of India Act, 1915?

(c) Is he prepared to revise the Indian Personnel's cases affected by such discrimination as referred to in (b)?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) I am advised that the War Pensions Acts 1915 to 1920 are not applicable to Indian personnel and that the reference quoted in this part of the question is not relevant.

(c) Does not arise.

CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY, ETC., OF WAR PENSIONS

1394. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please state the particular Section, also the particular item of the particular Legislative List of the Government of India Acts of 1919 and that of 1935, under which the conditions for the eligibility of death and disability pensions and reductions and stoppages thereof, in the case of Indian personnel, have been laid down for the personnel of Great War and the present War?

(b) Will he please state, with reference to the first para. of the preamble to Pension Regulations, the authority that has sanctioned and enforced the conditions for the eligibility and stoppage of war pensions referred to in (a)?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) The rules governing the grant of death and disability pensions, and reductions and stoppages thereof, in the case of Indian personnel during the present war have been framed by the Governor General under Section 235 of the Government of India Act, 1935. There was no statutory provision for such entitlement issues of the last war, and the rules governing such claims were framed by the Governor General in Council with the approval of the Secretary of State.

(b) The first para. of the preamble to the Pension Regulations for the Army in India is not relevant to the question of war pensions, the authority for the grant of which I have already indicated in my reply to part (a).

STOPPAGE OF WAR PENSIONS OF INDIAN PERSONNEL OF THE GREAT WAR

1395. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the War Secretary please state whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that War Pensions, admitted for life to Indian Personnel of the Great War, have been stopped and continuance thereof has been refused without reference to protections afforded to such pensions *vide* Section 136 of the Army Act, Section 51 of the Indian Army Act and War Pensions Acts 1915 to 1920 read with Section 84 of the Government of India Act, 1919?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am advised that none of the provisions referred to by the Honourable Member have any bearing on the stoppage or continuance of pensions granted to Indian personnel of His Majesty's Indian Land Forces.

KING'S PREROGATIVE TO STOP WAR COMPENSATIONS, ETC., IN RESPECT OF CERTAIN INDIAN PERSONNEL OF INDIAN FORCES

1396. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if the King's prerogative to stop war compensations and war pensions, payable under War Pensions Acts, 1915 to 1920 for death and disablement casualties sustained while rendering Military Service during the last War, has been applied to Indian personnel of the Indian forces which had been lent to His Majesty's Government for wars carried on beyond the external frontiers of His Majesty's Indian possessions?

(b) Under whose name and by what officer the prerogative referred to in (a) has been exercised in the case of King's Commissioned Officers, Viceroy's Commissioned Officers and other Indian Ranks in His Majesty's Indian Forces?

(c) Has there been any Royal Warrant or Order-in-Council delegating the powers of exercising King's prerogative to the Government of India to withhold in part or full any death or disablement pension, children's allowance or arrears thereof after the statutory recognition of claim to War Pensions *vide* War Pensions Acts, 1915 to 1920?

(d) If the answer to (c) above be in the affirmative, does he propose to lay a copy of the same on the table of the House stating the position with reference to the statutory limitations imposed on the powers contained in Section 70 (2), 136 and 44 of the Army Act and also with reference to the definition of the expression 'pension' given in Section 311 of the Government of India Act 1935?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) to (d). The Honourable Member's question raises issues of law. I am having the whole position examined, and will lay a statement on the table in due course.

WORKING OF THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

1397. *Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to make a full statement regarding the working of the Reserve Bank of India since its establishment explaining clearly:

- (i) the main objects for establishing the Bank;
- (ii) how far and to what extent those objects have been achieved;
- (iii) the policy laid down and followed by the Reserve Bank as regards financing the trade and industry;
- (iv) the steps which are actually being taken for execution of that policy;
- (v) specific obligation and duty imposed on the Reserve Bank for promoting agriculture and providing cheap agricultural credit; and
- (vi) steps actually taken in that behalf?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I cannot make a full statement in reply to a question but I will deal with the specific points raised.

(i) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the preamble to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

(ii) A reference is invited to the annual reports of the Central Board of Directors of the Bank in terms of section 14 of the Reserve Bank of India Act.

(iii) Being a bankers' bank the Reserve Bank of India is not authorised in normal times to finance trade and industry direct but it can make loans and advances to scheduled banks and provincial co-operative banks in terms of section 17 of the Act.

(iv) The Reserve Bank of India has extended financial accommodation to a number of scheduled and provincial co-operative banks.

(v) The duties and functions of the Reserve Bank of India in regard to agricultural credit are contained in sections 17 and 54 of its Act.

(vi) The Reserve Bank of India has rediscounted agricultural paper at a concession rate of 2 per cent per annum for provincial co-operative banks and this facility would have been utilised to a much greater extent but for the large

surplus funds with co-operative banks as a result of the conditions arising out of the war. The Agricultural Credit Department of the Bank is also assisting Provincial Governments in the study of their problems and has contributed materially in drawing up schemes and laying down procedure for their fulfilment.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have the Reserve Bank Board or the Managing Governor ever represented to the Government of India the desirability of varying the policy of issuing further notes in India? Have they done so in any correspondence with the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: All matters concerning the currency policy of the country naturally come under discussion between Government and the authorities of the Reserve Bank.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Ever since the inception of the Reserve Bank has the Finance Department reviewed the work that it has done in its Rural Credit Branch?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, Sir. The Bank has issued publications indicating some of the work it has carried out in that Branch.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps have Government taken to satisfy themselves that the Reserve Bank has discharged the duties cast upon it by the Reserve Bank of India Act?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not consider that any special steps are necessary to see that an institution like the Reserve Bank has carried out the statutory duties laid upon it by the Act.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that the Government of India have no responsibilities at all in regard to this matter and the Reserve Bank is absolutely autonomous and is not accountable to any authority?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I would not accept that statement of the position.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will Government please consider the desirability of circulating Reserve Bank's reports to the Members of this House?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The reports are available in the Library for those who wish to study them.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Can they be circulated, Sir?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No.

ASSISTANCE BY RESERVE BANK OF INDIA TO SCHEDULED AND OTHER BANKS

1398. *Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if any service and assistance have been rendered by the Reserve Bank to the Banks in the country and to the Scheduled Banks in particular?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative what are the particular facilities given?

(c) How many and which Banks received financial accommodation either in normal conditions or in emergency?

(d) How the interest-free statutory deposits of Scheduled Banks are employed by the Reserve Bank? Are they employed for the direct benefit of the Scheduled Banks? If so, in what manner?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes.

(b) The facilities have taken the form of advances and rediscounts under section 17 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

(c) It is not in the public interest to give the names of the banks but the numbers of institutions that have made use of the facilities on different occasions are 33 scheduled banks and three provincial co-operative banks.

(d) The statutory deposits form a part of the Reserve Bank of India's liabilities which are utilised by the bank in the manner reflected in the weekly statements issued by the bank.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Are the deposits employed for the direct benefit of the Scheduled Banks?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I take it that the maintenance of the general credit stability of the country is in the interests of the Scheduled Banks as well as of the country as a whole.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: I say, are the deposits employed for the benefit of the banks who have made them?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not consider that the object of these deposits is merely to ensure the direct benefit of the Scheduled Banks.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: So the answer is in the negative.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is largely in the negative.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask if Government contemplate enlarging the usefulness of the Reserve Bank by amending Section 17?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I should like to have notice of that question.

APPLICATION OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES ORDINANCE TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

1399. *Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Essential Services Ordinance applies to all Government employees; and

(b) whether protests have reached the Government regarding non-application of the provisions of sections (5) and (6) of the Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance II of 1941, in regard to obligation of the Crown not to discontinue the services of the Crown servants without a reasonable cause, and the issue of rules regulating or empowering a specified authority to regulate their wages and other conditions of service?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Labour Member who will answer it in due course.

HARSH TREATMENT AS REGARDS LEAVE METED OUT TO STAFF IN AMENDMENT SECTION OF DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

1400. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state whether the provisions of the F.R.S. and S.R.S. and orders issued by the Home and F.D.S. in regard to grant of leave and establishment cases are followed by the various branches and offices of the Defence Department?

(b) Is Government aware of the harsh treatment, meted to the staff attached to the Amendment Section of the Defence Department by its officer-in-charge?

(c) Is it a fact that leave applied for from Monday is granted from Sunday and debited to the leave account of the applicant, accordingly, in the Amendment Section of the Defence Department?

(d) Is it a fact that the Officer-in-charge of the Amendment Section does not hesitate even from discharging officials who proceed on medical leave for a small period of a fortnight?

Mr. Ram Chandra: (a) A certain portion of the Defence Department including the Amendment Section is paid from Defence Services estimates, and this portion is not governed by Fundamental Rules and Supplementary Rules.

(b) No instances of harsh treatment have come to the notice of Government.

(c) I understand that in certain cases this procedure has been adopted, but it is not done as a general rule.

(d) Leave supported by a medical certificate from a Government Medical Officer is invariably allowed, and I know of no case where a man has been discharged for taking such leave.

Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: Will the Honourable Member inquire into the matter if instances are given to him?

Mr. Ram Chandra: If any instances are brought to my notice, I shall make the necessary inquiries.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have Government called for papers and made inquiries? If leave is applied for from Monday is it granted from Sunday?

Mr. Ram Chandra: It is not done as a general rule; I have stated that in my answer to the question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Why is that procedure adopted in certain cases? It is manifestly unjust.

Mr. Ram Chandra: A clerk may have taken a lot of leave already. In such cases or for some other reason the leave debited to his account is counted from Sunday.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it allowed under the rules?

HARSH TREATMENT AS REGARDS LEAVE METED OUT TO STAFF IN AMENDMENT SECTION OF DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

1401. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state whether it is a fact that if an official on medical leave is declared fit by the medical authorities to resume duties on Friday or Saturday, he is not allowed by the officer of the Amendment Section to join from Friday or Saturday but is allowed to join on the following Monday, and Sunday is debited to his leave account?

(b) Is it a fact that instances are not wanting in the Amendment Section, in which poor clerks on medical leave are sometimes threatened by the Officer Incharge to join office at once or on prescribed dates at the cost of their service and if the poor sick clerks do not join on account of illness, they are discharged and extraordinary leave of three months, which is admissible under the ordinary rules, is denied to them?

(c) Is it a fact that officials with three or four years service are discharged by the Officer of the Amendment Section for small faults, like late arrival in office by three or four minutes?

(d) Is it a fact that no replies are given to the appeals preferred by the affected staff?

(e) Is it a fact that the officials of the Amendment Section are not allowed to appeal to higher authorities and if they do they are discharged straightaway?

Mr. Ram Chandra: (a) No.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given by me to part (d) of his starred question No. 1400.

(c) and (d). No.

(e) All clerks are allowed to appeal to higher authorities provided that such appeals are submitted through the proper channel.

HARSH TREATMENT AS REGARDS LEAVE METED OUT TO STAFF IN AMENDMENT SECTION OF DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

1402. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state:

(a) whether Muslim clerks in the Amendment Section are not allowed the usual time allowed in other Government Offices for offering their Jumma prayers and if not what steps the Government propose to take against the officer responsible for this irregularity;

(b) if it is a fact that for one day's casual leave, the clerks have to attach their out-door ticket and for two days casual leave a proper medical certificate has to be attached to their application; and

(c) whether it is permissible under the rules and regulations prescribed by the Home and Finance Departments; and if not, what action, if any, Government propose to take in this connection?

Mr. Ram Chandra: (a) Muslim clerks are allowed the usual time for offering their Jumma prayers. The second part does not arise.

(b) Yes, when leave is asked for on medical grounds.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to part (a) of his question No. 1400. I am however considering whether the orders referred to in part (b), which were introduced about a year ago because of a wave of absenteeism, need be kept in force.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: With reference to the reply which has been given by the Honourable Member to part (a), I want to ask the Honourable

Member if he knows that many complaints have been forwarded by me to the Home Department, Finance Department and other Departments that Muslims are not allowed the time for saying their prayer, and that they are asked to say their prayer only during their lunch time, and that if they are 15 minutes late they have to work 15 minutes after office hours to make up that time?

Mr. Ram Chandra: Is the Honourable Member referring to Muslim clerks in the Amendment Section only of the Defence Department?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: This is a general complaint. If a Muslim has to go for saying Jumma prayers, then he has to make up that time by staying after office hours. If he has to go to say his prayers during lunch time and is late by 15 minutes, then he has again to make up that time by staying after office hours.

Mr. Ram Chandra: Now that this has been brought to my notice, I shall certainly make inquiries.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Why not declare Jumma as a public holiday instead of Sunday?

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

INTERPRETATION OF "OLD ENTRANT" AS APPLIED TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

105. Mr. Jaminadas M. Mehta: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the exact meaning of the words 'old entrant' as applied to Government servants, and also whether the words are defined in any statute? If so, under what statute?

(b) Do the new scales of pay which were introduced after 1931 apply to the 'old entrants' when promoted to a higher grade? Is it a fact that the posts in a given cadre will not be closed down and converted into posts of a lower cadre so long as the old entrants are available who are legitimately looking forward to being promoted to a higher grade with old scales of pay?

(c) Does an employee in Government service holding a substantive post before 1931, when promoted to a higher cadre, continue to be an 'old entrant' for the purposes of his pay and privileges?

(d) Are Government of India aware whether the terms 'old entrants' and 'new entrants' are applied in the same sense by all the Provincial Governments?

(e) Are Government of India responsible for maintaining uniformity of meaning in this matter all over India?

(f) Have Government any power or authority to prevent anomalies between the meanings attached to the words at the Centre and in the Provinces?

(g) Is the sanction of the Government of India sought by Provincial Governments before the grades of posts in All-India services are reduced? If the reply to (g) is in the affirmative, do Government propose to see that the interpretation of these words by Provincial Governments is not different from that which prevails in the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) An 'old entrant' is a Government servant other than one defined in sub-rules (i)-(v) of Rule 3 of the Revised Rates of Pay Rules, as read with the executive orders thereunder, which are contained in the appendix to those Rules, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the negative, as will be apparent from paragraph (7) of the Appendix to the publication referred to in the above reply. As regards the last sentence, attention is invited to section 253 of the Government of India Act, 1935. Except for the posts mentioned therein, the Governor General in Council has full power to vary the strength of the cadres under his control.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Government of India have no definite information on this point.

(e) and (f). No, since Provincial Governments are fully competent to frame rules and interpret them in respect of services under their rule-making control.

(g) Attention is invited to sections 246-250 of the Government of India Act, 1935, and to rules 23 to 26 of the Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules according to which the strength, including both the number and character of posts, the rules regulating recruitment to the All-India Services and the rules regulating conditions of service and any allowances etc. of such services, are the responsibility of the Secretary of State. The latter part of the question therefore does not arise.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

CLOTH FAMINE IN BENGAL

Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies been drawn to the Press report of a joint statement issued by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Sir Jagdish Prasad from Calcutta regarding the cloth famine in Bengal?

(b) Will the Honourable Member please state whether any special step is proposed to be taken as an emergent measure for the purpose of giving relief to Bengal in the matter of supplies of cotton textiles, and if so, will the Honourable Member make a comprehensive statement explaining any such step, indicating, at the same time, any special directions that may be given to the Government of Bengal in that connection?

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

(b) I have already arranged for a special despatch immediately of about 3,000 bales of cloth to Bengal. We are grateful to the Honourable War Transport Member for specially arranging this on an extremely short notice. I expect that the delivery will have been completed within the next few days. In addition I have also decided as a special case and without prejudice to the ultimate decision on this matter to allot to Bengal during April and May cloth at the rate of 12 yards per head per annum. We are also trying to isolate special needs for Red Cross, Hospitals, etc. We propose to depute a senior I.C.S. officer, if available, to be in constant touch with the cloth situation in the eastern zone. As I have already stated, on several occasions internal distribution within a province is the responsibility of the Provincial Government and the Bengal Government is now taking drastic steps to overhaul its distributive system and organisation.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to the recent press statement made by the Minister for Civil Supplies regarding the actual yardage contents of bales of cloth sent to Bengal?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My attention has been drawn to it. The Bengal quota was sent almost entirely, by sea. Honourable Members are aware that for Customs purposes, for any despatch by sea the actual yardage has to be declared, and we therefore knew the actual yardage. Thereafter for purposes of statistical calculation we divided the total yardage by taking 1,500 yds. for each bale. My estimate of 1,500 yds. per bale and the number of bales are correct, so far as the total yardage is concerned.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Will the Honourable Member kindly inform the House if he has already considered carefully the question of the effective distribution in areas where cloth shortage is acuter than in others?

12 Noon. I may tell the Honourable Member that recently in connection with the death of my father, and for his *Sradh* ceremony I could not get a shred of cloth anywhere in the markets of Krishnagar and Santipur the places from which the Honourable Member comes.—I repeat I could not get a shred of cloth in the market for the *Sradh* ceremony of my father and it was only through the kindness of some of my friends that I could get any cloth at all. Is the Honourable Member aware that that is the position in Muffassil Bengal today?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am aware that there are isolated cases here and there and I know exactly the situation in my district too. But

the internal distribution has been left to the Provincial Government and they are taking drastic steps with a view to remedy this; but as I explained in my Budget speech they have their difficulties and I hope the Honourable Member will realise that they have now started a drive in Calcutta. After all is said and done, if people who are the dealers keep the cloth, unless drastic steps are taken, it will not come out; and these steps have been taken.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Is it a fact that apart from the representations of the Minister, His Excellency the Governor of Bengal has written a special letter inviting the attention of the Government of India that Bengal is practically going naked?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have never seen any such personal letter! On the other hand I have received a letter of course relating to the cloth situation, but that does not disclose a situation as my friend states it.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Has the Honourable Member secured assurances from the Honourable War Transport Member that special facilities will be granted for the purpose of reaching this cloth from Calcutta to the different consuming centres—a special priority?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I said, I can assure on behalf of the War Transport Member that if the Government of Bengal desires anything with a view to help them in the internal distribution in the Province we shall immediately go into that question.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Member aware that in the district towns and mofussil areas in Bengal, whenever cloth is sent there, the district authorities at first earmark the bulk of the supplies for the Government servants and their clerks who get any quantity they like while the civilian population does not get even a shred in the open market?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: This is the first time I am hearing about this and in view of the statement made, I propose immediately to make an inquiry into the matter.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Has the Honourable Member received a copy of the resolution passed by District Bar Association, Krishnagar?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There has been enough discussion.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Is the Honourable Member aware

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

ANNOUNCEMENT RE ANSWERING IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF QUESTIONS OF ABSENTEE MEMBERS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I understand there has been some misunderstanding as to why I asked, on the 22nd March, the Government Members concerned if they wanted to reply to the two questions of Members who were absent at the time and had not previously authorised any other Members to put the questions on their behalf. I already had occasion to point out (see my ruling at page 1008 of the Legislative Assembly Debate of February 20, 1935) that in order to meet properly the requirements of Standing Orders 18 and 19 the President would insist ordinarily that the absent Member must authorise in writing another Member to put his questions, otherwise they would not be answered orally and the answers would be laid on the table and printed in the proceedings in due course. I saw no sufficient reason to depart from this ruling in the cases mentioned above and I wish to make it clear once again that it is not desirable that the well-established practice in this respect should be relaxed, though in some exceptional cases the President may, at the request of a Member who has not been especially authorised in that behalf, direct the Government Member to reply to a particular question of the Member

who is absent. What happened in the cases referred to was, that while I did not think it necessary to direct the Government Members to reply to those questions I left it to them to do so, if they considered it desirable in the public interest in the spirit of the well-known parliamentary practice in this connection. In May's Parliamentary Practice at page 244, it is stated "but in case the member responsible for a question does not answer to the Speaker's call, a Minister may rise and make such statement on the question as the public interest demands". This far from being in conflict with the requirements of Standing Order 19 is an additional means of securing the object in view.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Monday, the 26th March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of War Transport eight nominations were received. As there are eight vacancies I declare Sardar Sant Singh, Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, Khan Bahadur Sheikh Habibur Rahman, Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr. Ramayan Prasad and Mr. G. W. Tyson to be duly elected.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to read out a Message to the Assembly from His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General:

"Whereas by its vote of the 26th March, 1945, the Legislative Assembly has refused to take into consideration a Bill entitled a Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1945;

NOW, THEREFORE, I John Colville, in pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 61B of the Government of India Act, as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935 do recommend to the Legislative Assembly that it do pass the Bill in the form hereto annexed.

(Sd.) JOHN COLVILLE,

Viceroy and Acting Governor General."

NEW DELHI;

The 26th March, 1945.

(Copies of the Recommended Bill were then distributed to the Members of the Assembly.)

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, in the form recommended by the Governor General.

I will only say that the Bill is in the form in which it was previously introduced in this House, with the exception of one Government amendment which stood in the name of Sir John Sheehy and which was intended to rectify an omission which occurred by oversight in the stage of drafting the Bill.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What is that?

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

"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, in the form recommended by the Governor General."

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): On a point of order. No notice of this motion has been supplied to Members of this House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is not the practice in this House.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Mr. President, it is a somewhat unusual course to oppose leave to introduce a motion before this House in the shape of a Bill but this step is necessitated by the circumstances attending the recommendation to the Legislative Assembly that it do pass the Bill 'in the form hereto annexed'. It is a royal mandate which has been most loyally received by some Members of this House but I dare say that the very loyal receipt of it by those who stood and those who didn't, clearly indicates the fate of this recommendation. It is perfectly obvious that this matter receiving the assent has been before this House for 8 or 9 days and 45 speakers have taken part in its discussion and, except as a mere constitutional form, it does require immense courage even in a Governor General to ask us to reconsider what we have rejected.

The fact remains, however, that constitutional propriety requires that the Bill should be presented to us again and it is not merely as a matter of bare consistency, as it is called, or even as a matter of self-respect but as a matter of our considered attitude towards Finance Bills of this kind, this House will, I recommend at all events, reject this motion.

There is one word more I should like to say. Day before yesterday, I heard an announcer of the B. B. C. announce in most stentorian terms—Berlin is burning for purification. I dare say, Sir, the wisdom underlying that has dawned on the world. If Berlin is burning for purification, I am quite certain that there are many Empire builders who also require a great deal more of purification. If Berlin is to purify herself of the sin of attempting to take away the freedom of England, England, in her turn, I dare say, will have to purify herself of many other similar sins. I have no doubt the time has now come for that penitence to be expressed in the form of action and I hope, Sir, that the announcer did not confine the ceremony of purification and the necessity of purifying itself of all the sins of imperialism to Berlin itself. It is a good lesson which, I believe, Britain can take to heart today and there should be no more excuse. As I said yesterday, in support of the motion of rejection, it is quite clear that we desire now that the affairs of this country be managed by ourselves, by the representatives of the people. For that reason, I ask that those Members who voted with me yesterday and many more who didn't but who do still wish to defy the royal mandate will reject this Bill.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surma Valley cum Shillong: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, I rise

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There cannot be any more speeches.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: On a point of information. I asked a question yesterday whether any agreement has been arrived at. In reply to that I was told

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That subject cannot be raised now.

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, in the form recommended by the Governor General"

The Assembly divided:

AYES—50.

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.
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.
Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.
Haider, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haider.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.
Ismail Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.
James, Sir F. E.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
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. Jammadas M.
Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami.
Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
Piare, Lall Kureel, Mr.
Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
Ram Chandra, Mr.
Richardson, Sir Henry.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad.
Sheehy, Sir John.
Siva Raj, Rao Bahadur N.
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—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.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.
Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
Das, Mr. B.
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.
Habibar Rahman, Dr.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.
Hosnani, Mr. S. K.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.
Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Manu Subedar, Mr.
Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
Naidu, Mr. G. Rangiah.
Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Pande, Mr. Badri Dutt.
Baghubir 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.
Siddiquee, Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad.
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.

The motion was negatived.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1944-45

DEMAND No. 1—CUSTOMS

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,49,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Customs'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,49,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Customs'."

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to a point of order. Copies of the Supplementary Demands and other papers relating thereto were supplied to us only on Friday night, the next day, Saturday, was the only working day and so we had no time to go through the papers and give notice of cut motions. I therefore suggest that we should be given sufficient time to send notices of cut motions.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I understand the papers were sent on last Friday night. I think the Honourable Members had enough time to send cut motions.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I find from the list of Supplementary Demands circulated to us that many of them have not been placed before the Standing Finance Committee. In fact this particular Demand under Customs has not been placed before the Standing Finance Committee. If the amount involved is small, there may be some excuse for not placing it before the Standing Finance Committee. I find from the list that the amount involved is more than ten lakhs in many cases and in the present demand under discussion, the amount involved is seven lakhs odd and this has not been placed before the Standing Finance Committee.

The next point I wish to refer to is that in certain cases, the approval of the Standing Finance Committee, has been taken without really giving the estimates. In the list circulated to us, I find under item (b), the excesses are mainly due to "payment of travelling allowance to officers proceeding on leave for rest and recreation and payment of rewards to informers in case of seizure of contraband goods attempted to be smuggled out of British India". Now, Sir, there was no estimate prepared and there was no sanction taken of the Standing Finance Committee on the estimates. I find on page 2 of the Proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee, Vol. XXI, No. 1, dated the 31st July, and 1st August, 1944 that there is a memorandum put forward by the Home Department before the Committee which relates to Central Government servants proceeding on leave for rest and recreation. In para. 4 it is said:

"Financial effect of the proposal:—

(a) Total actual expenditure involved: At present it is not possible to give an estimate of the cost involved."

Without giving any estimate how could it be done? I can understand a memorandum being presented to the Committee, but anything passed by the Committee without the estimates before it is not really proper. It is not proper for Government to take it as if the thing has been approved by the Standing Finance Committee. And I suggest it is wrong to put a proposal before the Committee without any estimates, because the job of the Finance Department is to look into the figures of the money likely to be spent.

Then, Sir, in some demands I find that the demands as passed by the Committee and as brought forward before the House today are different. I do not know how it happens but I suggest that if anything is put before the Standing Finance Committee they must put the exact amount. In certain estimates we find the words "or so". I must say that in figures there can be no doubts; the figures must be exact, and so I suggest that these things be considered by the Finance Department.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I should like to have a little explanation from the Honourable the Finance Member with regard to the method of allocation referred to in clause (d) of the note in demand No. 1. I should like to know whether this method of allocation came into force this year or whether it follows a precedent, and if so, what the principle of allocation is and how it is worked out.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, as regards the first point raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Chettiar I am afraid he is somewhat out of date. It was explained to the House in the time of my predecessor Sir James Grigg that the department did not consider it necessary to place each and every sup-

plementary grant before the Standing Finance Committee. The reason for that was given, namely, that in some cases supplementary demands arose without any question of policy or merits being involved, but merely as a result of factors which are not within the control either of the Legislature or of Government.

As regards his second point, as far as I understood it, the position is that if some new departure is being made, if for instance, dearness allowance is being increased, then at the proper time that is brought before the Standing Finance Committee. Such indication as is possible at the time of the probable cost of this measure is given to the Standing Finance Committee. But if it should so happen later in the year that the cost has varied somewhat from that estimate it is not automatically necessary to bring the matter before the Standing Finance Committee.

As regards his third point, I can only say that we are human and not celestial beings. We cannot undertake that estimates prepared at every stage are absolutely accurate. We do our best to make an estimate and we put it before the Standing Finance Committee or before this House as being the best estimate which we can make on the knowledge which we then have. But we should be misleading the Committee or the House if we pretended that such forecasts were absolutely accurate and that they were not susceptible of variations.

As regards the point taken by my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar, the position is that certain establishments are entertained jointly between various heads; that is to say, establishments which were originally employed, say, purely on Salt duties may be given duties in connection with Central Excises. Then for the purpose of accurate accounting it seems desirable to make some indication that part of the expenditure is debitable to the Central Excise head; and it is as a result of such administrative rearrangements that changes in the allocation of expenditure become necessary.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, this is a new demand—expenditure for rest and recreation—but still no estimates have been given to the Standing Finance Committee although a memorandum only was prepared.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is a matter which was brought before the Standing Finance Committee. It is a concession applicable generally to all establishments and so it did not come under the head Customs. It was brought to their notice that this concession was being extended to the establishments of the Government of India.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,49,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Customs'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 2—CENTRAL EXCISE DUTIES

The Honourable Sir Jerēmy Raisman: Sir I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,23,85,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Central Excise Duties'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,23,85,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Central Excise Duties'."

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I wish to oppose this demand. I was hoping that some other procedure would come to be adopted and we may be able to have a chance of discussing the advisability or otherwise of the Central Excises as a whole. But now under these altered circumstances I wish to say that it is a very queer idea on the part of Government first to impose a tax and then begin to inquire on whom the incidence is falling. The Honourable Member was good enough to tell us this morning that he has instituted an inquiry to find out to what extent betel-nut growers are being taxed by the Central Excises. I am glad he has appointed that committee; I hope that as a result of the report of that com-

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

mittee he will see reason to modify the imposition of these betel-nut and tobacco duties, so that the actual growers might not have to suffer as they have been suffering till now. There is an item here, "Compensation to Provincial Governments for suspension of provincial measures of taxation on wholesale trade in tobacco", the amount being Rs. 88,92,800. I should like to have some details in regard to this matter. So far as I know, most of the tobacco that is being taxed is being grown in the Madras Presidency, particularly Guntur District. There is a sales tax, it is true, on tobacco also, but whether the contribution that the Government of India has to make to Madras Government can possibly amount to as much as 88 lakhs, or even half of it, is doubtful.

One thing is certain: These taxes are hitting the ordinary growers. When they were being imposed, it was not the intention of this House, and I am sure it might not have been the intention of even the Finance Member, that agricultural products as such should be taxed. He only wanted, I thought, to tax

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is this a new tax?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: This is not a new tax; that is why I am opposing.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then the Honourable Member cannot go into the policy of the tax.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: All right, Sir. I wish to make one suggestion,—I thought I made it, to some extent, at the time of the question hour today—and that is, it is high time that Government should appoint a thoroughly representative committee consisting of non-officials also to go into the question of the incidence of these taxes and see that people who really were not intended to be taxed are not being taxed. The Honourable the Finance Member himself has recognized that it is quite possible that the growers themselves are being hit because of their inability to safeguard their own interests as against the merchants and traders. His idea was to tax the merchants and traders and also, if possible, consumers, but certainly not to tax the producers of agricultural products themselves. But in actual fact it does happen that the actual growers also are hit hard as a result of this tax. In this tax both tobacco and betel-nut growers are affected. Therefore, I will request the Honourable the Finance Member to appoint a Committee to go into this matter and make as comprehensive an enquiry as possible and suggest ways and means by which the growers can be sufficiently safeguarded as against the traders and the consumers, and they may not have to pay, as at present, the whole of these taxes in an un-merited manner. It certainly is not the intention of the Government that the taxes that it imposes should be paid not by the people on whom they are imposing the taxes, but by people who are unfortunately weaker in their bargaining capacity. Therefore, it is high time that Government should take some definite steps and I hope that the Honourable Member will give a definite assurance to the House in this matter.

Sir, I oppose this demand.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Just one question, Sir. What is the case referred to in the Privy Council?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga, dealt with the question of policy in regard to Central Excises which, I submit, is not germane to the voting of a supplementary demand. I have already replied to points in connection with this question this morning. I did not say that I propose to set up a committee. I said that the tax, broadly speaking, does fall on the consumer, and not on the producer, but in so far as it is represented that to a certain limited extent that is not so.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Wholly.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have asked certain investigations to be made and I hope that it will prove possible to prevent that unintended effect. It is really a matter of strengthening the position of the producer vis-a-vis the trader. It does not matter whether it arises out of taxation or anything else. If the trader is in a position unduly to depress

the price which he gives to the small producer, whether he alleges that it is because of new taxes or anything else that is the position which has to be dealt with. It is a question of marketing,—it is a question of the strength of the relative parties,—it is a question which probably has to be dealt with under a provincial enactment. I am having it looked into.

In regard to the item about compensation paid to the Provincial Governments, the position is: when we introduced the central excise on tobacco, there were also certain provincial duties on tobacco and unless we had rationalized the whole field, the people would have been liable both to the provincial tax and to Central tax, because both these taxes were legally leviable. We, however, approached the Provincial Governments and asked them to abandon their taxes and in return we offered to compensate them to the extent to which those taxes formed part of their revenues, and this 'total compensation' item represents the amounts which we are now paying to Provincial Governments including a certain amount which is due for the previous year when these arrangements had not yet been finalized.

As regards the Privy Council case, I think the actual case was a Madras case. I think the name of it is the Budu—Pudaun case.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the point involved?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: There was some point in connection with the administration of Central Excise. I have forgotten it, but in any case it went to the Privy Council and we had to incur these charges.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,28,85,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Central Excise Duties'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 3—TAXES ON INCOME INCLUDING CORPORATION TAX

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,56,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,56,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan: Rural): Sir, this supplementary grant is mainly due to the appointment of additional temporary staff for disposal of arrear assessments in connection with the 'Pay as you earn' scheme. This is due to the recruitment of 33 supernumerary probationary Income-tax officers. The question of policy that arises in this connection is...

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No, no. The Honourable Member cannot discuss the question of policy.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Sir, I would submit that instead of these temporary appointments, there should be permanent appointments and my reasons are these.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not arise out of this supplementary demand.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Then I submit that this grant should not be granted. If that is in order, then I submit that the additional work, for which this additional temporary staff has been appointed, can be taken from the existing staff if they are well treated. If the staff is well treated, they will not only do this extra work which is required of them, but they will do it very efficiently and willingly. At the present moment most of them in this Department are temporary. They are discontented and do not turn out good work.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot discuss questions like that in a supplementary demand. The Honourable Member can vote against it.

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Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I must give my reasons.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): But you cannot go into all sorts of general questions.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I am against this way of creating such appointments.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: A new method is going to be adopted for appointing Income-tax officers. This is a supernumerary kind of Income-tax officer. The Finance Department recommend that this class of people should be appointed out of persons who have passed the Indian Audit Service examination for reasons best known to them. But I say that this kind of recruitment is defective because up till now the Finance Department has required the qualification of Mathematics.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I suppose there are other officers who have been appointed like that. Is this a new departure?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Yes, this is a new departure. Up till now this policy of the department was not.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot get into questions of policy.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I am not going into that.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go into questions of policy.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I am confining myself particularly to the appointment of supernumerary Income-tax officers.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Even in regard to Income-tax officers, you cannot go into questions of policy.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: They should not indent out of the Indian Audit Service examination because all of them are not Mathematics graduates.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not arise.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I am opposing this demand. My reason is.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You can oppose it.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: . . . that the people who sit for the Indian Audit examination . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is a general question. It cannot be discussed now.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I submit that this is a defective way of doing this.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can oppose the demand and vote against it.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: If the Department likes to have mathematics graduates they can appoint directly or through the Public Service Commission.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,56,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 7—STAMPS

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,96,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Stamps'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,96,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Stamps'."

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Demand No. 4 under the head "Salt" has not been brought in here. That was placed before the Standing Finance Committee.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: He is talking about a head with regard to which there is no supplementary demand.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I want some information on this point.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go into that. It is not before the House.

The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,96,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Stamps'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 9—IRRIGATION, NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,48,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,48,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: While going through the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee I see that many items were passed by the Committee under Head-C, Works 67, and many others which have not been brought up for approval before this House. They are somewhat related to this item, for example in Demand No. 67.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): But they are not brought up before the House.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The money may be found by re-appropriation or in some other way.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,48,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 10—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,85,90,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,85,90,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department'."

There is an amendment in the name of Mr. Chettiar and another in the name of Mr. Deshmukh.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I do not move the amendment but I want to raise a few questions. Out of the supplementary demand moved now, about Rs. 55,23,000 is due to the grant of dearness allowance. They have fixed certain grades for amounts above Rs. 40 and below Rs. 40; amounts reaching up to Rs. 1,000 for married officers and Rs. 750 for unmarried officers. I am not bothered about the grant of allowances to the higher grades but while pointing out that the increment in the lower grades is rather poor, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the distinction they have made between three classes of areas, A, B, and C. From the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee I find that the divisions have been made on this basis:

Area A—Bombay, Calcutta and the suburbs.

[Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar]

Area B—Suburbs of Bombay and Calcutta, etc. and towns like Ahmedabad, Agra, etc.

Area C—Localities not specified in A and B.

On what rational grounds they have made these divisions I do not know and I am not able to see. But I am able to see that there is no rational basis for these divisions. Knowing Coimbatore as I do, the standard of life in Coimbatore and the price of things there are much more than in Madras, but I find that Coimbatore has been segregated to Class C. I say that this division of areas is, on no rational ground. I would suggest to them to find some rational basis for the division of these areas, at least on a population basis or some other way that we can understand.

Now I would like to make a few representations about the lot of those very poor and ill-paid public servants who are called extra-departmental officers of this Department. I refer to the Rural Postmasters. Living in rural parts as I do and knowing some of them, I know that they are paid very badly indeed. They are paid Rs. 6.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): They are not covered by this?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Oh, yes.

They are paid Rs. 6 and then there are instances in which they are even paid Rs. 5. The Postal Department have become worse than the bania. In reply to a supplementary question over this matter the Honourable Member said that people are available for Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 and why should they pay more. When Mr. Joshi got up and asked whether it was not exploitation, the Honourable Member tried to correct himself and said that they were issuing a circular to the effect that nobody shall be paid less than Rs. 6. I say this amount is very low indeed. I know the argument on the other side. They say that these people have other jobs also and that postal work is not their sole work. Even taking that into consideration this pay of Rs. 6 is very low indeed. They are being given now an allowance of Rs. 3 and putting that together with Rs. 6, it is a very poor sum indeed.

I would refer to another matter in this connection. Under the rules the payment of rural postmasters is to be regulated by the amount of business that passes through their post offices but in many post offices I know even when it is found that the business transacted is much more than usual, the increment is not given. I would request the Secretary for Posts and Air to go into this matter at least so far as my Province is concerned (I believe it is the same so far as other Provinces also are concerned) and see how many post offices.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is suggesting an increase in the demand.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: . . . and see in how many post offices they are paid much less. I would ask the Honourable Member to go into this matter and do justice to these very poorly paid class of postal employees.

(At this stage, both Mr. Nauman and Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar stood up.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot have a general discussion on this question. He cannot enhance the demand.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I support the demand and only press on the Honourable Member that he should come with a bigger demand in the matter of dearness allowance; so that there would have been no complaints like the ones which are being made against the department. That is the submission which I want to make on this motion.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I shall confine myself completely to the motion. I have been a lawyer for 25 years and I know what is relevancy.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This matter has been fully discussed.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I shall tread a new track altogether.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I know the Honourable Member is ingenious.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I want to say just a few words on one matter. A provision has been made for the supply of foodstuffs to the servants in the Postal Department. I would like to know in what places have such shops been opened. So far as I am aware a similar shop has not been opened at Madras in spite of repeated complaints and though it has been represented to the authorities that the prices there have gone up higher than in the city of Delhi, there seems to be a partiality for the servants who are working in Delhi. I am not asking the Department to deny that facility but you must consider the needs of the servants of the Postal Department at various places from time to time. Madras is in a corner of India, it is almost the tail end. Practically it is a sort of discrimination. So far as dearness allowance is concerned and even so far as opening of grain shops is concerned I would like to know whether a difference has been made in this matter.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor (Secretary, Posts and Air Department): Sir, as regards Mr. Chettiar's first question, the three areas have been classified more or less on the basis of population but in some cases certain towns are well known to be more expensive, in spite of the fact that their population may not be so high. It may be that certain areas have become more expensive even though the population is small because of the location of large military establishments in their vicinity. A. Class stations are now Bombay, Calcutta and Ahmedabad. B. Class consists of a large number of towns and from time to time we review particular places in order to see whether their expensiveness has increased and if so, we upgrade them. We think, however, that the removal of the distinction between different areas would not be proper and it would be wrong to assume that the increase in the cost of living has been uniform throughout India.

I entirely share the sympathy which Mr. Chettiar has expressed with regard to the extra-departmental branch postmasters but I am afraid that he is not aware of the exact position of these extra-departmental branch postmasters. Recently in connection with a request made by one of the Members of the Assembly I collected figures to show what was the profession of the various extra-departmental branch postmasters. I have here figures to show that out of a total of roughly 20,000 extra-departmental branch postmasters over 10,000 are either school masters, pensioners of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, pensioners of other Government departments or of the Railway, village officials and Indian State officials. It must be noted that every one of these is drawing a monthly salary or pension and in addition he is doing the post office work with the permission of his original employer, because the original employer is satisfied that the amount of post office work he does will not interfere with the proper discharge of the duty for the original employer. There are in addition something like 6,000 cultivators and petty land-holders, about 1,600 traders and shop-keepers and about 1,350 unclassified persons. If these people are to be treated in the same way as salaried officers whose whole-time is at the disposal of the Government, then there will be no point in having these extra-departmental men at all.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Treat them as you please but give them more.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: We have now sanctioned for all these people a dearness allowance. You may say that it is a small allowance but these people are sometimes drawing a dearness allowance from their own employers. Some of them draw the dearness allowance from their school employers—e.g. the local boards give a dearness allowance. The railways give a dearness allowance. If the E. D. A. is a retired Government servant he gets a dearness allowance as such. I do not think these people are so badly off. At the same

[Sir Gurumath Bewoor.]

time, I entirely agree with Mr. Chettiar that the Department should observe the standards which it itself has laid down. There are standards laid down for deciding and fixing exactly how the allowances of the extra-departmental branch postmasters should be increased, as their total work increases. I would like to inform the Honourable Member that recently the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs has issued definite orders to all heads of Circles requiring them first of all to raise the salary to the minimum laid down in the rules and, secondly, to review the work done by the extra-departmental branch post offices and to raise the allowance wherever justified. In connection with the recent savings drive I am given to understand that there has been considerable increase in the amount of work done in regard to issue of cash certificates, and National Savings Certificates and in connection with National Savings Bank accounts in the village post offices, and I have no doubt that these people will get some extra remuneration.

I am grateful to Mr. Nauman for the sympathy which he has expressed for the employees of the Postal Department. What he wants is that we should spend more on dearness allowances. I may assure him that the question is at present under consideration. We had a Committee recently appointed, and the report of the Committee has been received about three or four days ago and is now under examination. I hope Government will be in a position to issue orders in the near future. Even if there is some delay, we will see that the staff will not suffer because of the delay. These orders will be made with retrospective effect, if possible.

As regards shops, Mr. Ayyangar wanted to know where they have been opened. They have been opened at present in the whole of Bengal and Assam Provinces, in certain areas such as Delhi and Simla, and in Bombay. We are finding great difficulty in organising these shops. The Postal Department has not got the necessary staff, and it is not easy to engage new staff. Legitimate post office work has increased enormously, and we find it difficult to get the necessary number of officers and the clerical staff to undertake what is in fact a new job. It is the job of a bania.

An Honourable Member: How is it Railways have opened such shops all over?

Sir Gurumath Bewoor: Railways are in a different position. Railway employees are living along a particular route, and Railways have their own transport. On the other hand Post Offices are scattered all over the country. We cannot have shops in small places. In view of the practical difficulties we have encountered in the way of opening shops we hope we may be able to make it up in other ways, namely, by a larger cash allowance. The whole matter is under consideration, and I hope we shall arrive at a satisfactory solution fairly soon.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,85,90,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 14—LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 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 on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 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 on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLY: GRANTS FOR 1944-45

DEMAND NO. 15—HOME DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,29,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Home Department'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,29,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Home Department'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Just a question. This money has been spent for the extension of the security scheme in New Delhi. What is the security scheme, Sir?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): This is for the receptionists and the Home Department Police in the North Block.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the total cost of the scheme?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I do not know.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,29,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Home Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 16—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,72,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,72,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: There is an amendment motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You cannot move that.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I point out that in the memorandum submitted by Government explaining this excess what they say is this:

"On the other hand, efforts to secure larger supplies of paper from abroad have not so far met with success. Under these circumstances the need for enforcing stringent measures for economy in the use of paper and its equitable distribution has become all the more important. With these ends in view two Control Orders, namely, the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, and the Paper Control (Distribution) Order, 1944, have been issued. For enforcing effectively the provisions of these two Orders and for exercising control over the prices of paper which it is proposed to extend to all varieties, both indigenous and imported, a central organisation has recently been set up at Calcutta under a Paper Controller with one Joint Paper Controller, one Dy. Paper Controller, and 2 Assistant Paper Controllers, and a ministerial staff of 55 to assist him."

This extra expenditure refers to this expense. The Honourable Member knows that the money has been spent actually for appointing Control officers.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There can be no question of censuring Government generally.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: If you read the cut motion you will see it is for censuring Government for misuse of Paper Control Order.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then throw it out.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Motions have been allowed in the past on such things. May I point out that the Paper Control Order has been grossly abused in many cases. If my figures are correct—I am subject to correction—after the issue of these control orders about 20 newspapers have been allowed to be published.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): On a point of order. Newsprint is quite different from Paper Control Order, which has reference to the Controller in charge of ordinary civilian paper supplies.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member wishes to speak, he can do so after lunch hour.

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, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (one of the Panel of Chairmen) in the Chair.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, the Member for Civil Supplies was pointing out that the Paper Controller referred to here does not control newsprint. While agreeing to that, may I point out to him that there is another item in this demand which refers to newsprint—item D on page 8 of this book,—which refers to Controller of Newsprint.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My objection was against the amendment as it was put.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Thank you: the amendment has not been moved; but the matter that we want to place before the House is this: that this control of newsprint has been used or abused in various ways. As far as I know, after these controls have been brought into existence, some twenty newspapers have been given permission to publish: the *Vanguard* has been given permission to publish—that is the paper of Mr. M. N. Roy, if I remember aright. (An Honourable Member: "Quite right.") There are many other papers, the names of which I need not mention here, that have been allowed to publish, but they have taken refuge under this order for refusing permission for two national papers. I refer to the *National Herald* of Lucknow and to the *Forward* of Calcutta. The *National Herald* was a paper published before 1942. In 1942, they themselves suspended publication and not for any mistake which the Government of India found against them; and when they wanted to restart the publication of that paper the Government refused. The Government did not give any reasons for their refusal; but we state here that the reasons for refusing permission to publish the *National Herald* are political. In this matter I ask the Honourable Member a question, and I shall be glad if he can give me a categorical answer. Were these refusals made only from the point of view of the distribution of newsprint, or was the advice of the Home Department taken in this matter? May I know whether the opinion of the United Provinces Government and of the Bengal Government was taken in this matter, and whether the opinions which they gave were given on political grounds or from the point of view of economy of newsprint? At question time he answered that as far as some of the papers were concerned, the opinions of the Local Governments were taken into consideration. I maintain that means that they took the advice of the Provincial Governments on political grounds; and when refusal is made on that ground, it is mainly on political grounds. I say it is an abuse of the powers of the Government under this Paper Control Order to refuse permission for the restarting of papers on political grounds. I can understand it if it is for want of supply of newsprint: I can understand it if the supply of newsprint does not warrant the restarting of a newspaper. But if the refusal is on grounds of politics, I say it is an abuse; and I would like the Honourable Member to give me a categorical answer whether these newspapers have been refused permission mainly on the advice of the Provincial Governments on political grounds. I do not want him to take shelter under the plea that "we do not know the reason why the Provincial Government did not advise us to give permission for the restarting of these papers." The Provincial Governments themselves have based their decisions on political grounds; and so, while twenty newspapers, many of whom are supporting the Government, have been given permission, if some of these newspapers which had an aggressively nationalist point of view are refused, there is no reason that we can see other than this. My Honourable friend Mr. Abdul Qaiyum tells me that new newspapers have appeared in his province. So have they in Madras and so have they in Calcutta. I would therefore suggest to the Honourable Member that this Paper Control Order should not be misused. I see there are whisperings going on between the two Honourable Members. (An Honourable Member:

"On a point of information only!") I know he has got such a lot of information—the whole of it from the wrong point of view. He knows how to repress people; he knows how to invent clever grounds where no grounds exist. I hope the Member for Civil Supplies will not allow himself to be influenced by anybody and make misleading statements here, in this House, that political grounds have not been taken into consideration in deciding these matters. I shall be glad to have a reply from the Honourable Member over this point.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I want to oppose this. . . . I am a reasonable man. I do not want to broadcast.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I have given notice of an amendment, a cut motion, and before the House rose for lunch I was called upon to move my cut motion.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): Why did not the Honourable Member stand in his seat earlier, when the sitting was resumed? Why did he not?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I did get up but I did not catch the eye of the Chair.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The Honourable Member ought to have made himself more audible.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: It is not my fault, Sir. I stood up.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The Honourable Member may now move his cut motion and then the debate can be resumed.

New Organization Scheme

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,72,000 in respect of 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies' be reduced by Rs. 100."

There are several schemes—one is paper control, the second is drugs control and the third is expansion of the distribution scheme. For all these three schemes a sum of Rs. 7,72,000 has been asked for.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): What number is this?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Page 8 of the book of supplementary demands—the footnote there which says:

"Mainly due to the expansion of the activities of the Department during the year which resulted in (i) the augmentation of the staff both in the Secretariat and in the subordinate offices, particularly in the office of the Controller General of Civil Supplies where a new organisation for the distribution of consumer goods has been set up, and (ii) the creation of the new offices of the Paper Controller and the Drugs Controller."

These three schemes are going to be provided for through this supplementary demand. I will confine myself to the expansion of the distribution scheme. So far as this distribution scheme is concerned, it is a very noble object no doubt; but it requires proper control and supervision and the recruitment of proper people. I find that in reply to a question of mine the Honourable Member in November last said that several retired persons were appointed in this Civil Supplies Department over the heads of qualified graduates. This kind of things should not happen. Moreover, retired people, sometimes Sub-Inspectors of Police, are put over the heads of qualified graduates. This kind of thing creates resentment in the minds of highly qualified people who come from respectable families. Retired people whose energies are already exhausted should not be employed.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The Honourable Member is discussing the policy. It cannot be discussed in connection with a cut motion.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: This is a new demand. It is an entirely new thing. I cannot help I am giving a suggestion. I am confining myself to giving suggestions, because this affects the general public; I save the consuming public. I submit that the right type of men should be employed and persons of inferior type and qualification should not be put over the head of qualified people and in this way the department can work well. This department requires proper control and supervision of the higher officers. These are the things which I want to bring to the notice of the Department, Sir, and I also urge the claims of Muslims in appointments.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang). Cut motion moved:
 "That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,72,000 in respect of 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Sir, I want to oppose the whole demand. I am a most reasonable man. I do not beat my drums nor do I broadcast my doings. It is only necessity that drives me to opposition. I approached the Honourable Member with a request for restarting my paper which is locked up. He promised that he would look into it. Now an order from Simla comes from the Newspaper Control Branch which is more of a tyrant than the Home Member. The Home Member was reasonable with me. He told me to speak to Sir Azizul Huque. I went to him. Now one of the Assistant Secretaries of his department writes to me in reply. I addressed the letter to him and he should have had the courtesy to reply to me. He is my colleague and I protest against this action of his.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: On a point of order. I have not yet replied to him. Will you tell me the date of that letter?

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: It is dated Simla, the 20th March.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Let my friend remember the date on which he gave me his letter. It was the 17th or 18th, a week back. I got the letter on the 18th. This letter has come in its usual course from Simla, without my letter being yet considered. I have not yet considered the matter. His letter is still awaiting consideration.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: The Honourable Member promised to look into the file. This letter came directly from Simla. It says:

"With reference to your letter addressed to the Honourable Member in charge of the department, I am directed to say that the Government of India have very carefully considered the request for the revival of the publication of the *Shakti* weekly of Almora but regret they are unable to accede to it."

I addressed the letter to him and he ought to have had the courtesy to reply to me. When Indians drawing high salary and holding high position try to boss over us, the position becomes intolerable. If Europeans do that, we can understand them. There is a motive behind it of subjugating the Indians. He ought to have told me 'Yes' or 'No'. The Home Member told me it is the concern of Sir Azizul Huque. The same is the case with *Azadi* and the *National Herald* for which I lodged protests. The *Shakti* is a Congress paper run since 1918. I happened to be the Managing Director. I was arrested at 12 o'clock in the night. The Editor was arrested at midnight. The Assistant Editor was arrested at 1½ o'clock. All the three were lodged in the same jail. The Press could not go on. There was no ban on the paper. There was nobody to look after it hence it could not go on and now on the release of the Editor I applied for paper ration, this reply comes. It is really tyrannical. I hear a paper called *Liberator* has been started and it is connected with some Honourable Member whom I shall not name. Dr. Krishnaswami (A voice: "Son of Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar") has started it and paper is distributed to Honourable Members' sons, friends, relatives, cousins and other 'yes' men and here we are denied even the courtesy of a reply from the Honourable Member who happens to be an Indian. The British Empire would not fall down if my request had been conceded. What for is this Press Advisory Committee attached to the Government of India, if it is not consulted on a matter like this? The Press Censor is already there. The Press Act is already there. If any Editor commits mischief he can be hauled up. I ask why paper is given to the friends and relatives of Honourable Members of the Council and not to others. So, I oppose this motion.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I am learning quite a number of lessons in life, lessons which cannot be easily forgotten. But I cannot accept easily the charge that I have been discourteous to a Member of this House. The facts are that about a week back my friend told me—I do not remember the exact date—or rather handed to me a slip . . .

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: My letter is dated the 19th February 1945.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am referring to the note which you gave me. You gave it to me only a week back.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: It was about the Gita Press.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: A note was handed to me by my friend. My friend does not know that all our offices are not located at Delhi. I sent a note down to the office to find out what the file is about and I have not yet got the file. In the meantime, if he has got other things about which he has got a reply, surely that cannot be the basis of a reply to me. Then, again, I hope my Honourable friends will realise the extraordinary pressure under which some of the Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches have to work. I am not going to make a boast about it, but believe me when I say that I have been working on the Insurance Bill from morning till ten o'clock and later into midnight. I have been constantly busy discussing the various questions with Honourable Members, in the midst of attending the Assembly and doing other work. If for the matter of that an individual chit comes from a Member in the midst of my work, I have also to attend to it. My Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa gave me a slip ten or fifteen days ago, which I have not yet been able to attend to.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I never gave you the slip.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I got the letter about 15 days back. As soon as I get a reply, I shall show him. I have got quite a number of requests coming from Honourable Members of the Assembly, on the question of paper, newspaper, raw films or something of that nature. I have to consider each case. Many Honourable Members have brought in their requests, it is very natural that they should speak about individual cases. My Honourable friend Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan spoke the other day about certain woollen control; immediately I called for papers, the file is there and I will personally look into it, as I promised. Surely, it is physically impossible for any man to act on the time table of my Honourable friend who, on the ground that he has an individual grievance and belonging to the Opposition, thinks that the whole Budget should be thrown out because he has not been able to get the remedy according to his time table and at the moment.

Sir, as regards the question which my Honourable friend raised, namely about the political use of newsprint control order, my Honourable friend will remember that the principles under which the newsprint control order came into being were laid down long before I accepted office. It was an institution which was functioning from a long time before and the principles which were enunciated are still functioning. Those principles are that whenever there is an application from any person, it is the Provincial Government which is consulted and their views are always taken into consideration.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Are these principles immutable laws of nature that they cannot be modified?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If my Honourable friend had not interrupted me, I was going to say that they were not immutable laws. But as I say, having done that, I cannot possibly look into the whole question as to the nature of the paper, the desirability of the paper and so on, unless I get local information in this matter. Probably this question of the *National Herald* is pending for over a year.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The decision was arrived at after the Honourable Member came to office.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, just before I came.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are you reversing it?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Then, again, I might say if it is simply a question of political consideration, we would never have given permission to a large number of papers. My Honourable friends will remember that in Delhi there was an Urdu paper belonging to the Congress. There also permission was given. You might remember last year there were a number of questions that the man was in jail and the man was suffering. There were a number of difficulties, but we gave permission. Then, we gave permission, as

[Sir M. Azizul Huque.]

I said, the other day to a number of other papers which are attached to the Congress.

An Honourable Member: How do you know they belonged to the Congress?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: They have been at least in favour of working on the same lines as the Congress organisation. For myself, I do not know whether a paper belongs to this community or that community, or this group or that group. It does not come to me in that shape, it comes to me in the shape of newsprint position and provincial opinion thereon, all these I have to consider.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal: Landholders): What is the Provincial Government's opinion about *Forward*?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: About the paper *Forward*, I hope my Honourable friend will not ask me further questions, because there are certain investigations pending about the same gentleman who got permission to publish another paper and also wanted to publish the *Forward*. Certain investigations are going on about the misuse of newsprint and until a decision is arrived at, it is difficult to proceed one way or the other. For instance, I have got a list of papers like *Dinashari*, the *Hindustan Weekly*, Lucknow; the *Hindustan Times*, Evening edition

An Honourable Member: The *Hindustan Times* is owned by Mr. Birla.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If I have to investigate whether a paper belongs to the Congress and if I have to find out the bank accounts of a certain gentleman who owns a paper and so on, then, I do not think I can do any work. As I was saying, there is the press like the *Hindustan Weekly*, Lucknow; the *Hindustan Times* Evening edition, the daily *Dinashari* of Madras—I can give quite a long number of lists. In the same way, there was no paper, for example in Calcutta, of some groups like the Hindu Mahasabha and we have to take into consideration all political parties. Unfortunately at a time when things are most restricted, there is the greatest demand for those things. For instance, if the production of film in normal times was 100, today it is 500. If normally the production of newspapers, as, say 200 in a Province, just now there is a demand for about 300 or 400. My difficulty is that I cannot give to all of them at the present time. After all, I shall be the most happy man if I can comply with the requests of all, and if I can take away those controls. No, we have to pass through the most difficult times. For instance, take the Universities, quite a number of them were not able to get papers from the ordinary market for printing their question papers and I had to make special arrangements to give them a quota from the Government allotment in order to tide over the difficulties. Does my Honourable friend know that text-books were practically out of print? Does my Honourable friend know that distinguished scholars could not get their books printed in India?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What does the Honourable Member want? We do not say that paper is not scarce.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I was only referring to the circumstances under which the paper control had to be brought into force.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: All these are admitted facts.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am glad at least that something is admitted. We are now gradually trying to give greater supply to those who have come under restrictions.

As regards newsprint, we began with a restricted quota, and as soon as the paper position improved, we are giving more to the older papers and partly to such concerns as might come in. After all, they can say, look here, you restrict my quota of paper and therefore you have no right to give permission to a new man. But we know and we feel if we shut out the publication of a new concern, it will not be in the best interests of the country. Therefore we are gradually increasing the quota to newspapers which are already receiving and also trying to help a few more really good and new concerns.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Eliminate politics and Provincial Governments.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My Honourable friend asks me how provincial opinion is got. Frankly I do not know, because I have no right to enquire into as to whether their opinion reflects political views or not.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): What are the points that are touched in the opinion which is offered by the Provincial Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have seen in one particular case a paper was wanted for a particular organisation and the Provincial Government said, look here, the same organisation has at least about a number of papers in the province, and therefore, as against an additional one, there is also a demand from such and such an organization in such and such a town of another party and it is only desirable that that party should get first instead of that other party.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: In other words, party refers to political party.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, party refers to all interests in the country, for example in the matter of trade, industry and commerce, in the matter of special interests of the country, we have tried to be fair as much as possible and when giving quota, wherever we can we gave to new interests which are coming into being. After all war is the time for creating new incentive, new aspiration, new ideal in the country and it is our duty to help them by giving some place where they can put their own views and ideas. It is from that point of view that we are doing. After all as I say, I do not know how the political opinion of the provinces is guided. I do not think it is fair for me to ask them.

Then again I know that in one area we have asked for their figures quite a few months ago but we do not get them, for example, sometimes
3 P.M. in two or three months. We have got to wait for all that because they have to consider it from various points of view. In one particular province I was anxious that a particular paper should be given permission. I had a talk with the provincial authorities and they told me that I would be making their position in the province intolerable if permission was given, if it went abroad that it was done with the sanction of the Provincial Government, because there were four other parties who were interested in the starting of new journals. So they said that if I could give it to all the parties I could do it by all means; but they could not give it to just this one party. Even though I was anxious to give it to that paper I felt that it was a point of view which did merit consideration.

With reference to what was said by my Honourable friend Maulvi Abdul Ghani, I could not exactly catch what he meant. If he meant that it is a communal percentage I can assure him that in the department, and specially in the new departments, I am keeping a very watchful eye on the percentage of Muslims. But there are sometimes difficulties. My Honourable friend says that there the cases where non-graduates have been placed over graduates. I think many of us would not have been in our places if the highest educational qualifications had been the standard. Most of us would probably have to leave our places in favour of others who have done better in the university examinations. It happens sometimes like this. We had to select twenty inspectors; we had to select a certain number of persons. We cannot just bring in a mob and say that these twenty will do. They have to do responsible duties; they are placed in charge in places where they can upset the whole of our control orders, and we have got to be very careful. If there is case in which a graduate is an assistant inspector and a non-graduate is an inspector, I think that is due to the fact that that man is more capable than the other. In any case I do not think there is any instance of a Deputy Controller General who, in keeping due regard to the communal proportion, would give preference to an undergraduate simply because he is an undergraduate and another is a graduate. That is not the consideration.

Again our difficulty has been to get experienced staff. Take for instance court cases. My Honourable friend hands over to me a young graduate, and I

[Sir M. Azizul Huque.]

have in the enforcement section to see that these court cases reach the magistrate and from the magistrate they are properly taken care of. Surely it will take six months to train that gentleman; instead of that if you find a retired Government officer, in the police line or the judicial line or the magisterial line, he will certainly be better qualified for that important work. What I can say is that these control orders cannot be places for giving training to young people, except a very few at the bottom. A control order cannot be a subject of experiments for training a certain number of people and promoting them later on. If that is so the very control order will fail. That is why we have to specially select them, and I take credit in the fact that on the whole our selection has stood a fair test. As I said the other day, we had to ask a man to leave the department, not because we found anything in substance against him but because people were talking about him; and we thought that a man like that should not be in the department. And if my Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa will give me the name of that fat gentleman, I will start an immediate inquiry about him.

Sir, I feel I have nothing more to say on these points.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Sir, I had no intention of intervening in this debate, but I think I will take a few minutes of the House in explaining the grievances of the public against this particular department.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, does that arise?

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The Honourable Member is not in order in putting forward grievances on a supplementary demand.

Sardar Sant Singh: Very well, Sir, I will not talk of grievances then.

Sir, I am glad that my Honourable friend Sir Azizul Huque has denied the charge of discourtesy against the Members of this House. I can bear personal testimony to the fact that he is very courteous whenever Members ask him to investigate into some matter. But the point that requires looking into, is that what has happened to my Honourable friend Mr. Pande also happened to my Honourable friend Sir Yamin Khan. The Honourable Members do not seem to know what their department writes in reply to letters of the Members of this House—I think he should issue instructions to the different heads of departments that in these cases where letters are addressed to the Honourable Member no reply should be sent without bringing it to his notice.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That would be redundant; that is always the instruction.

Sardar Sant Singh: That I think it is followed more in its breach than in the observance.

Then, Sir, the position is that there is newsprint order. There are various consumers belonging to various communities that come to ask for quota for their requirements. The department has arbitrarily fixed a year and demand the consumption of paper in that year. Now it does happen in many cases that in a particular year newsprint was not consumed by the applicant—I have at this moment a particular instance in mind which I will ask the department to go into, and that is the printing of the Holy Granth of the Sikhs, the bigger edition. This bigger edition is printed sometimes once in a couple of years, sometimes once in three years, because it is a very big volume. For printing the Holy Granth—a special class of paper is required. One cannot know when the edition of one thousand or two thousand that is generally published will be exhausted. The department now asks for the consumption of paper for this purpose in the year 1943. The fact is that the Granth Sahib was printed last in December 1942. The Department, therefore is hesitating to grant the quota. That is not the way to fix an arbitrary year without reference to the class of the book, without reference to the class of the publication, and to base their quota on any particular year. In this particular case the demand is that the Holy Granth was printed in December 1942. The order fixed by the depart-

ment is from January 1943 to December 1943. There is difference of a few days, and yet the Department declines to allot the quota unless consumers give the consumption of the paper during 1942. That is impossible. I hope the department does not like wrong and incorrect data to be given for the purpose. Therefore the department should look into each case on its merits and then decide whether paper is necessary or not. They should not stand upon formalities. This department has been created due to the exigencies of the war. It is an extraordinary procedure to control articles of consumption, it is an extraordinary procedure to ask people to take licenses, it is an extraordinary procedure to ask people to come to them for a quota of paper. Should the exigency of the war require it the country can tolerate it. But it should be worked more sympathetically than any other department. It is then and then alone that the department can succeed in impressing its importance and its need upon the mind of the consumer. Therefore I request the Honourable Member to approach all these questions from a different angle and see that being an extraordinary department the whole question is treated not from an arbitrary point of view but from a sympathetic point of view.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I beg leave of the House to withdraw the cut motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,72,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Industries and Civil Supplies'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 17.—DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,50,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Information and Broadcasting'."

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,50,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Information and Broadcasting'."

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, this Department makes appointments piecemeal and certain interests always suffer.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The Honourable Member is not in order in talking of grievances.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I am opposing the Demand, Sir.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): You can oppose the Demand but don't talk of grievances.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: My reason for opposing the demand is that Biharis do not get a fair treatment in the matter of appointments. Though the Honourable Member in charge of this Department is a Bihari himself, he fights shy of taking up the cases of Biharis; he is afraid lest he be accused of partiality. The same is the case with my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, who happens to be a Bihari Civilian, but if you look at his Department, you will find that the proportion of Biharis in Departments under him is almost zero. Therefore, I thought it proper to raise my voice so that he may consider the claims of Biharis, and particularly of Muslims.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, I had a cut motion with regard to this Demand.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The Honourable Member is not moving his cut motion.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I am not. When the whole demand for this Department has once been rejected, I think that it will not make much difference if this supplementary demand is reduced by Rs. 100.

There are two items of expenditure which are covered by this supplementary demand: the research scheme, and the American Publicity Scheme. May I tell my Honourable friend that this matter of American publicity has proved

[Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar.]

such a scandal and it has become so nauseating—the establishment of American Publicity Branch is really a matter which has come before this House many times during the question hour and otherwise—that it is high time they mend matters.

The Honourable Member mentioned the other day with some sort of excitement when something was said against his broadcasting, that Lord Reilly came to him running and congratulated him on the excellence of the broadcasting station. He congratulated him for what? For the way in which the buildings are erected and the way in which the engineering section is working, not for the way in which the department is working. The congratulation must go to the engineers—the radio engineers concerned and the engineers of other departments concerned. He has done nothing to be congratulated for. If he had been congratulated for the way in which his Broadcasting Department is working then it would have been proper for him to come before this House and congratulate himself and quote Lord Reilly. I would suggest to him—I hope he won't wait for another censure motion and another defeat—to really mend matters and see that this department is not made to do false propaganda against this country. It is a department of the Government of India but if it is to do any propaganda, let it be to enhance the prestige of the people of this country and not to propagate all the differences that exist in this country.

Before I close, I would like to refer to one thing to which my Honourable friend Sir Azizul Huque referred. He said, if qualifications are the consideration many of us won't be here. I was reminded of a story in Madras. One applicant for a job went to—I don't want to name any person—a high-placed Government servant who asked him 'What is your qualification'. The applicant replied, 'Sir, I have no qualification'. The reply was, 'Then you are eligible only for the Viceroy's or Governor's Executive Councillorship. That is the only job which does not ask for any qualification'. For getting any job in any Government office, you must have some qualifications—you must be at least a Matric, you must know good English and so on—but this is the only job which does not require any qualifications. And I was surprised when he said that people with lower qualifications were placed above in his department. Sir, I hope such things won't occur again. Coming to the Honourable Member for Broadcasting, he will really make an attempt to see that we have less of this American publicity.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Member for Information and Broadcasting): I will not take more than a minute. This question has been discussed on the floor of this House twice during this Session and all that could be said by the Honourable Members has been said and all that I could say has been said. There is nothing new that I have heard today and there is nothing new that I can give.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): All that you can do has not been done.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: That is another matter, because all that you want can be done only when we go out. As long as we are here, we put our hands on our conscience and do all that we can. All that I can say is, we try our best.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Do a graceful thing before going.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,50,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Information and Broadcasting'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 19—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Education, Health and Lands'."

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the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Education, Health and Lands'."

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Education, Health and Lands'."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I am glad that Government have at least decided to place some more money at the disposal of this All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, but when we come to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Institute, I don't feel quite satisfied. There must be something wrong with the working of this Institute, because although it was established to satisfy the three purposes:—firstly, to carry on fundamental research in agriculture; secondly, to help in co-ordinating researches of agricultural science throughout the country; and, thirdly, to impart post-graduate training in the different agricultural sciences—, so far as my information goes it has done precious little so far in the way of co-ordinating researches of agricultural science throughout the country.

Secondly

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): If my friend is going to refer to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, the proper place is under Demand No. 47.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: All right, Sir. I will wait a little.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Education, Health and Lands'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 20—DEPARTMENT OF COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 78,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Commonwealth Relations'."

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 78,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Commonwealth Relations'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 21—FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,65,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Finance Department'."

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,65,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Finance Department'."

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I am moving the second cut motion in my name against this demand. Sir, I move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,65,000 in respect of 'Finance Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The purpose of this cut motion is to ventilate the grievances of the public in the matter of the hardships being caused to them in connection with the National Savings Certificates.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The Honourable Member is not in order in placing a cut motion to ventilate grievances. That is not allowed.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I am just going to refer the authority for which the money.

[Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty.]

has been added in the course of the year, and it requires a supplementary grant. With regard to import and distribution of Egyptian and Sudanese cotton, it seems to me that this business could be managed with the existing staff without any further addition. I am sure the Honourable the Finance Member would not be in a position to examine these matters in detail, and it should be placed before the Standing Committee of the Commerce Department. If this expenditure is not scrutinised even in the earlier stages, then it would be difficult for the Retirement Committee to do anything later.

The Honourable the Finance Member waxed eloquent over the question of National Savings and the desirability of non-officials exhorting people to put their money in the National Savings. I suppose the same exhortation applies to the Departments of Government itself. They seem to waste too much money. I make the exhortation to the Departments of Government to save money and put it in the National Savings.

I do not know if it would be the Finance Member or the Commerce Member who will explain how many officers have got to be appointed, but for the mere purpose of import and distribution of Egyptian and Sudanese cotton, I do not think it would require so much staff for that purpose—or that as much as 25 per cent. of the original demand should now form the amount of the supplementary demand.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I have bitter experience of the Muslim position in matters of appointments in the Commerce Department. Out of 188 appointments only 19 are Muslims.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): I take it that the Honourable Member is not moving the cut motion.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: No. I am opposing the demand. Out of 188, only 19 are Muslims—the percentage works out to 10.16 per cent.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): I am afraid the Honourable Member is treading on forbidden ground.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I thought it proper to draw the attention of the Honourable Member for Commerce to see that Muslims should get the right proportion in such appointments. When these appointments are made, the Muslims are usually the worst sufferers.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Just a word, Sir. As far as we understood during question hour, there were only four people who were supplied with capital goods in this country. He will correct me if I am wrong. Only four items of capital goods were imported into this country by his department and distributed to the industrialists of this country. If that is so, why do you want so much of more staff? After all the imports have been very little—I do not know whether he expects that the imports will be much greater in the years to come. Secondly, there is the introduction of price control on export of textiles. I hope you have seen the cartoon in the *Hindustan Times*—he was complaining that the paper did not care for him—it cared very much for him that day!

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I always try and look at the cartoon of others.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: He figured very prominently in that cartoon where he was himself dressed in leaves and there were a whole lot of people behind—naked men and women looking on, and he was making a present of a big parcel of clothes to a man with Turkey cap—I think it was an Egyptian, who was already having a lot of clothes on and was bent down on receiving these things. What I mean is, when people are going without clothes here, the Commerce Department has thought it fit to export large amounts of cloth to Egypt and other places; and what I find is that these exports are under price control.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque. On a point of order: I think the Commerce Department cannot be responsible for the export: it is the Industries Department which ought to be responsible.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Very well; what I say is that the price control on exports of textiles is in his department—it is in the foot note.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Not in the Commerce Department.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: He has forgotten for which department he is speaking now. I ask what is the *quid pro quo* from the other side that he is receiving for sending out these textiles at controlled rates. Another point which I raise—and which I hope to raise in another place also—is this. This purchase of Sudanese cotton and South African cotton is for an industry: it is in the nature of a commercial undertaking. If it is in the nature of a commercial undertaking, why should you not debit the expenses connected with this purchase to the expenses of the commercial undertaking and recover it from the industries? That is more proper than to debit it to revenue and to the general taxpayer.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I am afraid my friend is under a misapprehension; and much mischief is done by confusing the fact that I hold both the portfolios of Commerce and Industry. I hope my friends will realise that the Industries Member is responsible for the export, not the Commerce Member. His duty is merely to regulate the export and regulate the import; and if these people are anxious to import or export, it is his duty to distribute it rationally either among the industries or among the concerns. Technically, therefore I am not free to reply to this point, but I will try to reply.

My friend gave a very graphic description of a cartoon. That is our trouble in this country. There would be many more naked people in this country if I am not to get Egyptian and African cotton. Let me tell you that. I would emphasise that the industries in Ahmedabad and Bombay, where my friends draw so much from, will go away if African cotton is not supplied. (Interruption.) I am not sending cloth to Egypt only. Why does Egypt come so much into the picture? All the cloth does not go to Egypt.

An Honourable Member: To what countries do you send it then?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: All the Middle East countries—Palestine, Iraq, Iran, Egypt, and the East African countries. During the food crisis of last year, I gave also an explanation that things had to be sent to Saudi Arabia. As I said, it is a very small quantity of our total production which is sent to these countries. Let me say again that this quota was fixed at a time when the cloth situation was not what it is today. Let my friends remember that so far as export is concerned the cloth control was imposed and settled six months before. The time has now come for us to consider what should be done for the future; and if in the future I do not try to reduce the quota, then my friends can complain. But my difficulty is that I am criticised today for a thing which took place some six months before just as the Muslim rule in India is criticised considering the standard of 1945! They do not look at the age in which the Muslims ruled in this country; they want to bring in those standards which are ruling today with all their implications. That is my difficulty today. These export and import quotas are settled six and eight months and sometimes one year beforehand. Surely one year before I did not do very much wrong if out of 4,800 million yards we allowed only 600 million yards to be exported, knowing full well.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: That is one-eighth: is one-eighth a small amount?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I could not help it, because if I did not do that, then I would not have got that amount of commodities which I was getting from outside. Our shoe industry, the hides and skins industry would have to be stopped; our textile industry would be stopped if I did not give these things. It is no use telling me today "Try to develop your industry" without getting our capital goods. In spite of this war burden, the Allied powers have given us something over a million pounds worth; and we cannot say "No, you must send me capital goods and machinery but on my part I

[Sir M. Azizul Huque.]

will not send you anything." That is not a reasonable attitude on the part of any Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Did you get any capital goods at all in return?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Certainly, we have been getting. In fact in spite of the most terrible difficulties, His Majesty's Government at a time when every bit of shipping space was required there, did not hesitate to send hundreds of thousands of tons of food grains, medicines and other consumer goods which are so necessary for the people of this country. So far as capital goods are concerned for the last two or three years we have been getting a number of things which have kept our industries going. Do you mean to say that the textile industry could have gone on without some of the imported goods from abroad? As I was saying, it would have been impossible.

My friend says "You have imported only four capital goods and therefore why do you want so much stuff for it?" If my friend will take the trouble of going over to the Secretariat and see the work being done there and the hundreds and thousands of commodities for which export and import sections have to be kept, I do not think anything more is needed. So far as this work is concerned, the Commerce Department was one of the original departments of Government, and all the little things are in the Commerce Department. Take this new work of the registration of capital goods. That is for post war planning and we are immediately starting a new section for this work, in order to register its needs and then it will be for the different departments
4 P.M. to consider what they think necessary. I think I need not say anything more.

As regards exports of textiles, we have imposed a cess. For the first time we propose to have adequate facilities not only for textile research but also for India's export policy being publicised abroad with a view to help India's export in later years. (*An Honourable Member:* "Meanwhile you will allow people to go naked?") My friend spoke about Muslims. I will give him one illustration. In this department eleven additional officers have been appointed during the last year of which six have gone to Muslims four to other minority communities and one only to a Hindu in order to strike a balance.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Rightly or wrongly?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If Mr. Lalchand Navalrai reads his own life, he will see that he has done himself many many wrong things, always claiming the right things. For my part, I have done the right thing.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Commerce Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 23—DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,40,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Labour'."

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,40,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Labour'."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, there is an item here called 'Setting up of the office of the Coal Mines Welfare Commissioner during the year'. We would like to know the functions of this office and what benefit the Honourable Member expects to come from it for the women in the coal mines in particular. Then there is the establishment of a Central Labour Commissioner's Organisation for settlement of disputes in 'Central Sphere' undertakings. Does this mean that these undertakings belong to the Government of India and this particular officer is to look after these and the activities of labour there or

does it mean that the Central Labour Commissioner's Organisation will have control over all these various labour welfare officers who are appointed in different provinces by the Provincial Governments also? Then there is the appointment of a Labour Investigation Committee to investigate into questions of wages and earning, employment, and housing and social conditions of labour. I welcome this but I would like to know whether this committee will have jurisdiction to carry on investigations in different provinces also. Then there is the creation of the Directorate of Unskilled Labour Supply for co-ordination of the work of the Provincial and Regional Labour Supply Committees and the Labour Supply Depôts. The House would like to have more information about this. What sort of unskilled labour is the Government of India going to recruit and for what purpose. Does this cover unskilled labour that is being recruited for private enterprises also or only for Government enterprises?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): As my friend Prof. Ranga probably knows, last year the Government of India imposed a cess on coal, called the Coal Mines Welfare Cess which is levied at the rate of 4 annas per ton on coal produced. It was with regard to the administration of this coal fund that the Coal Mines Welfare Officer was appointed. The Coal Mines Welfare Fund is administered by a committee. The committee is constituted of equal representatives of employers, equal representatives of workers in coal mines, representatives of the Provincial Governments, namely, of Bihar and Bengal and is presided over by the Secretary of the Labour Department, as the Chairman. The Committee is more or less an autonomous body. It has its own budget which is prepared by the Coal Commissioner. It is submitted to the Committee and the Coal Mines Welfare Commissioner is the executive authority over this expenditure. All questions of welfare, for instance, such as malaria, water supply, medicine and other matters relating to coal welfare are considered by this Committee.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do you exercise any control over it in any way?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Oh, yes. I exercise control, because the Secretary of the Labour Department is the Chairman. The budget comes to us for purposes of consideration. When it is passed, it is sent back and referred to the committee for further amendment.

With regard to the question of the Labour Commissioner, I think my friend Professor Ranga will know that all Provincial Governments have got Labour Commissioners. Under them, they have their own conciliation officers and other officers looking after labour. It was felt in the Government of India that as the Government of India has also got certain undertakings for which it is responsible, it was desirable that the Government of India should also have a similar organisation under its control to look after the welfare of workers engaged in these Central undertakings and consequently quite recently we have established this organisation. At the head of the organisation is an officer called the Chief Labour Commissioner with the Government of India. The rest of India is divided into three different areas and for each area there will be one Deputy Labour Commissioner. Prof. Ranga, I think, would like to know that we have taken advantage of this new organisation in order to amalgamate the work of Central undertakings along with the work which was originally done separately by the Conciliation Officer (Railways) and the Supervisor of Railway labour. All this has now been amalgamated and centralised. The Labour Welfare officers who were working individually in different areas and were reporting directly to the Government of India will now be under these different Labour Commissioners. Similarly, the Railway Inspectors who were also working separately under the Railway Conciliation Officer and doing the work of checking up the Payment of Wages Act and the hours of labour are also now being brought under the new scheme and we have made a consolidated scheme.

[Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.]

With regard to the point relating to the Labour Investigation Committee I think it will be recalled that last year or rather the year before that, in 1943, the Tripartite Labour Conference passed a resolution that the Government of India should undertake social security measures on the lines of the Beveridge report. It was then felt that before any such scheme could be formulated, it would be necessary to have a fact finding committee which would investigate all questions, such as housing, wages, sanitary conditions and other data affecting the welfare of the workers, and that after the facts were found by the Committee, the Government of India should have another Committee in order to formulate such social security measures as can be based upon the data that were found by this Investigation Committee. This Investigation Committee has now been working for nearly six or seven months and its report is promised sometime in June or July next. After the report is received, measures will be taken to constitute the second part of the enquiry and these facts will be placed before them according to the decision of the Tripartite Conference. The second counter-part of this Investigation Committee would be a committee represented by employers, employees and members of Provincial Governments.

With regard to the other question, namely, unskilled labour supply, the position is this. It was found out that various contractors were competing among themselves and paying much higher wages than what the market rate permitted in order to snatch away labour to their own contracts and to leave other contractors high and dry. The result was that while there was a superfluity of labour in some parts, there was great scarcity of labour in other parts where military works found it extremely difficult to find the necessary amount of labour. Consequently the Government of India decided that it was necessary to ration man-power and therefore the first step that they took was to appoint this Committee which is known as Unskilled Labour Supply Committee. To this Committee, every contractor has to make an application, if he wants to take away labour from an area where he is not working and it is only on the certificate given by the supply committee that he can go to some other area to tap labour from that area. There are various stations where these labour depots are kept. At the head is a contractor who manages this scheme. I cannot at this stage give my Honourable friend all the details under the scheme. But if he is more interested in the matter, he can put down a short notice question which I am prepared to accept and give information on this subject.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan (Madura and Ramnad cum Tinnevely: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I should like first to thank my Honourable friend for the long statement he has made and the information he has supplied to Prof. Rang and his colleagues. But I think he has missed one essential question and that is whether the Coal Commissioner will consider the question of reimposing the ban on employment of women underground.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am sure that is not his function.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: I should like to know whether the Coal Commissioner or the Committee will consider whether under labour conditions prevailing now in mines, women should be permitted to continue to work underground any longer and whether it is not injurious to the health of women to do such work in mines.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That will not be a matter within their purview.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Then, what is the use of having them?

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-official): As I envisage, the function of this Committee, when it was appointed, was to find out facts and certainly the Committee will find out facts regarding the question of employing women underground, and every question.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I understood Shrimati Radha Bai Subbarayan to refer to the Coal Commissioner and his work.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: And also to the Committee to which my Honourable friend referred.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, they might.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: That is the view I take that the Committee will consider every question.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I thought she was referring only to the Coal Commissioner.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Including the removal of the ban on the employment of women and all questions concerning labour in all fields. I therefore feel that this money should be voted.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,40,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Labour'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 24—DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND AIR

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 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 on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Posts and Air'."

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 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 on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Posts and Air'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, we find in Demand 10 it is Posts and Telegraphs Department. Now it is the Department of Posts and Air. What is the difference between the two Departments?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: We find under item (c) the explanation given is: "represents sterling overseas pay and one month's pay of an officer and expenditure incurred in connection with the international conferences". May I know from the Honourable the Finance Member, what is the rate of conversion for the purpose of sterling overseas pay? Is it 1s. 4d. or 1s. 6d.? I saw sometime ago a Press note and I wanted to table a motion for adjournment saying that salaries of military officers and other ranks should not be paid in sterling pay.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: May I interrupt and say that my Honourable friend was not in the House this morning when I answered a question on that. That matter has already been dealt with.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am sorry I was absent. If so, I shall read the answer.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Sir, this Demand relates to the Secretariat Branch of the Posts and Air Department. The Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department is an independent department which comes under this Department for administration and control. But this demand is for the Secretariat portion of it. As the Honourable Member will see, the original Grant was only one lakh and ten thousand, representing the principal Secretariat.

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 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 on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Department of Posts and Air'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 26—FOOD DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 12,02,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Food Department'."

Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 12,02,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Food Department'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, this supplementary grant refers particularly to the expansion of the Department in general and in particular the expansion of the purchase organisation; the creation of the Storage and Rationing Directorates and four more provincial organisations, more frequent meetings of the committees and councils, increase in the rate of dearness allowance and grant of new allowances, etc.

What I should like to point out is that the Honourable the Food Member was not prepared to accept the other day that food rationing was bad. Evidently he gets good rice, good wheat and everything else good stuff and that is why he is not prepared to believe what other people say about the bad quality of ration supplied to ordinary folk. Let me tell him that 75 to 80 per cent. of the people from my part of the country are suffering from scabies. This is not my discovery, but this is what medical opinion has discovered that those scabies are due to the bad quality of food. I know rice for Coimbatore comes from Tanjore as well as from Bezvada. The Tanjore rice is a good rice normally, but from the way in which it is stored and it is exposed it becomes so rotten and so bad that when it reaches us it is thoroughly bad. We have eaten that rice and we know how thoroughly bad it is. Let not the Food Member stand up and say that the rice is good, because if he says that I will have to repeat what the Honourable Member for Broadcasting said the other day, "It is a lie". I do not think that is the experience of Madras alone; and there is another aspect of the food that he gives us. Part of it is mud and stones. I do not know whether it is done in order to make it a larger quantity, or give greater weight. It is really a question of asking for bread and getting stones instead.

Then there is another thing about rationing. One-tenth of this country is being rationed today. In other parts of the country they have got other types of rationing. Statutory rationing exists for about 40 million people, but in my district and six other districts in Madras what is called informal rationing has been introduced, under which they want to take off all the surplus grain from the people but they do not guarantee giving anything back to the people. The result is that even people who produce the grain are not sure of getting food throughout the year.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

And now I am getting reports from my district that the rationing there is not at all efficient. The quality of the grain that is given is very bad and the enforcement of procurement is also not satisfactory. While procuring the grain I want him to see that the producer of grain has provision for food throughout the year. Unless you guarantee that, there will be a lot of hiding and producers will not be willing to part with the grain. Therefore I should like the Food Member to go through some of these facts. That there are abuses in many of these items is well known and I do not want him to say that they do not exist. I want him to learn and face them.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: Sir, but for the frequent comic poses of the Honourable Food Member the story of the food situation is a very grim tragedy. Unfortunately the department has become far too bloated even for the Food Member. There is no return either to the department or to the public in general. There does not seem to be a well organised and laid down policy with regard to the procurement, distribution and movement of these foodstuffs from one place to another. Instances have occurred where the procurement policy has been too costly and storage facilities were such as to result in deterioration of large stocks of foodstuffs

while people were hungering for food. More than all these, orders have been issued by the Central Government and by the Provincial Governments, by the local magistrates and by small authorities of such a conflicting nature that heavy stocks of foodgrains could not be moved from one place to another or were seized under the anti-hoarding and profiteering provisions of the Defence of India Rules and not allowed to be taken over either by the Governmental authority or the traders concerned. The result was that many lakhs of tons of foodstuffs got deteriorated. And I think much of the trouble of the food shortage was due to the most unscientific and stupid arrangements of Government with regard to storage, movement and transport policy. That is very confusing to the subordinate officials of Government. I am afraid the Food Member must become a little more serious in dealing with the situation. He may be a contented man so far as he himself is concerned—I congratulate him on that pose—but the tragedy behind the department is too great for any person to feel complacent over the situation. I am sure he would feel immensely glad if he gets into the subject and works at it, tries to find out where the defects lie and how to regulate the whole procurement, distribution, transport and storage. All these arrangements should be made so as to make it possible for the poorest consumer to get his morsel of food. If without doing that he merely asks or worries the Finance Member to grant him money in large amounts for mere increase of establishment I am afraid he is doing far more injury than good.

The present supplementary demand is for 12 lakhs as against the original demand of 21 lakhs. It seems to be a very large proportion indeed of even the essential original allotment. Of course I have a mind to oppose this demand but it is a matter of money that has already been spent. Still it will not be a proper and justifiable expenditure unless the Food Member takes his duties far more seriously than he is at present disposed to do.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, the country was expecting eagerly an early abolition of the Food Department but I am surprised to find that this department has found a novel plea for lavish expenditure of money. They put forward the plea that a storage scheme should be had and godowns should be constructed. I say that the money which has been asked for has not been spent yet. Most of the money will be spent after the sanction. On page 13 of the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee we read that even in normal pre-war conditions very large quantities of foodgrains—(one estimate being 3 million tons) were lost. I do not know who the expert is who has stated this figure to the Food Member. I read this only to draw the attention of the House as I say that it is a plea to perpetuate the department. Sir, we had bitter experience of the department in giving princely salaries, and here we find a Director, one Deputy Director, three Assistant Directors, four Entomologists and the necessary ministerial staff at every place. It will not be 12 lakhs only but later on it will multiply into a huge amount. We should be cautious in sanctioning this amount and I hope the House will reject it. It is a mere waste and nothing else. I urge the claims of Muslims in appointments.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): I think the Food Member is thinking that everything is going on properly in the country with regard to his department. Sir, I have toured all over the country in the Madras Presidency and I have noted many defects in regard to the procurement of food articles and their storage. The arrangements of storing the food which is procured by Government is simply miserable. There has been a lot of deterioration in the food articles which the Government have been storing during the last year.

Sir, I toured in Cuddapah district during last January. I was in Cuddapah on the 6th of January 1945 when a group of agriculturists came there and while I was talking to Mr. Koti Reddy, at his house, they approached him and made a complaint that two agriculturists—producers of food—were arrested by the Police.

An Honourable Member: Who is Mr. Koti Reddy?

Mr. C. Rangiah Naidu: He is Bar-at-Law; he is a prominent citizen of Cud-dapah and a distinguished leader.

They also complained that *jowar* which was procured by Government from the Nizam State had been stored in a place for one year without distributing it, and that it had deteriorated. Sir, the Government officials do not know how to store the articles that are procured by them. It is the agriculturist—the producer—who knows how to produce it and how to maintain the grain produced by him. The Government officials have got academic qualifications, but they do not know the art of agriculture, the art of producing food, the art of storing food. If it were known to the higher authorities that the food articles which were procured by these officers in Madras had deteriorated, action would have been taken against them. So they went to the market and compelled the people to buy those articles of food. They went there and said, 'you take 4 bags, you take 3 bags and so on at 3½ measures to a rupee'. One or two persons who were present in the market said, 'We have got a good crop of *jowar* in our lands, are you going to take it? You are offering deteriorated *jowar* at 3½ measures to a rupee'. They refused to take. Then these officials reported these persons to the police with the result that they were arrested. Congressmen have been arrested there and threats are given to them. Then, Sir, after those people were arrested, this group of agriculturists ran to the House of Mr. Koti Reddy and narrated the whole story. I was not alone; my grandson was also with me—he had accompanied me; he is a landlord and producer.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): All this is very interesting, but it is not relevant to this motion.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: I will take only two minutes, Sir.

They were arrested and kept in custody. Mr. Koti Reddy interfered in the matter and requested the Collector to release them. They were afterwards released. This is what happening in the Food organisation. In the Food Department there are many defects.

There is another defect. In the city of Madras no firewood is available. I have received numerous complaints—letters from the public, from my home, from my grandson I have received a complaint that firewood is not supplied by Government. Why should Government undertake to supply firewood?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has made that point quite clear.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Sir, I request my Honourable friend to go into the working of his department personally, and then come here and propose something. Without doing that, he should not come forward with these Supplementary Demands. He cannot have it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I will not repeat what has already been said by my Honourable friend. I endorse every word that fell from my Honourable friend's mouth, because it is all based on actual experience and truth.

Sir, I am not opposed to the Food Department asking for more money and for more officers. My complaint is that it does not seem to give satisfaction to anybody. Sir, this is a peculiar demand. It is not for any one special office or officer. It is for the general growth of the department—an expansion of the Department in general and in particular the expansion of the purchase organisation. It is in regard to this purchase organisation that I have a few remarks to offer. Then it is also for the creation of the Storage and Rationing Directorates. Sir, in answer to my question, the Honourable Member said that informal rationing is going to be introduced in Vizagapatam district. But four months ago when one of his own officers visited that place, he said that informal rationing would be introduced. Later on, we were informed publicly that informal rationing was introduced only a few days ago. But the Honourable Member said only a few days ago that informal rationing was going to be introduced. Which

statement is correct, we do not know. I am afraid this Department really does not seem to be taking itself seriously. It is growing so fast that it does not know on which day it gives one answer and on which other day it gives a contrary answer.

There is too much of corruption in the purchase organisation. I do not propose to substantiate these things now because there is not enough time. There is corruption. Your own officer has given testimony of it. You have not taken sufficient action to put down corruption. There is any amount of harassment. You do not seem to be taking action to prevent it. The stuff you are selling is bad. It is purposely spoilt by the contractors you are employing. You do not seem to be taking any steps to prevent that spoilage. In purchasing it from our people, whether purposely or not, in our districts over-estimation is being made by your officers as regards the quantities of foodgrains that we are supposed to be raising and then you under-estimate our own consumption needs and naturally you over-estimate the possible surplus of foodgrains that we are to place at your disposal. Then you requisition it. We are obliged to place at your disposal at prices fixed by yourself with the result that we are left with foodgrains to suffice for our own family consumption for less than six months. I have placed documentary complaints before the Honourable Member. Today I have placed another complaint that I have received from Vizagapatam district, a district suffering from food shortage, the district to which he is supposed to have imported thousands of tons of food. No action seems to be taken. Our trouble is that we go on making complaints on the floor of this House for two months and yet no satisfaction is given to any section of the people in this country.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is repeating what has been repeatedly said.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In spite of this repetition this gentleman does not seem to be taking action while we are in session.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think there should be an end to this.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When we rise for the recess, the Honourable Member and his Department are likely to go to sleep again. They are having more and more officers, more and more staff and more and more money. What is the result? The Honourable Member should heed the advice given by my Honourable friend Mr. Vencatachalam Chetty and take up the cudgels with the various departments and the Provincial Governments to the extent that they make them co-operate with him and see that satisfaction is given not only to the consumers but to the producers: not only to the towns but also to the villages. See that corruption is put down, harassment and under-estimation of our village needs are put down, and that we have proper and pure stuff and that reasonable rates are paid to our producers.

(At this stage The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava and Mr. Sri Prakasa rose in their seats.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Sir, Jwala Prasad Srivastava.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member does not wish to hear any more complaints!

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member): I have listened to what has generally degenerated into a food debate. I use the word 'degenerated' because we have had any amount of talk about food.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I take objection to this word 'degenerated'.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Let the Honourable Member proceed.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I thought my friends here were a little tired of talk. I have no objection to listening to the complaints which emanate from my friends. In fact I have been answering questions at the rate of about twelve each day.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Giving no information and no satisfaction;

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have been giving all the information at my disposal. Most of the points made today emanate from Members from Madras. These points have also been raised in questions and I wish to assure the Honourable Members that I have taken up all those matters with the Provincial Governments concerned. Honourable Members doubtless know that the primary responsibility for those matters rests with the Provincial Governments.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Then why should we pay for the provincial organisation? That is one of the sub-heads under this section.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That provincial organisation is our organisation in the province. It is not the Provincial Government's organisation. We have a very small nucleus in the provinces. The House ought to appreciate that tackling a problem like food for 400 millions of people of India we need a staff and I am surprised at the fact that so much has been done with so few men. I have not got the comparative figures of staff for Great Britain here. I will some day supply them to this Honourable House. I believe that there are 33,000 men and women working in the Food Office in London.

This demand relates mainly to the new directorates that we have established, namely that of rationing and that of storage. The House doubtless knows how important these directorates are. The House has been complaining and rightly so in many cases. I admit that there is room for improvement in those directions. I do not want to say that the organisation of the Food Department is perfect. Far from it. It is a marvel that we have reached the stage we are in today. But I think, Sir, that we have still a long way to go. Without staff, nothing can be done. I will attend to the points that have been made by my Honourable friends and I wish to assure them that I am not complacent or oblivious of my responsibility. I have taken to them very seriously.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Look after the corn in the Government store houses. Lots of food is being spoilt there.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am quite aware of the deterioration which is taking place and, Sir, for that reason we require storage. There has been a good deal of loss because in the past there were no large godowns in the country. The loss that the small man has suffered could not be estimated.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: He did not suffer. He took care of his grain and never allowed it to spoil.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It may be that he took care. But when you are dealing with large quantities you have to make large arrangements consistent with those quantities. It is very important to my mind that we should have, if we are to tackle the food problem of India, adequate storage accommodation all over the country. Without that it will not be possible to procure foodgrains or to keep them. And so, Sir, I hope the House will vote the supplementary demand which we have asked for.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 12,02,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Food Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 27—CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,19,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Central Board of Revenue'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,19,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Central Board of Revenue'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 28—INDIA OFFICE AND HIGH COMMISSIONER'S ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,10,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment Charges'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,10,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment Charges'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is this loss by exchange? I would like to know how it has happened.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I understand that that is the difference between the statutory rate of 1/6 on which all budget provision is based and the actual rate of a shade under that, which actually prevailed, viz., 1s. and 5 31/32d.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,10,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 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.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I beg to move:

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

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 18,99,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Audit'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 18,99,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Audit'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 31—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Administration of Justice'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Administration of Justice'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 32—JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 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 on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Jails and Convict Settlements'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 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 on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Jails and Convict Settlements'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 33—POLICE

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,69,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Police'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,69,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Police'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the non-agency police referred to here?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I think it means the police employed by Provincial Governments when not acting as our agents. We contribute also to the Provincial police, principally in Madras.

Some Honourable Members: That is not non-agency police.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I do not know why they call it non-agency police. I did not prepare it.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Then let the matter stand over till tomorrow.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): How much is it?

Some Honourable Members: Six lakhs.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Very well, let it stand over.

DEMAND NO. 34—PORTS AND PILOTAGE

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,61,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,61,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: We want information on only two matters. The supplementary grant arises out of ten items. I refer to item (iv) "Expansion of the Office of the Controller of Indian Shipping." May I know what is the work of this Controller? Does it mean that arrangements are being made to increase facilities for building ships. What is the reason for the expansion of his office?

Item (vi) is "contribution to the U. P. Government towards expenditure on experiments in connection with Power Barges Scheme on the Gogra and the Ganges." May I know the result of those experiments?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as the office of the Controller of Indian Shipping is concerned it has to be expanded. This shipping is now controlled both for coastal purposes and for foreign purposes and a certain

amount of expansion goes on on behalf of Indian shipping. We have to keep a constant watch as to how Indian shipping is being treated, what are their difficulties and so on. And now in connection with the post-war development certain other problems are coming in such as to what extent we shall expand and so forth.

This was originally done as part of the War Transport Ministry scheme. We are trying to help Indian shipping.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the result—(6)?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If the question is what has been the result of the scheme, I cannot say.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Under this demand, a scheme for giving amenities to seamen is going to be added. I find from the report 5 P. M. than 5 special officers are going to be appointed for that purpose. Having regard to the miserable condition of the men in the ports I will suggest to the Member that he should consider the claims of these men.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My only answer to that is, "God save me from my friends".

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,61,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 28th March, 1945.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 28th March, 1945

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

SECTIONS IN THE DIRECTOR GENERAL MUNITION PRODUCTIONS' OFFICE IN CALCUTTA

1403. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state how many sections there are in the Director General, Mmunition Production's office in Calcutta?

(b) How many Indians and how many Europeans, getting more than Rs. 250 a month, are employed in each of these Sections?

(c) When was the Director General, Mmunition Production's Office last reorganized?

(d) Is there any proposal for a reorganization now?

(e) If so, what precautions are Government taking in order to see that the interests of the Indian staff do not suffer and that there is no discrimination in favour of Europeans?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) 216 (including Purchase Sections and Ordnance Factory Division, etc.)

(b) If the information is given section by section as desired by the Honourable Member the statement will run into many sheets. I am therefore giving only the totals. They are as follows:

Indians : 387 (including 34 Anglo-Indians),
Europeans : 142

(c) The Directorate-General, Munitions Production, excluding Ordnance Factory Division, was reorganised in January 1944. The Ordnance Factory Division was reorganised in August 1944.

(d) Yes, there was, but it has been decided not to proceed with it.

(e) Does not arise.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that the volume of purchases of the Supply Department is going down, will the Honourable Member inform this House what arrangements he is making for reduction in the staff?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The volume of purchases is, as I gave an answer a few days ago, not going down; but the Department has constantly in mind the question of reducing the staff as occasion arises.

OVERCROWDING IN BOMBAY SUBURBAN TRAINS

1404. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether the overcrowding in the Bombay suburban trains is due to scarcity of carriages and reduction of trains, or it is due to an increase of traffic?

(b) Have Government taken any steps to ease the situation and, if so, what are they?

(c) Are trains at the rush hour carrying maximum number of carriages?

(d) Has there been any reduction in the number of electric locomotives through any reason other than their diversion to military traffic?

(e) Are any electric locomotives on order, or is it the shortage of carriages?

(f) Have Government thought of sending unscheduled extra trains during the rush hour?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The overcrowding in the Bombay Suburban trains is due to a heavy increase of traffic and the fact that it has

not been possible to augment the suburban coaching stock, which consists of vehicles of a special type.

(b) The number of trains run daily has been increased. Additional coaching stock is being ordered, an altered seating arrangement with a view to augment the capacity is being tried, and vigorous efforts to prevent ticketless travellers taking up accommodation in trains are being made.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e): The reference is apparently to Multiple-Unit-Motor Coaches which are used on Suburban services. There has been no reduction or diversion of these coaches.

(f) The proposal has been considered but not found feasible.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May we know what steps are being taken to increase the number of electric locomotives, which has diminished on account of the war?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The number has not diminished.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to part (d) of the question the Honourable Member said something.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I said it is not a question of locomotives but of Multiple-Unit Motor Coaches, and there has been no reduction of these coaches in the suburban services. A small number have been on order since before the war, but we have not been able to get any at all. For the 1945-46 programme, there are 80 coaches, 20 motor coaches and 40 trailers and 20 driving trailers; and for the 1946-47 programme there are a total of 80 electric suburban coaches on order.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the very serious difficulties which the civil population is experiencing, will the Honourable Member consider the use of ordinary carriages instead of these special carriages which are used on the suburban lines, and thus increase the accommodation?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Unfortunately we have none to spare, apart from other considerations.

FREE QUARTERS FOR INFERIOR AND LABOUR SERVICES ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1405. *Lala Sham Lal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the employees in the inferior and labour services on the North Western Railway are entitled to rent-free quarters? Are they entitled to house allowance in lieu of such free quarters? If not, why not?

(b) Is it a fact that for the purpose of allotment of quarters the staff are divided in two categories, i.e., essential and non-essential, and that the essential staff are to get quarters first? Is it also a fact that at several stations non-essential staff get quarters first, even though essential staff are awaiting chances?

(c) Is it a fact that the discrimination referred to in (b) above has contributed to corruption amongst subordinates dealing with allotment of Railway quarters?

(d) Do Government propose to allow house-rent to the staff referred to in (a) above in lieu of free quarters? If not, how is the discrimination in the allotment of quarters sought to be remedied?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply to the first two portions of the question is in the negative. As regards the last portion, the Honourable Member is referred to the rules contained in Chapter XIX of the State Railway Engineering Code, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. No employee has the right to be provided with quarters. Employees (other than Workshops employees) who are classified as inferior and whose emoluments do not exceed Rs. 30 p.m. may be allowed to occupy railway quarters free of rent if these are available.

(b) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. As regards the latter portion, this may occur when the vacant quarters are not of the type for which the essential staff are eligible.

(c) No complaints regarding corruption by officials entrusted with the allotment of quarters have been received by the Railway Administration.

(d) The reply to the first portion is in the negative. As regards the latter portion, Government have no reason to believe that there is any abuse in the practice of allotment of quarters of the respective types in order of priority and do not consider that action is called for.

OCCUPATION OF UPPER CLASS WAITING ROOMS BEFORE PURCHASE OF TICKETS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1406. *Lala Sham Lal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that at small stations on the North Western Railway tickets are issued one or half an hour before the departure of the train? Is it a fact that upper class passengers can occupy Waiting Rooms two hours before the departure of the train? How are these passengers allowed the use of Waiting Rooms without obtaining ticket?

(b) Is it a fact that the Railway staff insist on the possession of a ticket as a pre-requisite to the occupation of Waiting Rooms?

(c) Is it a fact that the North Western Railway Administration leaves these matters to the discretion of the subordinate staff at stations? What steps do Government propose to take to alter rules to allow the occupation of Waiting Rooms as a matter of right without looking for a Railway employee's discretion?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) At small stations, booking offices open not less than one hour before a passenger train is due. Upper class passengers can, however, purchase their tickets up to 15 days in advance. With regard to the second part of the question, Station Masters have standing instructions to open waiting rooms two hours before a passenger train is due and hence upper class passengers in possession of tickets can occupy waiting rooms two hours before the departure of a train. In view of what is stated, the third part of the question does not arise.

(b) The rules require that waiting rooms at stations may be occupied by *bona fide* passengers only and in accordance with the class of ticket held.

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

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that passengers are allowed to occupy waiting rooms for two hours and further in view of the fact that sometimes connecting trains at junction stations are not available for a period of more than two hours, are passengers at such stations permitted to occupy the waiting rooms for more than two hours?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir, in certain circumstances they are. For instance passengers arriving at night are allowed to occupy the waiting rooms till the next morning, but we do not desire that waiting rooms should be used as dak bungalows.

PER HEAD SUGAR QUOTA IN BALUCHISTAN

1407. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

(a) how much sugar is allowed per head in Baluchistan;

(b) whether the rural and urban population receive the same amount; if not, why not; and

(c) whether he proposes to see that this discrimination is put an end to?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) The total allotment of sugar to Baluchistan for the current year was 4,100 tons. It is impossible to work this out on a *per capita* basis, for a large proportion of the population of Baluchistan are not in the habit of using sugar.

(b) Baluchistan is understood to be one of the few parts of India in which rationing in the rural areas is being attempted at all, but even here urban rationing is of course ahead of rural rationing, and there are believed to have been some inequalities in consequence.

(c) Arrangements are now in hand for levelling up rationing as between the two areas and the Local Administration now aims to provide a general *per capita* issue of about 2 lbs. of sugar per head per month to all sections of the population accustomed to its use.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the present practice is to allow to persons residing in rural areas half the quantity of sugar allowed to urban resident?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I do not think it has got as fine as that—there have been complaints, somewhat justifiably, that they are getting less; but every effort is going to be made to see that these inequalities are ruled out.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Am I to understand that the Government have fixed an equal amount of sugar as quota for residents in rural as well as in urban areas?

Sir Olaf Caroe: Yes; they will do their best for those that eat sugar. A large number of the rural population, as the Honourable Member knows, are nomadic and live in very very distant areas in the interior; but in so far as the rural population goes, every endeavour will be made to see that they get the same amount of sugar as the people in the towns.

ELECTIONS TO QUETTA MUNICIPALITY

1408. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

(a) the progress made for holding elections to the Quetta Municipality;
(b) how many members will be elected, and whether any will be nominated; and

(c) whether he proposes to place the Election Rules for the said Municipality on the table of the House?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) The draft of a new Quetta Municipal Regulation has recently been received and is under examination. Elections will be held as soon as possible after promulgation of the Regulation.

(b) These questions are still under consideration.

(c) Electoral Rules cannot be framed until the Regulation has been promulgated. When that time comes, I shall be ready to consider the Honourable Member's suggestion. It is not proposed to introduce Communal electorates.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the proposal is to have more nominated than elected members?

Sir Olaf Caroe: No; the proposal is the reverse.

RULES RE SUSPENSION OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES UNDERGOING PROSECUTION

1409. ***Lala Sham Lal:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether a Railway employee undergoing prosecution in a criminal court is to be placed under suspension? If so, under what circumstances, and where have such rules been published?

(b) Are Government aware that on acquittal such an employee is entitled to full pay for the period of suspension?

(c) Are Government aware that the employees on the North Western Railway are deprived of full wages on acquittal, if a casual remark is found against the suspended employee in the judgment or lack of evidence to warrant a conviction or unproved suspicion is alleged? If so, why?

(d) Is it proposed to amend the rules to allow full wages on acquittal irrespective of any remarks? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. As regards the latter portion, the Honourable Member is referred to rule No. 1711 of State Railway Establishment Code Vol. I, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to rule No. 2044 of State Railway Establishment Code, Volume II, from which it will be observed that full pay may be granted if the railway employee has been honourably acquitted.

(c) and (d). Full pay is not generally allowed on the N. W. Railway for the period of suspension of railway servants who have not been honourably acquitted by a Court of Law. If an acquittal is qualified, it cannot be regarded as honourable. This practice is in conformity with the provisions of clause

(b) of the rule referred to in the reply to part (b). No change in the existing rules is considered necessary.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I remind the Honourable Member if he is aware that generally the courts when acquitting the accused give him the benefit of the doubt and they very rarely use the words 'honourably acquitted' in such cases and in view of this fact will he not revise the rule?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am inquiring what the actual practice is; but I do not think there is any necessity to change the rule. I understand that the practice is humane and sympathetic.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: In this connection, will the Honourable Member please consider not suspending employees while under prosecution, because there have been many cases in which they were disqualified from getting adequate defence but have subsequently been acquitted?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That would mean the variation of rule 1711, which says "A Railway servant shall be placed under suspension when he is arrested or committed to prison pending trial by a court of law."

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Is the Honourable Member aware of the terrible hardship—many of these cases are false—and while placing a man under suspension you deprive him of the resources to engage adequate defence.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not think that is the case.

SUPERINTENDENTS IN DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SUPPLY, ETC.

1410. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member kindly state the total number of Superintendents (gazetted as well as non-gazetted) in the following offices:

(1) Directorate General of Supply, (2) Chief Controller of Purchase (Supply), and (3) Chief Controller of Purchase (Munitions)?

(b) How many of the above posts are held by Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs, separately?

(c) Have Government made an attempt to make up the deficiency of Sikhs? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table.

(c) There is no deficiency of Sikhs in the grade of non-gazetted Superintendents. Against a reservation of 8 1/3 per cent. for "other minority communities" which includes Sikhs and which would on the posts in the statement represent seven, Sikhs occupy four out of seven. I think the Honourable Member will agree that particularly in regard to a post which is ordinarily filled by promotion of qualified men, Sikhs have a quite good representation in the posts referred to in his question.

As I have explained on previous occasions, the importance of securing proper representation for all communities, including Sikhs, is fully appreciated by my Department.

(a) Statement showing number of posts of Superintendent in the Directorate General of Supply Offices of the Chief Controller of Purchase (Supply) and the Chief Controller of Purchase (Munitions)

	Gazetted	Non-Gazetted	Total
Directorate General of Supply	Nil.	33	33
Chief Controller of Purchase (Supply)		28	28
Chief Controller of Purchase (Munitions)		30	33

(b) The posts of non-gazetted Superintendent are held by the members of the various communities as shown below:

	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others
Directorate General of Supply	26	6	1	..
Chief Controller of Purchase (Supply)	23	3	2	..
Chief Controller of Purchase (Munitions)	26	2	1	1

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will Government very kindly consider the desirability of publishing a tabular statement at the beginning of each Session of the servants

of their various Departments in accordance with the communal proportions to obviate such eternal questions?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I would suggest that the Honourable Member should address that question to the Home Department.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I will do so.

PREPONDERANCE OF HINDUS IN PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL WORKSHOPS

1411. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if the facts stated in the Railway Section of the *Daily Eastern Times*, Lahore, dated 24th August, 1944, under the heading "Hindu Domination in Production Department of Mechanical Workshops" are correct?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, does the Honourable Member propose to take necessary action in order to reduce the preponderance of Hindus in Production Department and increase Muslim Strength in all grades?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). The correct figures of the following categories of supervising staff in the Production Department of the Mechanical Workshops are:-

Chief Rate Fixer, Gr. I—1 Hindu; 1 other communities.

Foreman, Gr. I—4 Hindus.

Senior Chargemen—10 Hindus; 7 Muslims; 2 Sikhs; 13 others.

Junior Chargemen—2 Hindus; 2 Muslims; 1 Sikh.

Assistant Chargemen—6 Hindus; 3 Muslims; 4 Sikhs.

The correct totals are: 26 Hindus; 13 Muslims; 8 Sikhs and 21 others.

The Railway Administration is examining the allegations made in the article of the *Eastern Times* referred to. I may, however, remind the Honourable Member that neither promotions nor postings are made on a communal basis and the reservation of fixed percentages for different communities in vacancies open to direct recruitment on railways will in due course remove the preponderance of particular communities in railway service.

PROMOTION OF CERTAIN NON-MUSLIMS AS JUNIOR CHARGEMEN (ELECTRICAL BRANCH) ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1412. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that three posts of Junior Chargemen in the Electrical Branch Power Side have been filled by three non-Muslims promoted by the Divisional Electrical Engineer?

(b) Is it a fact that one of these three non-muslim gentlemen promoted as Junior chargemen were considered not fit by the selection board held on 22nd February, 1944, at North Western Railway Headquarters Office, Lahore?

(c) Is it a fact that the post reserved for Muslims would have gone to Muslims if twenty Muslim workmen called to appear before the selection board would have been allowed to show their fitness to the Selection board?

(d) Will the Honourable Member please ask the North Western Railway Administration to hold a Selection Board and ask all those Muslim workmen to appear before it?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the promotion of three Mistry Wiremen in on about March, 1944. Two of these were considered fit as Junior Chargemen by the Selection Board held in February, 1944. As regards the third Mistry Wireman, he was declared unsuitable by the Selection Board referred to, but in the absence of any other selected hand, he was promoted temporarily, pending the next selection, in view of the fact that he had been in charge of the construction work of the electrical installation at Hyderabad (Sind) as well as its maintenance from the very commencement.

(c) In accordance with a recent decision taken by the Administration, Workmen are not at present eligible for consideration for promotion as Junior Chargemen and as such the question of allowing them to appear before the Selection Board does not arise.

(d) This is a matter entirely within the competence of the General Manager and Government do not propose to interfere. The Administration will, however, be asked to see that any deficiency in percentage reservations for Junior Chargemen, Electrical, is adjusted as soon as possible.

PROMOTION OF CERTAIN NON-MUSLIMS AS MISTRIES BY DIVISIONAL ELECTRICAL ENGINEER, LAHORE, ETC.

1413. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether the post of Mistry in Electrical Branch of the North Western Railway is a selection post? If the reply is in the negative, will Government please state under what authority the Divisional Electrical Engineer, Lahore, and Divisional Electrical Engineer, Mechanical Workshops, have held selections and have promoted non-Muslims over the head of competent senior Muslim workmen?

(b) Did the Divisional Electrical Engineers make the selection in their individual capacity or by a duly constituted Selection Board?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). The reply to the first portion is in the negative. As regards the latter portion, a trade test and an examination were held by the officers mentioned in accordance with the instructions issued by the Administration. In this connection, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the latter portion of the reply to parts (a) and (c) of his Starred Question No. 1298 asked on 23rd March, 1945. The trade test was conducted by the Divisional Electrical Engineer, Lahore, as there is no Assistant Officer in the Electrical Department, Lahore Division. The Divisional Electrical Engineer, Workshops, interviewed the senior skilled workmen to enable him to record his remarks on their recommendation roll.

CHANGE OF NAME OF *National Herald* Post Office, LUCKNOW

1414. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) if it is a fact that there was a post office in Lucknow called *National Herald* in the premises of the *National Herald* newspaper;

(b) if the Food Controller whose offices also are now in the same premises objected to the name and made representation in this behalf to the Department; and

(c) if the name has now been changed to Kaiserbagh Post Office?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Yes.

(b) The Regional Food Controller, whose office occupies about three-fourths of the building in which the office of the newspaper in question is located, made a suggestion that the name of the Post Office might be changed on account of the fact that the newspaper *National Herald* was no longer in publication.

(c) The name of the post office has been changed to Qaisarbagh, which is the name of the locality in which it is situated.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Did the Food Controller express his great irritation at the very name of the *National Herald* existing on the premises and was the Honourable Member's Department thoroughly frightened of that?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir. Certainly not frightened. As I said, he wrote to us saying that it was somewhat incongruous that a post office should be named after a newspaper which no longer existed. The office was first started for the definite convenience of that newspaper and the Honourable Member must be aware that it is the practice in a very large number of towns to open post offices on the premises of newspapers to give them facility of posting as late as possible. When the newspaper ceased to exist, it became incongruous to have that name and we reverted to the practice of naming the post office after the locality concerned.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the *National Herald* office is still in existence and a large amount of correspondence is still carried on in the name of the *National Herald*, will the Honourable Member not seek to oblige the Food Controller and continue the old name?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir. When the *National Herald* starts publication again and wants the post office to be opened for its convenience, we may consider the matter.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that the Food Controller's office are sub-lessees of the *National Herald* and that the whole building is in the possession of the *National Herald* and that under the Defence of India Act and the rules thereunder this portion of the premises were forcibly given to the Food Controller?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I have no information.

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

Mr. Sri Prakasa: They changed the name of the post office, which is not a proper thing to do. Our old paper is still in existence and the paper is not being allowed to

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has given full reasons. You may not accept the reasons given. That is another matter but you cannot go on debating a question like this.

SELECTION OF CERTAIN NON-INDIAN OFFICERS ON OUDH AND TIRHUT
RAILWAY FOR TRAINING AS CIPHER OFFICIALS

†1415. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether posts of cypher officials connected with wireless arrangements on Railways are not meant for Indians; if so, why Mr. Hardless, Workshop store keeper and Mr. Medworth, Traffic Inspector on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway were selected for training as cypher officials connected with wireless arrangements on Railways and why men of Telegraph Department were ignored;

(b) whether the selection was made by one official or by a Board; and

(c) whether the posts were previously advertised; if so, when and in what way; and the number of petitions received?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). It is presumed that the Honourable Member has in mind the posts of Cipher Instructors required for the purpose of training Railway Cipher Operators. If this is the case, no restrictions have ever been placed on the employment of Indians in these posts. The Telegraph Department of the O. and T. Railway had only one senior upper subordinate the Assistant Superintendent, Telegraphs, who complied with the Railway Board's specification for this post, and other departments were accordingly requested to nominate additional suitable candidates. Messrs. Hardless and Medworth were at different stages selected together with the Assistant Superintendent, Telegraphs, by the General Manager. It has not been necessary, however, to employ either Mr. Hardless or Mr. Medworth as Cipher Instructors and the work of the cipher branch is exclusively manned and controlled by personnel of the O. and T. Railway Wireless and Telegraph Department.

(c) No; this was not considered expedient at the time for reasons of security. The reply to the second part does not arise.

DIFFICULTY RE JUMA PRAYERS BY MUSLIM EMPLOYEES OF OUDH AND TIRHUT
RAILWAY LOCO WORKSHOPS

†1416. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Muslim Railway Employees of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway Loco Workshops are not allowed to offer their weekly Juma prayers except at the cost of their wages and dearness allowances for the period taken for the purpose; and

(b) the number of holidays with periods allowed to Hindus, Christians and Muslims on which their wages are not deducted?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Muslim Workshop labourers on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway are allowed an extra hour at the

mid-day interval on Fridays to offer Juma prayers, wages and dearness allowance being deducted for this period.

(b) All Workshop staff on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway are granted 14 public holidays with pay per annum irrespective of their religion.

WITHDRAWING AUTHORITY OF GUARDS, ETC., FOR GRANTING CERTIFICATES TO
PASSENGERS WITHOUT TICKETS ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

1417. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the East Indian Railway have recently made rules withdrawing the right from railway guards and other relevant authorities of granting certificates to passengers who are unable, in special circumstances to purchase tickets before beginning their journey;

(b) if the Travelling Ticket Examiners can no more change the tickets from lower to higher classes in case a passenger boards a higher class than the one for which he holds a ticket for want of room; and

(c) if he proposed to ask the Railway to consider its decision in this behalf and permit the old system to continue?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) No. There has been no change in the existing rules governing the conversion of tickets by Travelling Ticket Examiners from lower to higher class in case a passenger travels in a higher class than the one to which his ticket entitles him.

(c) As a result of the abnormal conditions created by the war the privilege has been withdrawn, with a view to discouraging passengers travelling without tickets when trains are running overcrowded. The matter will be reviewed after the war.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (b) of the question, may I ask if he is aware that guards no more give the required certificate in case a passenger has to board a higher class in the circumstances mentioned in the question?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As I said, there has been no change in the rules in that respect.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly inform the Administrations that the guards should carry out instructions in accordance with the old rules in this behalf?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Will the Honourable Member tell me which Administration and which section he has in mind?

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I am referring to the Hapur station on the E. I. R.

INSANITARY CONDITIONS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY TRAINS

†1418. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that there were many complaints on the North Western Railway regarding the insanitary conditions in the running trains? What steps were taken to remove the complaints?

(b) Did the steps taken result in any improvement and convenience to passengers? If so, was it due to the work of platform inspectors?

(c) If the reply to (b) is in the affirmative does he propose to extend the system to the whole of the North Western Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I am informed that complaints were received as the result of the conditions under which railways are operating in wartime. An intensive drive to raise the standard of carriage cleanliness by the appointment of additional staff, improvement of existing washing facilities, and the provision of special equipment was instituted.

(b) I believe there has been an improvement as the cumulative result of the various steps taken. In reply to the second part of the question, this cannot be attributed to anyone particular category of staff or anyone particular measure.

(c) The various measures already operate generally over the whole of the system with perhaps minor modifications in different areas to suit local conditions.

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

Sardar Sant Singh: Is the Honourable Member aware of any proposal to drop this kind of work after the war?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE PAID TO CERTAIN TICKET INSPECTING STAFF ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

†1419. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the information given on the 8th February, 1945 (page 32 of the Debates) in reply to unstarred question No. 35 asked on the 6th November, 1944, regarding travelling allowance paid to certain ticket inspecting staff on the East Indian Railway, viz.: "Those employed on the Asansol, Lucknow and Moradabad Divisions have not been paid the correct rate of consolidated travelling allowance to which they are eligible in accordance with Government's orders", and state: (a) the nature of action taken against the officers who acted in contravention of Government orders; if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor; and

(b) if it is a fact that the ticket inspecting staff, who have thus suffered have represented their case from time to time; if so, with what result?

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.

SENIORITY OF CERTAIN NON-GAZETTED STAFF ON RAILWAYS

†1420. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the rule governing the seniority of Non-Gazetted staff selected and placed on panels of posts in higher grades or cadres on different State-managed Railways.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: In accordance with rule 9 (f) of the Rules governing the promotion of subordinate staff, contained in Appendix II-A of the State Railway Establishment Code, a copy of which is in the Library of the House, the General Manager of a railway is competent to issue orders regarding the method of determining the order in which the names of candidates should be placed on a waiting list by a Selection Board. The actual practice on railways may vary on the different railways and for different classes of posts; in some instances names being placed in order of merit and in others according to seniority in substantive rank. Differences in the channels of advancement to higher posts may call for different treatment in regard to the order in which the names of candidates should be placed on a panel. It is therefore not possible to give in detail the practice followed by individual railways.

PERMITTING ONLY IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES TO MOVE SODA ASHES AND FULLER'S EARTH BY RAILWAY

†1421. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the reasons for permitting only the Imperial Chemical Industries (India), Limited, to move soda ashes and fuller's earth by rail;

(b) whether Government are aware that this preference is against section 42(2) of the Indian Railways Act; and

(c) whether Government propose to remove the discrimination now; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) It is not a fact that only the Imperial Chemical Industries (India) Ltd. are permitted to move soda ash and fuller's earth by rail.

(b) and (c). These questions do not arise.

FUNCTIONS OF RAILWAY BOARD

†1422. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the executive and the advisory functions of the Railway Board?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As regards the functions of the Railway Board, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Rule 201

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

of State Railway General Code, Volume I, a copy of which is already available in the Library of the House. In regard to advisory functions, the Chief Commissioner of Railways is solely responsible for advising the Government of India in matters of railway policy. He has direct access to the Governor General and is *ex officio* Secretary to the Government of India.

ALLOWANCES, ETC., OF NON-DIRECTORATE POSTAL AND R.M.S. EMPLOYEES

1423. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether the Postal and R.M.S. employees, other than the Directorate are governed by the rules applicable to the Central or Provincial Government employees for the purposes of grant of allowances, etc.? If the Central Government employees rules are applicable, why the privileges admissible to the Central Government officials are denied to them?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Postal and R. M. S. staff are employees of the Central Government, and are not governed by rules applicable to employees of Provincial Governments. Rules regarding allowances, etc., are not, however, necessarily the same for all classes of Central Government employees in all places, in view of the differences in the conditions of service of various classes of staff. There is, therefore, no question of Postal and R. M. S. staff being denied any privileges admissible to other Central Government employees.

NON-GRANT OF EQUIPMENT ALLOWANCE TO POSTAL AND R.M.S. EMPLOYEES AT SIMLA

1424. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that a fixed amount of Rs. 50 and Rs. 30 has been paid as an equipment allowance, to the Central Government ministerial and inferior staff, respectively, irrespective of their being migratory or non-migratory, for buying warm clothings at Simla as the prevailing prices in the market were very high?

(b) Will he please state whether the Postal and R.M.S. employees at Simla were ignored in this respect?

(c) If the reply is in the affirmative, whether any representation in this connection was submitted by the staff to the Government through their union and was rejected?

(d) Will he please state the reasons for its rejection?

(e) Do Government propose to grant the same allowance to Simla postal staff also as has been paid to other Central Government employees stationed at Simla? If not, why not?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The equipment allowance of the amounts mentioned by the Honourable Member was sanctioned only for the migratory staff of the Government of India Departments and all offices attached or subordinate thereto, who were prevented from moving down to Delhi during the winter season 1942-43 and had therefore to incur extraordinary expenditure on winter clothing.

(b) Such of the postal and R. M. S. employees who were considered migratory were allowed to draw the allowance.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e). Government do not propose to extend the concession to the non-migratory staff because, unlike the migratory staff, such staff did not have to incur much additional expenditure on warm clothing, and also because the migratory staff were prevented from moving down to Delhi after the 1st April 1942.

NON-GRANT OF COMPENSATORY HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE TO POSTAL AND R.M.S. EMPLOYEES AT SIMLA

1425. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that Government of India in the Finance Department Memorandum No. F. 6(35)RI/42, dated 12th September, 1942, and F. 6(35)RI/42, dated 30th June, 1943, sanctioned compensatory house rent allowance to their staff located at Simla? If so will he please state the reasons why the new

allowances sanctioned by the Government of India were not made applicable to the Postal and R.M.S. staff at Simla?

(b) Is he aware that both winter and compensatory allowances are paid to the Central Government employees during the winter season at Simla? If so, why a departure has been made in the case of the Postal and R.M.S. staff? Does he propose to sanction for them the same concessions which are enjoyed by the other Central Government servants at Simla? If not, why not?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) and (b). The house rent, compensatory and winter allowances referred to by the Honourable Member have been granted to the staff located in Simla under the Simla Allowances Code, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House and which is applicable only to the staff of the Secretariat and attached and certain subordinate offices. The Postal and R. M. S. staff of offices located in Simla are not governed by the Simla Allowances Code as their conditions of service are different from these of the former.

RAILWAYS TAKEN OVER BY GOVERNMENT

1426. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member give a statement of the number of railways taken over by the State in India from Companies in the United Kingdom and the payment made in respect of these acquisitions in lump as well as per £100 of stock?

(b) What was the original capital of each of these companies and what was the capital amount paid to them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). The Railways acquired since the outbreak of the War are:—

(1) Bengal Dooars, (2) Assam Bengal, (3) Bombay, Baroda and Central India, (4) Bengal and North Western, (5) Rohilkund and Kumaon, (6) South Indian, (7) Madras and Southern Mahratta, and (8) Bengal Nagpur.

The Bengal Dooars, Bengal and North Western and Rohilkund and Kumaon Railways were the property of the Companies. Their purchase price was fixed under their respective contracts independently of the share capital of the Companies. The purchase price and the Capital-at-charge of each of those Railways compare as follows:

Bengal Dooars Railway—The capital-at-charge—£1,120,110.

Purchase price in lump—£1,265,300.

Bengal & North Western Railway—The capital-at-charge—£8,929,605.

Purchase Price in lump—£11,509,666.

Rohilkund & Kumaon Railway—The capital-at-charge—£1,476,716.

Purchase price in lump—£2,050,047.

If the Honourable Member still feels interested in knowing how the purchase price works out in terms of £100 of ordinary stock, after excluding amounts required for the discharge of preference shares and debentures, the figures are:

Bengal Dooars Railway—£226.

Bengal & North Western Railway—£251.

Rohilkund & Kumaon Railway—£330.

The majority of the Capital of the remaining Railways was already owned by Government and the Companies only owned certain limited capital which had to be repaid at par on the termination of the working contracts. Assam Bengal and Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railways were purchased on these terms and the Companies were only paid their share capital of £1½ and £2 millions respectively. As the contracts for South Indian, Madras and Southern Mahratta and Bengal Nagpur Railways were terminated prematurely, 21 months before the due date in the case of South Indian and Madras and Southern Mahratta, and six years and three months before the due date in the

case of Bengal Nagpur Railway, the Companies had to be compensated for the loss of profits and the total payments made were:

South Indian Railway.—£1,112,500 representing

£111½ per £100 of stock.

Madras & Southern Mahratta Railway.—£5,275,000 representing

£105½ per £100 of stock.

Bengal Nagpur Railway.—£3,600,000 representing

£120 per £100 of stock.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This is an answer which ought to have been laid on the table.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I put a supplementary question?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No; Next question.

INTERDIVISIONALLY WORKED PASSENGER TRAINS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1427. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether passenger trains on North Western Railway are worked inter-divisionally?

(b) Is it a fact that senior guards grade II are put to work on such passenger trains as luggage guards on North-Western Railway?

(c) Is it a fact that passenger trains 33 Up/34 Down, 57 Up/58 Down, 67 Up/68 Down and 75 Up/76 Down, are worked on Lahore and Delhi Divisions (inter-divisionally) by junior most guards of Lahore Division?

(d) Is it a fact that seniormost guards grade II on Delhi Division are working on Van and shunting goods trains for sixteen hours daily?

(e) Is it a fact that guards in any way protesting against working for more than twelve hours or claiming rest after twelve hours' work are charge-sheeted, censured, and threatened with dismissal?

(f) Is it a fact that senior guards grade II of Delhi Division sent a telegram to General Manager, Lahore, on December 20th, 1944, and subsequent reminder claiming seniority for the above mentioned passenger trains in preference to junior guards of Lahore Division? If so, what action was taken or is proposed to be taken to safeguard the rights of senior guards?

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.

REVISED SCALES OF PAY ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

1428. *Mr. Frank R. Anthony: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Western Transport be pleased to state whether revised scales of pay have been introduced for the Oudh and Tirhut Railway?

(b) Is it not a fact that these revised scales are lower than the scales paid to employees doing the same work on neighbouring State Railways such as the East Indian Railway and B., B. & C. I. Railway?

(c) What is the reason, if any, for this differential treatment of employees on the O. & T. Railway?

(d) Does he propose to go into this matter and equalise the scales on this Railway with those obtaining on the East Indian and B., B. & C. I. Railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, for certain non-gazetted staff of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway.

(b) and (c). The revised scales for the Oudh and Tirhut Railway staff have been fixed at a slightly lower level than the East Indian Railway scales in view of the cheapness of the area through which the Oudh and Tirhut Railway traverses.

(d) The revised scales have been fixed after careful consideration of the various aspects of the case and Government do not consider any justification for equalising the scales on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway with those obtaining on the East Indian and B., B. & C. I. Railways.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member place a copy containing the revised scales of pay in the Library of the House so as to make it available to Members?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The new scale refers only to certain grades of subordinate staff and inferior staff and I have already quoted some examples in the House.

GRATUITY OR SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS PROVIDENT FUNDS FOR RUNNING STAFF

1429. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gratuity or Special Contribution towards Provident Fund for the running staff on the Railways is calculated at the actual allowance drawn during 365 working days, subject to the maximum of 75 per cent. of pay;

(b) whether it is a fact that in a large number of cases, old records of the service of the employee on the running duty are not readily available and considerable delay occurs in payment of Gratuity or Special Contribution;

(c) if Government propose to amend rules so as to make the payment admissible at 75 per cent. of pay only; and

(d) whether Government have received any representation to this effect from any Railway administrations; if so, from which Railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to rules 1302(8) and 1502(2) of the State Railway Establishment Code a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. The calculation of the special contribution to the Provident Fund or Gratuity of running staff takes into account pay and the monthly average of running allowances drawn during the 365 days of running duty immediately preceding the date of quitting service limited to seventy-five per cent. of average pay for the same period.

(b) No report of general difficulty in referring to the records or of delays due to this has reached the Railway Board.

(c) No.

(d) No.

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

1430. *Sardar Sant Singh: With reference to the Honourable the Railway Member's reply to part (b) of Unstarred question No. 5 asked on the 1st November 1944, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the answer also refers to transfers ordered from the higher to the lower link of train service as a measure of penalty; if so, has it been included in the Rule Books as one of the recognized penalties to be inflicted on the employees; and

(b) if the Railway Board has under consideration the revision of State Railway Establishment Code, Vol. I?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Penalties are only imposed for offences or failures. If a transfer of a person from a higher to a lower link is ordered on account of a fault, the case falls under Rule 1702(6) of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(b) The question of the suitability of such a penalty is being considered.

SENDING RAILWAY OFFICERS TO AMERICA FOR TRAINING IN LABOUR WELFARE

1431. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Department is sending any officer to U.S.A. for training in Labour Welfare; if so, who those officers are, when they are going and what is the period of the course; and

(b) how much grant has been sanctioned for training of these officers, and what their jobs will be on return after receiving training?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to a scheme drawn up by the Department of Labour for sending to the United Kingdom (not U. S. A.) selected officers of the Labour Departments of Central and Provincial Governments for training in certain aspects of labour administrations. Two Railway Department nominees, viz., Messrs. S. M. Khurshid and Hasnain Ahmed of the North Western and East Indian Railways respectively have been included in the first batch which is being sent to the U. K. shortly. The course in the U. K. will take from six to eight months.

(b) The average estimated cost per officer of the Central Government including the cost of entertaining substitutes is Rs. 8,600. As regards the latter portion these officers will be employed in a capacity for which they are considered most suitable after the requisite training.

SENDING RAILWAY OFFICER TO ENGLAND FOR TRAINING AS PAINT TECHNOLOGIST

1432. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Is the Honourable Member for War Transport aware of the report of the Paint Technologist published in June, 1938, by the Government of India, Railway Department, known as the Fancutt Report?

(b) Are Government aware that in paragraph 8 of page 3 of the Report under the heading "Summary", there was a suggestion for sending a chemist to England for twelve months to learn the principles and methods adopted in the L.M.S. Paint Laboratory and Works? Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if any one had been sent according to the recommendation above referred to? If not, has any officer for Co-ordination and Control been appointed by the Railway Board yet, who is a trained Paint Technologist?

(c) Does the Honourable Member propose to enquire or advertise for such experts available in India?

(d) Is it not a fact that the Supply Department has saved a considerable amount by giving special specification for paints through the Departmental expert? If so, does the Honourable Member propose to enquire from the Supply Department, if they could spare the services of their expert to help the Railway Board, or if the Railway Board would appoint any such available Indian?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) Government are aware of this suggestion.

No chemist has been sent to England for this purpose nor has any such appointment been made.

(c) Government do not consider it necessary to appoint such an Officer at the present moment.

(d) In consultation with the Supply Department, the Government Test House, Alipore, drew up in 1944 a range of Composition Specifications for Railways' requirements in enamels and varnishes. These specifications were drawn up having regard to the present availability of raw materials in this country and also with the object of widening the field of supply.

It is not possible to say definitely if there has been any saving as although purchase prices may have been lower; sufficient time must elapse before it can be stated whether or not the paints accepted against the new specifications are cheaper in the long run.

The question of approaching the Supply Department for an expert does not arise as the services of the Supply Department as well as those of the Government Test House at Alipore are at the disposal of the Railway Department.

SCALES OF PAY OF GUARDS ON CERTAIN RAILWAYS

1433. *Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the scales of pay, revised and old, for all classes of guards, on North Western, Great Indian Peninsula and East Indian Railways; and

(b) whether it is a fact that in 1934 while revising the scales of pay for all subordinate staff, the Railway Board accepted the principle of 'uniform scales' for all Railways for same class of staff; and, if so, whether this principle has been adopted in case of guards; 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) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (c) of Lala Sham Lal's Starred Question No. 1031 asked on 15th March, 1945.

Statement showing the scales of pay, old and revised, of guards employed on East Indian, G. I. P., and North Western Railways

Railway	Category	Scale of pay	
		OLD (CO-ORDINATED)	REVISED
E.I.	Guards Grade I.	90-10-180	100-10/2-120
	Guards Relieving,		100-10/2-120
	Guards Grade II	30-5-70	30-3-45/5-60
	Guards Pilot	120-10-180	100-10/2-120
	Guards Conductor	100-10-180	65-5/2-85
	Guards Gunner	85-10-115	30-3-45/5-60
G.I.P.	Passenger Guard A grade	170-15-10-15-210	160
	Goods Guard A grade	115-15-10-15-155	120
	Goods Guard B grade	70-10-15-10-15-10-130	70-5-90
	Guard C grade	50-5-70	50-5-50
	Guards D grade	35-3-50	30-4-50
N. W.	Guards Grade IV	125-10-185-200-210	(100-10/2-120 Grade II)
	Guards Grade III	75-5-105-10-115	(65-5/2-85 Grade I)
	Guards Grade II	40-3-52-4-60-68	30-5-50-5/2-60
	2nd Guards	30-1-35	30-1-35

INSTRUCTIONS AUTHORISING RAILWAY ADMINISTRATIONS TO REDUCE AN EMPLOYEE TO LOWER POST

1434. *Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board have recently issued instructions to the Railway administrations authorising them to reduce an employee to the lower post; if so, will the Honourable Member please lay a copy thereof on the table of the House;

(b) whether it is a fact that in April, 1941, the Railway Board, had issued instructions that no employee be reduced from the higher to the lower grade or post; if so, why these orders were superseded;

(c) how many petitions have been filed on the Indian Railways during the last two calendar years before the authorities appointed under the Payment of Wages Act, and in how many cases have these authorities held such reductions illegal; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to issue instructions to stick to the accepted interpretation of the Payment of Wages Act, on the point of reduction, till the Act is amended?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given to part (a) of Sardar Sant Singh's Starred Question No. 53 asked in this House on the 30th October, 1941, regarding certain instructions which were issued at that time. It was subsequently found that the procedure laid down in these instructions could be simplified. Orders permitting the reduction, permanently or temporarily, to a lower grade were therefore issued.

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

(d) As the first instructions referred to in the reply to part (a) above were not based on an accepted interpretation of the Payment of Wages Act, Government see no reason to revert to them.

SUPPLY OF MEALS TO RAILWAY STAFF AT REFRESHMENT ROOMS AT A DISCOUNT ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1435. *Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any instructions on the North Western Railway providing for supply of meals to Railway staff at refreshment rooms at a discount; if so, what the percentage of such discount is; and

(b) whether these instructions are published anywhere; if so where?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes; at a discount rate of 12½ per cent. on Tariff Rates (except on drinks, smokes and biscuits) in Indian Refreshment Rooms and at a Special Tariff Rate in the case of European Style Refreshment Rooms.

(b) The instruction has been included in the Tariff for Indian Refreshment Rooms and Dining Cars. A copy of the Special Tariff for European Style Refreshment Rooms is exhibited in each such Refreshment Room.

LOCAL ALLOWANCE OF RAILWAY INFERIOR STAFF AT DELHI

1436. *Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Local Allowance of Rs. 2/8/- is paid to inferior staff at Delhi since July last; if so, for what this allowance is paid;

(b) whether it is a fact that an employee, referred to in (a) above does not receive Delhi Local Allowance if he has a free quarter; if so, why;

(c) whether the condition referred to in part (b) above also applies in the case of members of the subordinate Railway staff employed at Delhi; if not, why;

(d) whether Government propose to remove the discrimination in the matter of conveyance and local allowances of the inferior and subordinate staff; and

(e) whether it is a fact that subordinate staff at Shakurbasti—Shahdara or North Western Railway in Delhi Area and Delhi Serai Rohila and Delhi Cantonment on B., B. & C. I. Railway are not given any local allowance or house allowance; if so, why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). This local allowance which is classed as a compensatory allowance, has been sanctioned to afford relief to such inferior and labour staff as are finding it hard to live on account of having to pay a good percentage of their pay in rent for private accommodation. It is, therefore, only admissible to those not occupying railway quarters free of rent.

(c) No, because the local allowance in the case of subordinate staff was not granted in consideration of rents paid.

(d) Government consider that the allowances are commensurate with the needs of each case.

(e) This question is under examination.

TRAINING FOR SECTION CONTROLLERS' JOBS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1437. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how employees are trained for Section Controllers' jobs on the North Western Railway, and whether they have to pass any qualifying examination after training;

(b) whether any further written or oral examination is required of trainee persons referred to in (a) above for promotion as Section Controllers; if so how;

(c) if the reply to (b) above be in the negative, whether the Honourable Member is aware that a number of such further examinations were held by Divisions on the North Western Railway; if so, why;

(d) if the Honourable Member is also aware that further examinations were confined only to certain divisions of the North Western Railway; if so, the reason for this discrimination;

(e) whether it is a fact that several candidates had protested to the authorities and that they have been penalized with forfeiture of their promotion; if so, why; and

(f) whether it is a fact that after training the employees are generally put to officiate as Section Controllers to see how they fit themselves in actual work?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I will answer questions Nos. 1437 and 1438 together.

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

PROMOTIONS AS SECTION CONTROLLERS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

†1438. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the recent selection for promotion as Section Controllers, men with practical experience were not taken up, but those who had no practical experience were picked up; if so, why;

(b) whether he proposes to lay on the table of the House a list of candidates selected as Section Controllers on the North Western Railway in 1945, with particulars of their officiating service as Section Controllers; and

(c) the steps Railway Board propose to take to carry out Inglis-Appleton Commission's recommendations on the subject of Train Control and ensure that tried and experienced Section Controllers are taken up as recommended by the above Commission?

NEW EXPERIMENT RE TICKET CHECKING ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

†1439. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware of the fact that Oudh and Tirhut Railway attempted to devise a new scheme for checking tickets and appointed fresh staff of inexperienced men under the name of Train Supervisors and discarded the experienced ticket examiners?

(b) Did the Railway Board give permission for such an experiment?

(c) Is it not a fact that this new experiment failed? What was the loss incurred by the Oudh and Tirhut Railway on this experiment?

(d) Is it not a fact that the North Western and East Indian Railways have now evolved a scheme for checking tickets after many experiments? Why was that scheme not followed by the Oudh and Tirhut Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) On and from 1st March 1944, the O. & T. Railway as an experimental measure appointed a number of Train Supervisors for special duty at junction stations.

(b) The matter was within the competence of the Railway Administration and the question of the Railway Board giving permission did not arise.

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

(d) The arrangements on the N. W. and E. I. Railways have been in force for many years. With regard to the second part of the question, Railway Administrations are competent to make arrangements that suit them best.

LOW SALARIES AND OTHER GRIEVANCE OF STAFF ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

†1440. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that the existing grade of the Travelling Ticket Examiners and the frequent transfer of the low paid staff has created great dissatisfaction?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1437.

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

(b) Are Government contemplating to raise the salaries of the officers on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway and bring them to the level of other State Railways?

(c) Is it a fact that the D.T.S. in charge of Travelling Ticket Examiners is a local officer who has got a large number of relatives residing in the area and serving on petty jobs in the Oudh and Tirhut Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Honourable Member has not specified the railway to which the complaint refers.

(b) No general revision of the scales of pay of officers on the Oudh & Tirhut Railway is under consideration.

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

INCREASE IN CLAIMS PAYMENT ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

†1441. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is not a fact that the claims payment on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway has substantially increased since the State took over the charge of the Railway? What are the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes. The increase in the amounts paid is, however, not due to the change of management but to various other causes which *inter alia* are:

- (i) Complexities of operation created by the war;
- (ii) Heavy increase in traffic;
- (iii) Congestion in goods and parcels sheds;
- (iv) General increase in prices making thieving more profitable;
- (v) Black-out conditions making theft easier;
- (vi) Defective packing of consignments;
- (vii) Increase in the number of claims settled.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS ACCOUNTANTS

†1442. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air kindly state:

(a) the total number of Posts and Telegraphs Accountants, both temporary and permanent;

(b) how many of them are Muslims;

(c) the steps so far taken to ensure that Muslims are fully represented in every grade of the Posts and Telegraphs Accountants cadre; and

(d) whether Government propose to lay down that recruitment to the various grades of Posts and Telegraphs Accountants cadre will be subject to Communal Orders?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) 34 departmental men and 15 temporary officials on loan from Audit Offices.

(b) Four.

(c) This is a promotion examination and is, therefore, outside the scope of the communal orders which apply only to posts filled by direct recruitment. Steps have, however, been taken to recruit two Muslim candidates as probationary Accountants.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply at (c) above.

GAZETTED POSTS TO WHICH RECRUITMENT IS MADE FROM POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS ACCOUNTANTS

†1443. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) the total number of gazetted posts, both permanent and temporary, recruitment to which is made from the Posts and Telegraphs Accountants;

(b) how many of them are Muslims;

(c) whether appointment to these posts is made by selection; and

(d) if the reply to (c) be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to appoint a Board for selecting suitable officials for these higher posts?

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

- Sir Gurunath Bewoor:** (a) Permanent—4; Temporary—3.
 (b) One.
 (c) Yes.
 (d) No.

RECRUITMENT TO POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS ACCOUNTANTS CADRE

†1444. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) whether all the officials after the introduction of the Posts and Telegraphs Accountants cadre during four years from 1938 to 1942, who dealt with cases relating to framing of rules for conducting the Posts and Telegraphs Accountants Service Examinations and all other establishment questions connected therewith, were from the Subordinate Accounts Service passed men who were borrowed to man the Posts and Telegraphs cadre temporarily;

(b) whether the first examination for recruitment to the cadre was held three years after its introduction; what the cause of such delay was; and

(c) if Government propose to place on the table of the House a statement showing the actual pay, with the scale of pay drawn by each of the borrowed men before their transfer to the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the pay, with the scale of pay, including special pay, if any, granted to each of them after their transfer to the Posts and Telegraphs Department on a temporary basis?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) No; the rules were framed by the Director General in consultation with the Finance Department.

(b) Yes; the delay was due to the following reasons:

The final drafting of the recruitment rules, which had to be examined by the Finance Officer (Communications) and the Auditor General, was completed only in October 1939. The Rules were published in the Director General's Circular early in January 1940. The first examination was announced to be held in December 1940 so as to allow sufficient time for the candidates to prepare for the examination. As certain departmental books and publications required by the candidates were not available in sufficient quantity and had, therefore, to be printed up, the examination was postponed to May 1941 at the request of the candidates and the Posts & Telegraphs Unions.

(c) The information is not readily available but will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

CLERKS IN THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL, MUNITIONS PRODUCTION, CALCUTTA PUNISHED FOR ABSENTING DURING JAPANESE AIR RAIDS

1445. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state the number of clerks and their grades, employed in the Directorate General, Munitions Production, Calcutta, who were dismissed and black-listed from service (thereby rendering them ineligible for further Government Service) for the alleged offence of absenting themselves from duty on medical certificate during the Japanese air raids on Calcutta during winter 1942-43?

(b) Is it a fact that these clerks were dismissed and black-listed in disregard of medical certificates submitted by them from registered medical practitioners of Calcutta? If so, why?

(c) Are Government aware that there is a procedure under which a Government servant, before being dismissed, is given an opportunity in the shape of a "charge sheet" to clear his conduct, but that this procedure was ignored under the orders of the then Joint Secretary, M. P. Secretariat, Calcutta? If so, why?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Three in the grade of Rs. 45-60-2-80. One in the grade of Rs. 45-5/2-95.

(b) These clerks along with a number of other absented themselves with or without leave during the air raids. They subsequently produced medical certificates. One of them was given a number of extensions of leave, but as he showed no signs of returning to duty he was dismissed. Another first asked

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

for leave on the ground that he was ill but did not submit any medical certificate. Then he left the headquarters and went away to his own town where from he asked for leave for 2 months on medical certificate. Having regard to the circumstances in which he left the headquarters no reliance could be placed on the medical certificate furnished. The third began by taking four days' leave to move his family out of Calcutta. This was granted. Then he asked for an extension on medical certificate. This was refused as it was believed that he was asking for leave under false pretences. In the fourth case, the clerk asked for leave for seven days and furnished a medical certificate. He did not however resume his duties nor did he apply for extension of the leave. Consequently he was dismissed. I may mention that the situation in Calcutta during the air raids warranted strong deterrent action against air-raid absentees in order to prevent defection of the staff and to tighten up discipline.

(c) Ordinarily a Government servant before being dismissed is given an opportunity to clear his conduct. But this procedure was not followed in the case of air-raid absentees for reasons already given.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know why no charge-sheet was given to these people and why it was assumed that the absence was deliberate?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I understand they were temporary clerks and there is a sub-rule in rule 58 of the Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules under which it is not necessary for the officer to go into various formalities in certain circumstances.

COST AND LIFE OF RAILWAY WAGON

1446. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

- (a) the cost and life of a normal Railway wagon;
 (b) the cost and life of a war-time Railway wagon;
 (c) comparing both, what the proportion of price between them is; and
 (d) the depreciation allowed on these wagons?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Taking the most common type of wagon, i.e., a Broad Gauge Covered General Service Wagon as the normal Railway Wagon, the answers to the question are:

		Average life.
(a) Cost in 1938-39	Rs. 4,900	40 years.
(b) Indigenous cost in 1942-43 Approximately	Rs. 8,000	40 "
To be imported in 1945-46.		
(i) Ex. U. S. A. Approximately	Rs. 12,700	20 "
(ii) Ex. Canada	Rs. 15,700	40 "
(iii) Ex. U. K.	Rs. 12,100	40 "
(c) Proportion of cost between a normal and a war-time indigenous wagon		1:1.6
Proportion of cost between a normal indigenous wagon and war-time wagon to be imported, after taking into account the life factor.		
(i) Ex. U. S. A.		1:5.2
(ii) Ex. Canada		1:3.2
(iii) Ex. U. K.		1:2.5

(d) The normal depreciation of wagons is 2.5 per cent. The situation created by the import of a large number of wagons with a shorter life has been sought to be met by the changes in the rules of allocation outlined in my Budget Speech. Whether any further action by change in the rules for calculating depreciation is necessary will be considered in due course.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that the cost of the wagons imported from America is five times the peace-time cost and much more than the cost in this country, will Government consider the advisability of encouraging this industry very actively in India?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. I have already explained on numerous occasions that we have already filled the Indian industry to capacity before we ordered any wagons from overseas at all.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: But what about increasing it?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It will not be necessary to increase the capacity after the war because the capacity of the wagon building industry

in this country will be ample to cater for the requirements of railways after the war.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Are the wagons from the U. S. A. coming under lend-lease?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir, most of them.

COST AND LIFE OF RAILWAY ENGINE

1447. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

- the normal life of an engine and its cost;
- the normal life of a war-time engine and its cost;
- comparing both, what the proportion in price between them is; and
- the depreciation allowed on these engines?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), (b) and (c). The normal life of an engine is taken as 35 years but the lives of certain types of locomotives imported from America in war-time are taken as 20 years. Comparisons between pre-war and war-time types are not easy as in some cases there are no pre-war types on the Railways corresponding to the types now being imported. I however lay on the table information in regard to the four comparable types.

(d) The normal depreciation of engines is 2.86 per cent. In this connection the Honourable Member is referred to the reply to part (d) of his starred question No. 1446.

STATEMENT

BROAD GAUGE.

"AWE"	Traction effort	48,000 lbs.
	Life	35 years.
	Cost.	Rs. 420 thousand approximately.
Comparable pre-war type—XE.		
"XE"	Traction effort	The same.
	Life	The same.
	Cost.	Rs. 161 thousand.

Proportion of present cost to pre-war cost..... 2.61 to 1.

"CWD" & "AWD"	Traction effort.	35,000 lbs.
	Life.	35 years.
	Cost.	Rs. 329 thousand approximately.

Comparable pre-war type—XD

"XD"	Traction effort.	The same
	Life.	The same.
	Cost.	Rs. 134 thousand.

Proportion of present cost to pre-war cost..... 2.46 to 1.

"AWC"	Traction effort.	31,500 lbs.
	Life.	20 years.
	Cost.	Rs. 296 thousand approximately

Comparable pre-war type—HGS.

"HGS"	Traction effort.	34,000 lbs.
	Life.	35 years.
	Cost.	Rs. 98 thousand.

Proportion of present cost to pre-war cost after taking traction effort and life factor into account 5.71 to 1.

METRE GAUGE.

"MAWD"	Traction effort.	20,000 lbs.
	Life.	20 years.
	Cost.	Rs. 234 thousand approximately
Comparable pre-war type—YD.		
"YD"	Traction effort.	22,000 lbs.
	Life.	35 years.
	Cost.	Rs. 80 thousand.

Proportion of present cost to pre-war cost after taking traction effort and life factor into account..... 5.63 to 1.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to part (a) of the question, the Honourable Member has not given the cost.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am laying a full statement on the table. It is rather complicated.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

REPLACEMENTS OF LOWER SELECTION GRADE CLERKS BY TELEGRAPH MASTERS

106. Pandit Shambhudayal Misra: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that Government appointed Telegraph Establishment Enquiry Committee in November 1932 to investigate the methods adopted to determine the strength of establishment and to make recommendations to secure the most economical organisation compatible with efficiency in the Telegraph Traffic Branch of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department?

(b) Will Government stop contemplated replacements of Lower Selection Grade Clerks by Telegraph Masters?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The fact is as stated by the Honourable Member.

(b) The question is under consideration and in arriving at a decision, Government will give due regard to the views of the Committee referred to in part (a) of the Honourable Member's question.

SPECIAL PAY OF CLERKS ENTRUSTED WITH DUTIES OF NON-TECHNICAL TELEGRAPHISTS

107. Pandit Shambhudayal Misra: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that the Telegraph Establishment Enquiry Committee appointed in November 1932 recommended in paras. 56 to 65, pages 34 to 38 of the report that the non-technical non-operative posts of Telegraphists to some of which special pay was also attached, be replaced by ordinary time-scale clerks without any allowance, and the recommendation of the Committee was accepted by the Government and the ordinary time-scale clerks appointed to such non-technical non-operative post were not allowed any special pay formerly attached to such post?

(b) If the reply is in the affirmative will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reasons for the withdrawal of special pay from the clerks entrusted with same duties which the Telegraphists performed with special pay before their replacement, and consider the payment of the special pay formerly allowed to the Telegraphist, to the clerks who replaced them?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The facts are as stated.

(b) Telegraphists were granted the special pay in order to compensate them for the loss of chances of earning pie money and overtime. This consideration does not apply in the case of clerks.

SUPERINTENDENTS AND ASSISTANTS-IN-CHARGE IN OFFICES OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SUPPLY AND CHIEF CONTROLLER OF PURCHASE (SUPPLY)

108. Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state the number and the ratio between the posts of Superintendents and Assistants-in-charge in the offices of Director General of Supply and Chief Controller of Purchase (Supply)? Will he also please define the distinction in the duties and responsibilities of the two?

(b) Is he aware that Assistants-in-charge are carrying out the same duties as those of Superintendents and are controlling Branches and sections consisting of 8 to 12 persons and disposing of about 1200 receipts per month for which they are getting a meagre allowance of Rs. 30 p.m.?

(c) Does the rate of allowance vary in different Departments of the Government of India, viz., Rs. 30 p.m. for Civil attached offices and Rs. 40 for Secretariat offices and Rs. 50 for Military offices?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) I place on the table a statement giving the number and ratio between posts of Superintendent and Assistant-in-Charge in the offices of the Director General of Supply and the Chief Controller of Purchase (Supply).

According to the Home Department order an Assistant-in-Charge is a Superintendent in all but name, status and pay, the difference being based not on the nature of duties and responsibilities but on the size of the Branch controlled and the quantity of work in it. As this is a new Department it has not been possible to follow the Home Department orders in every case.

In the office of the D. G. S. the practice has been to have a Superintendent and one or more Assistants-in-Charge in each Directorate; and to assign the less important work to the Assistant-in-Charge. The Superintendent is treated as the head of the non-gazetted staff in the Directorate and remains responsible for the day to day administration of all the sections comprising that Directorate. In the office of the C. C. P. (S) owing to the dearth of suitable Superintendents the less important Sections have been generally placed under Assistants-in-Charge.

(b) Assistants-in-Charge, have in some cases been performing duties similar to those of Superintendents, and handling more or less the same number of men and receipts. But this is not always a safe criterion for assessing the importance of their work and consequently the weight of responsibility. Having regard to this and to the quality of wartime temporary ministerial staff, the allowance of Rs. 30 given to Assistants-in-Charge is considered adequate.

(c) Yes.

STATEMENT

Number of Superintendents in the Directorate-General of Supply:—

(i) Superintendents	28
(ii) Assistants-in-Charge	56
(iii) Ratio between Superintendents and posts of Assistants-in-Charge	1 : 2

Number of posts in the office of the Chief Controller of Purchase (Supply):—

(i) Superintendents	28
(ii) Assistants-in-Charge	33
(iii) Ratio between posts of Superintendent and posts of Assistants-in-Charge	1 : 1.18

RULES RE SENDING ADVANCE COPY OF PETITIONS TO THE OFFICER ADDRESSED

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

(a) whether any rules exist that an advance copy of petition addressed through proper channel, may be sent to the officer addressed; if so, will the Honourable Member please refer to them; and

(b) if the reply to (a) above be in the negative, whether it is proposed to issue necessary instructions?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) There is no such rule but in accordance with Rule 1720 of the State Railways Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House, no action is taken on such a representation.

(b) The policy of the Government is stated in the replies to Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad's Starred Question No. 566, and Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali's Starred Question No. 594, asked in this House on the 28th March, 1934, and 27th February, 1935, and in view of the instructions already issued, no further action is considered necessary.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY CANDIDATES FOR APPENDIX II ACCOUNTS

EXAMINATION

110. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of candidates from North Western Railway who appeared for the Appendix (II) Accounts Examination during the five calendar years, 1941 to 1945, and the number who were declared to have secured pass marks;

(b) whether it is a fact that complaints have been received by the North Western Railway Administration and the Director, Railway Accounts, about the stiffness of question paper on 'Precis Writing and General Rules' at these examinations; and

(c) whether Government propose to lay down certain standard for the guidance of the Examiners in regard to the standard to be demanded from the candidates for this examination; if so, how?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The information required is as under:

Year	Number of candidates who appeared in the Appendix II Examination	Number of candidates who passed
1941	19	6
1942	22	3
1943	24	8
1944	55	22
1945	About 150 candidates intend to appear in the examination to be held this year.	

(b) Complaints have been received by the North Western Railway administration but not by the Director, Railway Accounts.

(c) Instructions have been issued to ensure that papers are not too lengthy or too stiff.

ABOLITION OF PHOTOGRAPHING SECTION OF PUBLICITY BRANCH, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

111. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) when the Photographing Section of the Publicity Branch on the North Western Railway was abolished;

(b) how the photographers released from this branch were absorbed on the Railway;

(c) whether the photographers are included in the class of 'draftsmen'; if so, whether any of them have been absorbed as clerks, if so, why; and

(d) whether there have been any complaints from staff to the authorities on absorption of the photographers in clerical posts; if so, how the same were disposed of?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No Photographing Section has ever been attached to the Publicity Branch of the North Western Railway Headquarters Office; the question of its abolition does not, therefore, arise. The post of one of the Assistant Publicity Inspectors who along with other duties was looking after Photographic work, has been held in abeyance since November, 1943.

(b) The Assistant Publicity Inspector released when the post referred in part (a) was held in abeyance, was transferred temporarily as a clerk in the Central Registry Branch of the Headquarters Office as he possessed the requisite qualifications for that post.

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

(d) I understand that some of the Clerks in the Central Registry Branch of the Headquarters Office protested against the transfer of the Assistant Publicity Inspector as a Clerk in that Branch and they were informed that this transfer was effected on considerations of administrative expediency.

COMMODITIES SUPPLIED TO EMPLOYEES ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY AT CONCESSIONAL RATES

112. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the commodities supplied to employees on North Western Railway at concessional rates; and

(b) whether it is a fact that on several occasions *dals*, oil and *ghee* have not been supplied to Railway staff at Delhi owing to non-availability of the articles; if so, whether the employees concerned were given, in cash, the difference between the market and concessional rates; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) There are 18 commodity groups which may be sold at Grain Shops, which include foodgrains, cooking media

spices, sugar, salt, tea, soap, matches, standard cloth etc. It is possible that some shops on the N. W. Railway may not have yet attained this target.

(b) As regards the first part Government are informed that there has been no occasion when *dals* were out of stock at the Grain Shops at Delhi although sometimes all kinds of *dals* were not on sale simultaneously. Vegetable *ghee* could not be supplied for two months due to difficulty of procurement and mustard oil could not be supplied to all the staff during certain months. As regards the second part, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to my reply to part (a) of Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's starred question No. 3, asked on the 1st November 1944 in this House.

UPGRADING OF GRADE II POSTS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

113. Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the General Manager, North Western Railway has recently upgraded several grade I Posts to grade II; if so, how many posts of station correspondence clerks were so upgraded;

(b) whether he is aware that these clerks do exactly the same work as is done by the Divisional Office clerks;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to bring in the ratio of the higher grade appointments for the two on par; if not, what other steps Government propose to take to ease the channel of promotion of station correspondence clerks; and

(d) whether any requests have been received by the North Western Railway Administration for transfer of the station clerks to the Divisional Office; if so, was the request acceded to; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The grading of 11 posts of Station Correspondence Clerks, Grade I, on the North Western Railway has been permanently raised to Grade II with effect from 1st January, 1945, as a result of which the percentage of Grade II posts of this category to Grade I has risen to 47.8 per cent. In addition to this, Divisional Superintendents have been authorised to sanction, at their discretion, temporary upgrading where justified by a temporary increase in work and responsibility.

(b) The responsibilities of divisional office and station correspondence clerks are approximately the same.

(c) The grading of Clerks as Grade I or Grade II depends on the nature of the work to be done. It is not, therefore, possible to apply the same ratio in both cases. The upgrading sanctioned has already eased the position.

(d) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. The request of the Station Clerks was not acceded to, as the transfers asked for were not considered to be in the interests of the service.

TRANSFER OF TRAIN CLERKS, TICKET COLLECTORS, ETC., TO GRADE II GUARDS' POSTS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

114. Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that transfer of Train Clerks, Ticket Collectors, etc., to grade II guards' posts on the North Western Railway is considered as recruitment; if so, whether it is done through the N. W. R. Service Commission;

(b) whether it is a fact that the seniority of guards transferred from other Branches referred to in part (a) as compared with the directly recruited employees, is based on the date of transfer and confirmation as a guard; and

(c) whether it is a fact that recently guards have sent a memorial to the General Manager, North Western Railway, calling in question the procedure of fixing seniority; if so, what the important points of representation were and how the same were disposed off?

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.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS ACCOUNTANTS

115. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air kindly state:

(a) the total sanctioned strength, both permanent and temporary, of the Posts and Telegraphs Accountants cadre as on the 1st March 1945; and

(b) the total number of (i) departmental qualified men holding the posts of the Posts and Telegraphs Accountants and (ii) outsiders as on the 1st March 1945?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a)

Senior Accountants		Junior Accountants	
Permanent	17		11
Temporary	10		11
Total			22

(b) Departmental qualified men
Officials on loan from the Audit Department

33
15
48*

*N.B.—One post vacant—held by an unqualified departmental official.

GAZETTED POSTS OPEN TO POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS ACCOUNTANTS

116. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) the present total number of sanctioned gazetted posts opened to P. & T. Accountants;

(b) the number of such posts held at present (i) by members of P. & T. Accountants, that is, men who have actually qualified in the P. & T. Accountants Service Examinations and (ii) by persons who have not so qualified;

(c) the approximate number of additional gazetted posts likely to be created in the next twelve months.

(d) Is it a fact that Subordinate Accounts Service passed men with a few years service, who have been taken on loan by some other Departments and offices of Government, viz., Military Accounts office, Supply Accounts, etc., have actually been holding posts of Accounts Officers and performing their duties satisfactorily;

(e) whether Government propose to try some of the departmental officials who have qualified in the departmental examination in the existing as well as future vacancies, in the grade of Accounts Officers, Divisional Accounts Officers, Administrative Officers, etc.; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that in future all such men who do not qualify in the Posts and Telegraphs Accountants Service Examination or are not specifically exempted by the competent authority, are not confirmed either in the P. & T. Accountants cadre or in any of the gazetted posts opened to the Accountants?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Seven.

(b) (i) Nil. (ii) Seven.

(c) Possibly two.

(d) I have no information.

(e) The qualified departmental men will be tried when they had sufficient experience and become ripe for promotion to gazetted posts.

(f) It is not possible to lay down any hard and fast principle in the early stages of the formation of the cadre. It is open to the Director-General to fill these posts by borrowing men from the Audit Department, if the interests of public service and efficiency of the cadre so demand.

STAFF PUNISHED IN RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE

117. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the total number of staff, by communities, in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office punished by way of reduction in pay, stoppage of passes and

privilege ticket orders, stoppage of increments and also censures and warning etc., during 1944;

(b) the number of punishments in 1943 and the reasons for a larger number of punishments in 1944 as compared with the previous year; and

(c) whether Government are aware that the number of Hindu Staff punished is proportionately greater?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) During 1944 the total number of staff, by communities, in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office who were punished was as follows:

	Hindus	Muslims	Others	Total
Stoppage of increments and reduction to lower stages of pay	16	1	1	18
Stoppage of passes and P. T. Os.	15	0	1	16
Warnings recorded in character roll	93	26	8	127
	124	27	10	161

(b) The number of punishments during 1943 was 27. Reasons for the increase were:

(i) Expansion of the office, Staff at the beginning of 1943 numbered 1,600 and at the end of 1944 1,960;

(ii) Employment of temporary staff in large and increasing numbers;

(iii) More intensive checks and greater supervision.

(c) Yes, but cases of disciplinary action are not regulated on communal considerations.

LEAKAGE OF CERTAIN PAPERS AT APPENDIX II EXAMINATION OF RAILWAY ACCOUNTS OFFICE

118. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Railway Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the 'precis' and 'drafting' paper set for Appendix II Examination of the Railway Accounts Office held in April 1944 was leaked out;

(b) if it is a fact that the said examination had to be held again in July 1944;

(c) if it is a fact that the same paper set for Appendix II Examination held in November 1944 was also leaked out;

(d) the reasons for not holding the Examination again for the paper leaked out in November, 1944; and

(e) the action taken against the officers for leaking out the examination papers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) There was no leakage and no necessity for any re-examination.

(e) The question does not arise.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

PILOTING OF MR. BEVERLEY NICHOLS BY DR. SPEARS

Sir F. E. James: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) if he has seen the statement in the *Hindustan Times* of the 27th March, 1945, by Mr. K. C. Neogy enquiring if Dr. Spears, an officer of his Department, was responsible for piloting Mr. Beverley Nichols during his stay in Delhi; and

(b) if so, if this is correct?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes.

(b) No. Dr. Spears never met Mr. Beverley Nichols, much less than he ever piloted him during his stay in Delhi or anywhere else.

Government have also seen the other part of the statement of Mr. Neogy with respect to paper for the book.

Sir F. E. James: With regard to the suggestion that the Government of India actually allotted a quota of paper to the publishers for the Indian Edition of Mr. Beverley Nichols book—'Verdict on India'—will my Honourable friend, or perhaps his Honourable colleague, state what exactly is the position? Was such an allotment of paper made for that purpose?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: May I answer that question, Sir, because it relates to my Department?

I have seen the statement referred to by the Honourable Member. No special allotment of paper was made to any publisher for the publication of the Indian Edition of Beverley Nichols work 'Verdict on India'. I may add that it is not necessary for any publisher to ask for permission to print or publish any book so long as he can publish or print it within the quota to which he is entitled, and under the Paper Control Order every printer or publisher is entitled to 40 per cent. of the paper consumed by him in 1940.

Mr. G. W. Tyson: With reference to the Honourable Sir Azizul Huque's answer on the subject of paper, may I ask him whether he is aware that it is commonly reported that ten-thousand copies of this Indian Edition of 'Verdict on India' have been printed, and whether he has taken steps to establish the fact that it was possible to print an edition of that size out of the 40 per cent. quota and if also he is aware that considerable resentment has been caused amongst other publishers, by reason of the fact that such a large quantity of paper has been used for such a disreputable purpose?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have not seen any such statement before, but in view of the statement made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson, I will immediately enquire into this matter in order to ascertain the number of copies printed, the quantity of paper which would be required to print those, the paper which was allotted, and how could he publish it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that this book has been condemned by the public, may I know whether Government will take steps to have this book withdrawn from all libraries which are either maintained or supported by Government?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Government are not aware that the book is to be found anywhere in any public library.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will Government consider the desirability of banning this book?

(No answer was given.)

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Sir, I was not in the House when certain questions arose with reference to certain things that I said. As a matter of fact, the press report is unfortunately not quite accurate. The first enquiry that I sought to make was whether Dr. Spears had piloted this Beverley Nichols at Delhi for some time, and the second point that I raised was as to how it was possible for an author like him to get the supply of paper which is controlled.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S REFUSAL OF PERMISSION TO DISCUSS RESOLUTION RE DELEGATION TO SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received notice of a motion for adjournment of the House from Mr. Yusuf Abdoola Haroon—to consider an urgent matter of public interest, namely the refusal of Governor General to permit the discussion in the Legislative Assembly of Resolution regarding Delegation to San Francisco Conference—

Did he act as Governor General in Council or as Governor General?

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): The position is this: This Resolution was allowed to be discussed in the Upper House on the 21st March. My point is why not give this House a chance to discuss this matter?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is another matter. I want to know whether he acted as Governor General in Council or as Governor General?

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, with your permission, I would like to slightly amend the motion standing in my name. This, I may add, is in accordance with the desire of some Honourable Members in this House.

Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, nine non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Commerce Department is concerned."

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, nine non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Commerce Department is concerned."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surma Valley cum Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I have got an amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is too late. The motion has been adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR DEFENCE DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Ram Chandra (Secretary, Defence Department): Sir, with your permission I am going to make a slight change in the motion that stands in my name.

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 to advise the Defence Department on subjects other than Civil Defence for the financial year 1945-46."

I know that there is a desire expressed by some Honourable Members to have the number fixed at ten. I am suggesting eight by way of compromise and I hope they will agree, considering that for certain subjects, namely, civil defence and air raid precautions there is already a Standing Committee of the Legislature on which there are five members elected by this House.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): What is the scope of this Committee?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Let me put the motion first. 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 to advise the Defence Department on subjects other than Civil Defence for the financial year 1945-46."

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: There are two Committees already working in this Department and dealing with certain matters. What are the other subjects that this Committee will deal with?

Mr. Ram Chandra: It will deal with subjects like amenities for troops, welfare of troops, canteens, cantonments, requisitioning of land for military purposes, and so on.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): I have an amendment on the subject. Will you let me make a submission? The Honourable Member has moved that he wants advice on subjects other than Civil Defence. He obviously considers the advice which he will take from this Committee on matters concerning the welfare and amenities of troops. I want specific attention to be given by this Committee to matters which concern the life of the civil population through the activities of the troops.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I know that. At the same time the functions of the Committee have been defined in the Notification.

Mr. Manu Subedar: There are scandals in the contact of the military with the civil population. There are hundreds of problems arising out of requisitioning. Unless I get an assurance I want your permission to move this amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Standing Committee may take up this question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I have no assurance from the Defence Secretary.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Government Member can give no such assurance. I rule that this amendment is out of order.

Sir F. E. James (Madras: European): May I ask my Honourable friend a question. Is his Department responsible for policy relating to demobilisation questions? If so, will those questions come within the purview of this Committee?

Mr. Ram Chandra: Demobilisation is the concern of the War Department.

Sir F. E. James: Since when has that transfer been made? Normally speaking questions and correspondence relating to demobilisation have been dealt with by the Defence Department.

Mr. Ram Chandra: Demobilisation is the concern of the War Department. Questions relating to resettlement of ex-services personnel in civil life after the war will be dealt with by the Defence and Labour Departments.

Sir F. E. James: Then the question of the transfer of demobilised soldiers to civil life is dealt with by the Defence Department? I understood that the Reconstruction Committee dealing with that subject—resettlement or re-absorption into civil life—was presided over by the Honourable Member for Defence.

Mr. Ram Chandra: The question of resettlement will be dealt with by Labour or Defence Department.

Sir F. E. James: Do I understand that the responsibility for one of the most important questions relating to the transfer to civil life of the soldier—the question of where the responsibility lies—has not yet been decided?

Mr. Ram Chandra: It is under active consideration at the moment. There have been some developments.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am anxious not to be misunderstood for seeking to bring in my amendment. My complaint is this. The contact of troops with the civil population has created a large range of problems which may have been illustrated by the questions asked in this House and with regard to these problems the difficulty of the civil population is that they are subjects as much of the Central Government as of the Provincial Governments. The Provincial Governments act as the agents of the Central Government for this purpose. An illustration is the problem that has arisen out of requisitioning houses in Bombay recently.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member wants any information he can enquire.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am anxious that the Committee to be appointed should make it its particular concern to get information on those problems where the life of the civil population is affected and to secure redress, not merely by sympathy and courtesy which the Honourable the Defence Member has always given us, but by specific instructions to the Provincial Government concerned. I will take one case.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You can get the information you want. You cannot make a speech on the general administration on this motion.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): On a point of order. The Honourable Member is dealing with soldiers under the charge of the War Department which does not arise out of this question at all.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surma Valley cum Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): I want to speak a word in support of this amendment.

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

"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 to advise:

• [Mr. President.]

the Defence Department on subjects other than Civil Defence for the financial year 1945-46."

• 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 holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following Committees, namely:

	Date for nomination.	Date for election.
1. Standing Committee for the Department of Commerce	29th March.	3rd April.
2. Standing Committee for the Defence Department	29th March.	4th April.

The nominations for both the 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 Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that up to 12 Noon on Thursday, the 22nd March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies eleven nominations were received. Subsequently three Members withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Mr. A. C. Inskip, Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh, Sardar Sant Singh, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury, Mr. Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr. S. K. Hosmani and Mr. Saiyid Haidar Imam to be duly elected.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have also to inform the Assembly that the following Members have been elected to the Standing Finance Committee, namely, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt, Mr. Manu Subedar, Mr. G. W. Tyson, Mr. H. A. Sathar, H. Essak Sait, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetty, Major Nawab Sir Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Mr. B. Das, Mr. Piare Lal Kureel and Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1944-45—contd.

DEMAND No. 33—POLICE—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now deal with the Demands for Supplementary Grants. I think that on Demand No. 33 some information was wanted by some Honourable Members.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): I regret, Sir, yesterday I did not notice the word 'non-agency' which is used here. It means ordinary police. Since about 1941 the Government of India have subsidised the Provinces to ensure that their police are brought up to the standard necessary for war. The amount was under-estimated last year, largely because there has been a dispute between the Central Government and the Madras Government as to the amount we should pay to the Madras Government and it has now been settled. This has necessitated the payment of two years arrears. Agency police we also pay as the police act as agents of the Government of India guarding the Government of India property, etc. We pay the whole cost of this police.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I am glad, Sir, to know that the meaning of 'non-agency Police' is ordinary police. The original grant was 2,15,98,000. What is the basis on which they make this contribution to the police and may I also know what portion of that amount has been spent on agency police and may I also know whether they have considered the advisability, in view of the improved situation to reduce this cost of the police?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: There is no extra demand for agency police. I do not know what the total cost is. The basis of the Government of India's contribution was that the maintenance of law and order is essential for the successful prosecution of the war. Police being a provincial subject and war being a Central subject it was considered fair—and necessary too—that the Provinces should be helped in maintaining the necessary standard. The cost has been reduced this year. The proportion paid has been reduced this year and the saving brought about by that reduction has been set off against the under-estimate of the actual cost.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,69,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Police'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 35—LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,28,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Lighthouses and Lightships'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,28,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Lighthouses and Lightships'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 36—SURVEY OF INDIA.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 32,82,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Survey of India'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 32,82,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Survey of India'."

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am not able to understand this item in spite of the explanation that has been appended to it. The original grant voted was Rs. 1,000 and Non-voted Rs. 7,86,000. If the Defence Department has not purchased during the year as many maps as expected, am I to take it that the number of maps being less the cost is also less? How does it arise that a deficit of 32 and odd lakhs has to be met by a supplementary demand?

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): I confess it is a bit startling when a Department has a voted budget grant of only Rs. 1,000 and supplementary demand is made which comes up to nearly 33 lakhs. It is, however, if the House will believe me, only a matter of accounting arrangements. It does not represent any extra expenditure over what we anticipated in the budget: as a matter of fact, there has been less expenditure. We budgeted for a recovery from the Defence Services of Rs. one crore and sixteen lakhs for maps supplied but actually owing to changes in the demand for maps, for operational reasons, I presume, we actually supplied maps to the extent of Rs. 34.48 lakhs less than we had expected. That represents a reduction of Rs. 34.48 lakhs in our recovery from the War Department and it also represents a similar saving for the War Department. That is mentioned in the first paragraph of the note under this Demand.

[Mr. J. D. Tyson.]

The real point however is that dealt with in the later part of the same note, which shows that we are faced with a big advise book entry resulting from a change in the way in which the accounts are now presented.

What happened was this. At last year's meeting of the Public Accounts Committee the Auditor General drew attention to the extraordinary position that arose when a Department which has a very considerable expenditure on staff, materials and machinery, ended up the financial year then under review with a "minus" expenditure balance. That arose from the fact that the Survey of India is producing to order a vast number of maps for the Defence Services which are paid for by the War Department at a flat rate. As it is an inter-departmental matter, inside the Central Government, to avoid swelling the budget in two Departments, we have been taking these receipts as a deduct entry in the Survey of India budget. In ordinary times maps are produced as the Survey of India think they will be required by the Departments and the public; they are put into stock and receipts from sales of maps from stock are credited to a "revenue" head; but when the Survey of India, as in these days, does a special job of work for another Department, receipts are taken as a minus entry in the budget of the Survey for that year. Now, this practice, which is in accordance with existing accounts rules, causes no trouble in peace time. But in war time the whole work of the Survey Department is production of maps for the War Department, and so we were taking as "minus expenditure" very large sums of money in excess of actual expenditure. For the current year we budgeted on the same basis as the matter had not been settled; but, as I said, the Auditor General had raised this point before the Public Accounts Committee, and the Public Accounts Committee asked the Auditor General to look into it and see whether this was really a suitable arrangement in present conditions. The Auditor General has advised that we should for the period of the present emergency credit all these receipts from the War Department to a revenue head and not take them as a deduct entry. The budget having been framed on the old system we have been suddenly deprived of the recoveries which we had made from the War Department and which we were relying on to cover our expenditure when we budgeted for a mere token expenditure of Rs. 1,000. These recoveries have now all gone into a revenue head—Miscellaneous XXXVI,—and, consequently, we have got an expenditure of Rs. 86,26,000 against which we only have Rs. 53 lakhs voted. It was expected that the remainder would be met by crediting recoveries as a minus expenditure. As the recovery is now all to be taken away and credited as revenue, the difference that has now got to be found by a supplementary grant from this Honourable House is Rs. 86,26,000 less Rs. 53,44,000 already voted, and that is Rs. 32,82,000. As I said, it is not extra expenditure; it is merely a change in the form of accounting.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think it is desirable that in future the report should contain adequate explanation on points like this so that much time of the House will be saved.

The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 32,82,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Survey of India'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 41—ARCHAEOLOGY.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Archæology'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Archæology'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, I find that an Archæological Training School has been started from the 1st October 1944. It is new expenditure, and such expenditure ought to have been brought before the Standing Finance Committee. I should like to know why it was not brought before the Standing Finance Committee. Secondly we would like to have some information about the school itself.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It is a very small matter. The excavations at Taxila have been going on for a very long time. The Director General of Archæology has to go there himself to supervise the excavations. He decided to utilise that site to train the students, who however are not paid for by the Government of India. They watch and assist in the excavations. Financially it is quite a small affair. Probably almost the only expenditure was—an officer for six months who was specially brought to supervise the work and to assist the Director General of Archæology when he was there, and a certain amount as Travelling Allowance for another officer who worked in an honorary capacity. The cost is scattered about under several sub-heads and I am not sure what the total amount was; but it must have been very much below the limit that is ordinarily taken as a criterion for bringing matters before the Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it a temporary school?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It is a temporary school.

Sir K. B. Jinaraja Hegde (West Coast and Nilgiris: Non-Muhammādan Rural): In the demands for grants Rs. 49,000 has been set apart for explorations. It is not known where these explorations were carried out. I would like to know in this connection who settles the sites for excavations, whether these are settled by the Member concerned or by any Committee for that purpose.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Excavations in this particular case are almost entirely at Taxila, but the general question where excavations will be carried out has been left in the past in the main to the Director General of Archæology. We have now armed the Department and the Director General with a very influential and expert Advisory Committee on which this Honourable House is represented. I have not the least doubt that in future the excavation programme will be considered by the Director General of Archæology in the light of advice given by this Committee.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Archæology'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 45—MEDICAL SERVICES.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Medical Services'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Medical Services'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I want to ask a question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The motion has been put and carried.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: While you were reading, if I asked, it would be interruption. There must be some interval. It is really difficult for us to intervene. I tell you honestly and frankly.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member has anything to complain against the Chair, he must bring up a proper motion.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: There is no such thing.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): My submission is this. We do not want to make a complaint against the Chair. I think we are entitled to make a suggestion and also to request, and the request is

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I did not know that any Honourable Member wanted to speak.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You were going so fast, you did not allow any interval at all between one motion and another. It was not possible to ask any question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I paused, as usual but I did not hear that any Honourable Member wanted to speak.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We could not make ourselves heard because of the fear that it might be interpreted as an interruption.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Very well. We will go on to the next demand.

DEMAND No. 46—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,52,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Public Health'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,52,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Public Health'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Just a question, Sir. What is this Singur practice field?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Singur is a large village area, some miles out of Calcutta on the Serampore side, where the late Mr. Surendra Nath Mullick founded a dispensary. The Government of Bengal took considerable interest in this area which is normally an unhealthy area; but they have recently made arrangements with the Government of India for handing over the health arrangements of a certain area round Singur to the All India Institute of Hygiene Public Health as a practice ground; and there they have tried out, I believe with great deal of benefit to the inhabitants, all kinds of public health schemes and nursing and so on.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have they any such practice fields in any other part of the country?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No, because the All India Institute is located in Calcutta.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,52,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Public Health'." The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 47—AGRICULTURE.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,01,90,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Agriculture'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,01,90,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Agriculture'."

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I should like to know, if I may, the exact position of the locust menace at the present moment. I know that last year there was a great danger from locusts and that the Government of India, to my personal knowledge, deputed some of its officers to the Jodhpur State to fight the menace; and I understand that they did very good work. I am not sure if the menace no more exists, and I should like to know if Government is taking any further steps in that matter.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, I find that apart from the locust-menace fighting, the major portion of the supplementary grant is composed of one crore, which they want to allot to the Sugar Fund. I see from the original provision for this grant that for the year 1943-44 Rs. 40 lakhs have been contributed but for the current year nothing has been contributed. I hope that this money comes out of the excise that has been levied on the sugar industry.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the fund has been spent by the Sugar Committee or how this Government is regulating the expenditure of that amount? May I also know whether this money is spent for the development of the sugar industry or for the development of the sugar cane agricultural industry? I find in the same grant, page 126 of the original demand, a series of grants for research in agricultural schemes. I would like to know whether Government is proposing to make a similar grant for the cultivation of sugar cane in this country; and in this matter I would suggest one or two things. One real scheme for the development of sugar industry is the proper utilisation of molasses and the waste products of this industry. Experiments have been made, I suppose, for turning out spirit out of these molasses. May I know whether the Government have taken any active steps in that direction and have succeeded in making something out of these molasses? I know in Mysore a certain percentage of spirit is manufactured out of molasses and experiments were made in Bihar and United Provinces; we would like to know how this money has been spent and how these industries have been helped by this fund.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, this fund is a very important matter. I am glad this money is being set apart for it, but as my Honourable friend Mr. Chettiar has asked, the most important thing is for what purpose this money is going to be spent? There was a time when Sir James Grigg was the Finance Member; he wanted to lay special stress on the development of marketing facilities for sugarcane producers, so that their interests, as against the interests of the sugar manufacturers, may be protected. In fact when he proposed to double the sugar excise duty he promised on the floor of this House with the concurrence of his colleague, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, at that time, to set apart five lakhs of rupees per annum as a special fund for the development and improvement of co-operative marketing facilities for sugarcane growers. We have not had any opportunity of knowing from the Government what they had done with the money thus set apart for that particular purpose, how much of it was really utilised for the development of co-operative marketing facilities and how much was still outstanding and to what purpose it has been utilised. We would like to know whether one of the most important objectives for which this fund was set up will be the improvement of marketing facilities for peasants and especially in the co-operative direction. Only yesterday, my Honourable friend the Finance Member was deploring the inability of our peasants to organise themselves in a co-operative fashion, so that they could raise their bargaining capacity in the marketing of their produce as against these merchants and manufacturers. This is a very important matter. I hope the Honourable Finance Member before he leaves this country will give some attention to this particular matter and see that this fund will be utilised specially for this purpose also.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, my friend Mr. Sri Prakasa complained about the locusts. In every district, in every taluk almost, the Government have established agricultural farms with some agricultural demonstrators who are in charge of those farms and with some staff to advise the agriculturist and also the horticulturists, as to how to remove this trouble of locusts and other insect pests. But there are huge complaints in the country that these demonstrators are not at all regularly going to the roots when they are wanted, or giving them advice.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go into all sorts of grievances on this motion.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: These are the grievances of the ryots in the country.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This is not the occasion to ventilate grievances like those.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: These are the facts. The ryots are complaining that the demonstrators are not going to them regularly and giving advice and when they go, they charge them, instead of giving free advice.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go into all that.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: I request the Honourable Member to take proper steps to advise the Agricultural Department to ask the demonstrators of agricultural farms to go to the ryots often and given them free advice in respect of these things.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: I would like to know whether any contribution was made to the agricultural colleges where research is being carried on in the matter of the sugar industry.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: First of all, Sir, as regards locusts. We were warned about 2½ years ago by the organisation which watches locusts, an organisation in which Russia and the Middle East and ourselves are very interested, that all over the Middle East and India we were entering upon a very serious locust cycle—these pests come in cycles—and we were warned that for four or five years we might expect a very serious locust infestation. I am happy to say that with the co-operation of the provinces in which locusts perform their depredations and the States similarly mustered we have been able during the last three years to wipe out our own locusts, so that there has been practically no damage to the kharif crops in India during those years. The House may be interested to learn that last year, just 15 months ago, the Middle East Organisation established a rather elaborate post down on the borders of India and Iran with the idea of trying out new methods of destroying the swarms of locusts which ordinarily at that time of the year should have passed from India along the funnel between the mountains of Afghanistan and the sea into Iran and Arabia. Though they kept their organisation for some months, no swarms materialised, for the fact was that they had been destroyed in India. We hoped that after the 2½ or 3 years' successful work that we had done in India we had cleared the danger period; but we have during the last six weeks received a solemn warning that organisations in the North Eastern part of Africa and in Arabia are not nearly as efficient as our organisation here and, further, that the season there has been extremely favourable for locust breeding: we have in fact been warned to expect a big locust invasion from outside India this year. It has not turned up yet but there is no reason to suppose that it will not come across the Red Sea in due course. We have therefore to keep our locust warning organisation intact and to keep our machinery, which is very largely provincial, and also the States machinery intact to meet an invasion from outside, though there is practically nothing left of our own locusts in India.

As regards what has been said about agricultural demonstrators if the Honourable Member will give me details and if they are in fact Central Government employees, I will look into the matter but I rather think it is probably a provincial matter.

Reference has been made to the provision of one crore in this supplementary Demand. I understand that the Honourable the Finance Member will explain to the House how that crore arises but Honourable Members have perhaps mixed that up with quite a different matter—the Sugar Excise Fund—which was created in the time of Sir James Grigg, as has been mentioned, and perhaps as the matter has been raised I had better very briefly explain that Sir James Grigg did at that time say that the proceeds of the fund would be set aside for the improvement of marketing facilities for sugar cane. But he did not say that the fund would always be devoted to that purpose and as a matter of fact about a year or 18 months later all the Governments concerned were warned that the Central Government reserved the right after a period of

years—I think it was five—to alter the use to which that fund could be put, the more so as a good deal of work was being done by some of the provinces in the meantime of establishing marketing facilities for cane. Now the proceeds of the Sugar Excise Fund go in the first place to keep up the Imperial Council of Sugar Technology at Cawnpore; next for properly co-ordinated schemes of sugar research and cognate activities conducted under the aegis of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research; and the balance is available for grants to Provincial Governments for schemes ancillary to the I. C. A. R. schemes designed to test the results of those schemes in particular years. I will leave the matter of the one crore for the Honourable the Finance Member to explain, because it is in fact an entirely different subject.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As regards the emergence of this one crore fund, the position is that in the course of the year it was decided to increase the maximum price for cane and that meant an increase in the maximum price of sugar but since the price for cane had already been paid in the previous season, if the maximum price for sugar were increased, it would give an uncovenanted advantage to the producers of sugar, to those at any rate who would not have paid the new maximum for cane. In order to remove that uncovenanted profit from the pockets of the private producer, we levied a special excise at that time and placed the money into a fund. We had not decided exactly what we should do with that fund at the time we made that levy. We had only made up our minds that it is entirely unfair that the manufacturer of sugar should get away with that advantage. It has since been decided, and there is a note on page 15 of the Explanatory Memorandum to the General Budget, that the fund will be utilised mainly to finance schemes for the improvement of the sugar industry which the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee is being asked to prepare for the consideration of the Government. So that for the moment, the money remains in the special fund and Government are awaiting the recommendation of this committee as to the manner in which it could most suitably be employed.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Am I to understand that there are two funds which are intended for the development of the sugar industry?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: There is the ordinary Sugar Excise Fund which contains a portion of the normal sugar excise collections and there is this special and quite temporary fund which arose in the circumstances I have mentioned.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,01,90,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Agriculture'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 48—IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary 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 on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Imperial Council of Agricultural Research'."

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

"That a supplementary 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 on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Imperial Council of Agricultural Research'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, I find from the original demand that there are certain grants for research schemes financed out of this grant. I also find under the head, agriculture, that there are many grants for research. I also understand that many of them are worked under I. C. A. R. May I know why these have been classified separately. Apart from this technical point, the real point I wish to raise is this. The conclusions arrived at after research work made by this Council are all published in English. I am not sure whether all of them are published. I would suggest to the Government

[Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:]

that it is high time that they be published in Indian languages so that they may be useful to the ordinary ryots in the village. Attempts were recently made by certain Governments to come into closer contact with the peasants. As it is most people do not know what is happening. Many people think that the money spent on this Department is a huge waste. While I do not want to go into the merits of that opinion, I suggest that attempts should be made to broadcast the findings of researches made by this Department in Indian languages so that they may be useful to the villager and generally to all the people in the country.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Sir, the I. C. A. R., of course, has its own governing body which comes to its own decisions. But I will commend the suggestion of the Honourable Member to the I. C. A. R. that appropriate literature in Indian languages should be disseminated in villages, if in fact it has not already been done. It may be that it is done already.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Are any annual reports published by I. C. A. R.?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, they are published.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know if there is any constitutional difficulty for the Honourable the Finance Member to resume the earlier practice of making lump sum grants to I. C. A. R. I think it was formerly five lakhs. I am not quite sure of the amount.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My impression is that the amounts which are provided from general revenues for I. C. A. R. are considerably more than five lakhs. The scale of expenditure is certainly not less than what it was in the days to which my Honourable friend refers.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My point is this. What I understand to be the case is that alterations have been made after I have been sent to jail. I understood that the proceeds of a particular cess imposed upon agriculture—exports or something like these—are being placed at the disposal of I. C. A. R. and the I. C. A. R. is expected to be dependent upon its expenditure for this revenue. Apart from this revenue, may I know whether there is any constitutional difficulty now for the Government of India to resume their former practice of making lump sum grants from the general revenue to I. C. A. R.?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: There is no constitutional difficulty but actually the present method of financing the Council is preferred by the Council itself and by the participating Governments. It is not merely a matter in which the Central Government is concerned, there are Provincial Governments and also the people of the States which are concerned with this council. The present method of financing its activities has been considered to be more appropriate and to be an improvement on former method. My Honourable friend may have a different view, but that is a matter of opinion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a supplementary 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 on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Imperial Council of Agricultural Research'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 49—AGRICULTURAL MARKETING.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move: "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 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 on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Agricultural Marketing'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved: "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 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 on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Agricultural Marketing'."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I wish to make a suggestion in regard to this also. The reports of the Agricultural Marketing Department are extremely useful in regard to the marketing of agricultural commodities. The sale of these reports will be a paying proposition. These reports or brief summaries thereof should

be translated in as many Indian languages as possible and made available to the peasants. I know that some of these reports have already been published in some Indian languages. But I should like them to be published in as many languages as possible. Unfortunately to the earlier query of Mr. Chettiar, there was no answer and I hope the House will be furnished with an answer to this as well as the previous question.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): On page 22 reference is made to Sann Hemp grading scheme and expenditure in connection therewith. What is this scheme?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know of how many articles are the Government of India taking charge for marketing?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Taking the last question first, I am afraid I cannot answer off-hand. I do not handle this work from day to day. As regards Sann Hemp, I may say it has a very valuable market in U. K. If we are to secure that market and keep it after the war, then it is necessary that we should maintain a definite standard of the product for export. Therefore we put up a scheme under what we call the Agricultural Marketing Act to grade Sann Hemp, certainly for export, and to ensure that the standard is maintained. The present Demand has reference to the Inspectorate set up for that purpose. The present inspectorate is not good enough and we want to improve the quality of the inspectorate and it costs a little more money. As regards the publication of marketing reports in Indian languages, I shall certainly examine the possibility of having them translated into more languages than at present. I am afraid I did not catch the other point raised,—about classification of research schemes.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 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 on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Agricultural Marketing'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 51—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICE.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,15,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,15,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I wish to raise two points. I am glad this Imperial Institute of Veterinary Research is being developed. Till now, the training of students at this Institute has not been developed as well as it ought to be. Far fewer students have been taken so much so that the country has felt keenly the shortage of trained people especially during the last six years. Now they propose to take only 24 students for next year, 12 for nutritional research and 12 for poultry research. This number is far too small. I should like the Government to do all they can to increase the total number of students to be trained there and also to give them facilities for boarding and lodging. Then, Sir, another thing that I should like to know is this. They say that they are providing for an increase in the number of animals required for the manufacture of increased quantities of biological products. I should like to know how they do it. Do they kill these animals in order to get something out of them, or do they simply keep them there and examine their constitution or their lives and thus make their researches?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: As regards students I accept the reproof of my Honourable friend that we have not trained enough students in the past, but we are trying to remedy it now. We fully realise the need for training students at both our Agricultural and our Veterinary Institutes.

As regards the point about animals, it is rather a technical one. I know that so far as research is concerned animals do of course sometimes die because

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In research you have got to try to give an animal the disease that you are trying to prevent if you are to try out your vaccine or serum; and you must of course have as "controls" a certain number which you inject but on which you do not try your serum and so naturally there is a certain wastage of animals in the latter case. But I do not think in a matter of manufacturing vaccines and sera animals are actually killed at all. I think these animals may in time become a bit worn out but that they are retained alive.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know if the sera are first tried on cattle or on guinea-pigs or some other animals? If the procedure is that the moment you discover a serum you inject a costly animal and it might mean a serious loss as you are not sure of the consequences.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Of course it varies with the nature of the research. They have large quantities of guinea-pigs and other small animals there; and as far as they possibly can, they try the stuff out on these. But there comes a time when they must try it on the cattle and poultry themselves—poultry, I may add is now a very important feature of the Institute.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know if there is...

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go on like that. If there are any suggestions that he wants to make he should make them at one time. There cannot be more than one speech.

The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,15,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 52—INDUSTRIES.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 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 on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Industries'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 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 on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Industries'."

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, on page 23 of the memoranda we find that Rs. 27,000 is going to be spent on the Indian School of Mines at Dhanbad, of which Rs. 13,400 is meant for Other Charges and Rs. 13,600 for Allowances, etc. Are these allowances to be paid to the teachers or professors of that School of Mines? There is no mention of that anywhere.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Sir, we would also like to have some information about the Indian Industrial Mission to Australia. Has the Honourable Member received any information as to what they are doing, when they are expected back and whether they have been provided with all possible facilities by the Government of Australia to do their work? I should also like to have a rough estimate as regards the expenditure on this Mission, because that is not specifically given.

Seth Yusuf Abdoolo Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): I also want to know how this delegation was composed and whether applications were invited from them.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, I am glad that this opportunity has been given to me to explain the position. It is only about a fortnight back that I received a letter from the members of the delegation from Australia, and I must say that they have been given the utmost assistance, help and support in their mission. So far as travel is concerned, they have got a special plane placed at their disposal. There is an official photographer, publicity arrangement

have been specially made, typists and office assistants have been given; and I have seen that within three hours of their arrival at an Australian port their photographs were flashed throughout Australia. In fact it is very interesting to see the manner in which our delegates have been treated in the matter of comforts and other arrangements.

As regards estimates of expenditure, they have gone at their own cost, but there are certain incidental expenses which will come to about Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 6,000. Of course we cannot be sure about these incidental expenses.

I do not know whether applications are always taken in the matter of selecting candidates for these delegations. We select them, and sometimes we want to send certain special types of delegates. Australia and New Zealand have a certain character of their own in their industries and agriculture; and we try as far as possible to get the benefit of advice from men who can go and see things for themselves. I shall be prepared to place more materials when the delegation comes back and we have a report from them.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Can we expect a report after their return?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If that is needed, I shall be glad to give it.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 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 on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Industries'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 53—SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,52,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Scientific and Industrial Research'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,52,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Scientific and Industrial Research'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, in the note we find this:

"To cover the increase in expenditure resulting from the expansion of the activities of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research the normal grant of Rs. 10 lakhs has been increased to Rs. 15 lakhs during 1944-45."

But on page 144 of the budget estimates for 1944-45 I find that the sum provided is 20 lakhs, although in the two previous years it was 10 lakhs. I should like to know whether this is the same thing as the Committee appointed by the Commerce Department under Sir Shanmukham Chetty; and if so whether it is a temporary or a permanent body.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I should like to know whether this Bureau gets any income from its inquiries or its publications or from any other source. I was given to understand some time back by a friend that this more than pays its own way. If that is so, it cannot be that Government provides for 20 lakhs in one big demand and another 5 lakhs in a supplementary demand. If this Council is to be provided with 25 lakhs I should like to know how it compares with the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research which is not given the same facilities and which, on the other hand, is expected to pay its own way by grants received from various Provincial Governments and States and also from a sort of special cess that has been imposed for the purpose, in order that it may be maintained. Does this mean that Government wish to pursue two different policies, one in the matter of agricultural research and another with regard to industrial research? So far as industrial research is concerned, are they anxious to spend money from the general revenues? Of course I have no objection—that is the right thing to do. But why should they not be anxious to do the same thing in regard to industrial research?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I want to draw the attention of Government to one thing which is holding back the progress of this country a great deal in this respect. It is obvious that unless you pay your scientists decently, you cannot expect them to do proper work. I want to know on what basis are you paying to your best qualified scientists? People go to England; spend several years there in doing research work; and when they come back to India, you offer them two to three hundred rupees per month in your Research Institutes, and then you expect them to do good work. And you also expect to attract best qualified people to your Institutes. How is it possible? You are prepared to pay high salaries to men who sit in competitions.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is raising a general question of policy.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Sir, I am drawing the attention of Government to the fact that the salaries which have been allowed are very very inadequate, and I am suggesting that if Government really wish to attract the proper type of research workers, they should be prepared to give proper salaries—certainly not less than what an ordinary graduate without any special qualifications who sits in a competitive examination can get. The present scales of pay for research workers are very discouraging indeed. I hope the Government will look into this matter, which is very important because the progress of a country depends on the contribution which its research workers are able to make in the various branches of science.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal (Member for Planning and Development): With regard to the point raised by Mr. Chettiar, besides the ten lakhs grant which is received by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. Mr. Chettiar might remember that a lump sum grant of one crore of rupees was approved of by the Assembly for the purpose of starting national laboratories of different kinds in the country and out of that an additional provision of ten lakhs of rupees has been made during the year under consideration for expenditure on the national laboratories. We are proposing to establish about five Scientific laboratories: the National Chemical Laboratory; the National Physical laboratory; the Metallurgical Laboratory; the Glass Research laboratory; and the Fuel laboratory.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it all under the Planning Department?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is under the Planning Department. Agricultural Research has been kept by the E., H. and L. Department.

As regards the point raised by Prof. Ranga about the difference in treatment, that is only a question of how the expenditure is met. But I may say that a suggestion has been made by a committee appointed under the chairmanship of Sir Shanmukham Chetty that a cess should be levied also on industries to meet the very large expenditure on industrial and scientific research that might accrue in the future. That is a matter under consideration, but I hope that my Honourable friend will agree that the amount which we are now spending on scientific research in the country is a mere bagatelle and that very much larger sums of money will require to be spent on scientific research *pari passu* with the progress of the country.

Sir, I sympathize with the point raised by my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, regarding the inadequacy of the salaries of scientific workers. That is a point which is engaging my attention and we hope to make some improvement in this regard.

As regards the revenues received by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, a certain amount is received by way of royalty on the discoveries and inventions made by the Council, but it does not amount to anything very much and our idea is not so much to make money out of these things but to give out our more useful research for general use without thinking so much of the monetary side.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: There is a provision.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already spoken.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, it is a very important point. There is a provision for 20 lakhs already and only 10 lakhs has been given.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It was explained by my Honourable colleague that what we were referring to was the ordinary annual recurring provision of ten lakhs. That has been increased to 15 lakhs. But in addition to that, in the year in question, ten lakhs has been provided from the one crore scheme for the purpose of these various research institutions, making the total 25 lakhs.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,52,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Scientific and Industrial Research'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 56—BROADCASTING

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,10,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Broadcasting'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,10,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Broadcasting'."

Mr. G. W. Tyson (Bengal: European): In regard to this supplementary grant No. 56, under parts A and B under section II, I should briefly like to elicit some information from the Honourable Member in charge. At the same time, I would like to pay a tribute, sincerely and gladly, to the very great improvement in the quality of All-India Radio broadcasts from Delhi, both as to their power and as to their contents. The position in the Provinces however is considerably different. I see here, under B, a certain provision is made for Broadcasting Stations which, I presume, include the provinces. What I would like to impress upon the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting is the extremely unsatisfactory terms of service of employees in provincial Broadcasting Stations. The rates of pay and the absence of any security of contract, or assurance of long-term service, seems to me to be militating against developing a real broadcasting service. I should like to hear what he has to say on that subject, and to ask him if he does not think, if he is going to attract personnel of the best quality, the terms on which employment is offered in provincial stations should not be improved.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Sir, I have a cut motion on this Demand, but I am not moving because there is a little confusion about that.

Sir, I want to invite the attention of the House to the remarks made by the Standing Finance Committee on this Demand:

"The Committee approved the proposal but desired to have an opportunity of reviewing the whole of the expenditure of this Department."

The expenditure of this Department has been increasing by leaps and bounds—the House knows about it. I want to place the figures before the House. The budget estimate for 1944-45 for this department was Rs. 56,03,000 but the revised estimate went up to Rs. 71,07,000. The budget estimates for this year is Rs. 93,83,000. These figures will show to the House the staggering rate at which this Department is expanding. We were told that the policy is set by the Department itself. The only check that we in this House can have is through the Finance Department and the Finance Department is concerned only with regard to the expenditure. I want some check with regard to expansion also. After all where is this expansion to stop? The expansion has been out of all proportion and we do not know whether the

[Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait.]

expansion is necessary and whether it is doing any good at all. In a previous report of the Finance Committee it will be found that when this question of expansion came up before the Committee and a demand of Rs. 26 lakhs was placed before the Committee, one of the members declared categorically that even if the money that is demanded was granted, his reaction was that he did not expect any better service than at present. That is a fact. The feeling is that a great deal of money is being squandered in this Department. I wish this House to have some effective check so far as this expansion itself is concerned. The Department, I believe, is willing to have some sort of enquiry held into its activities. I am not sure whether they have agreed. I think the House will be well advised in insisting on some sort of check and enquiry. I just wanted to place these facts before the House and I hope the House will take note of it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: For a very long time we have been demanding a separate broadcasting station for the Andhras but nothing has been done except holding out some sort of hope that in the post-war plans this would be included. Broadcasting has been consuming more and more money and they say they want more because of the increased activities of the Department and so on. But these increased activities do not seem to be getting us anywhere. The Andhras are supposed to be dependent on the Trichinopoly station and the Madras station. But Trichinopoly is a Tamil station and Madras is a bi-lingual station. There is no station at all for the Andhras and they number more than two crores of people. They deserve a separate broadcasting station and we do not want to wait till post-war times. Immediate steps should be taken to have a separate station for them. The necessary materials may be purchased and brought from abroad. After all they are making provision for so many things in spite of the paucity of shipping accommodation and shipping space. For example the contemplated import of consumers' goods. I cannot associate myself with my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson in the compliment that he has sought to pay in an indirect manner to this Department. My experience of the radio services by this Department is very limited and therefore I cannot very well say that their broadcasting service is really as good as it ought to be. But we know that there is a considerable amount of discontent in the country about the activities of this Department. Only to-day and yesterday in the papers we find that the All India Hindu...

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go into all that now.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Therefore, Sir, while not associating myself with my Honourable friend in paying any sort of compliment but while associating myself with my Honourable friend, Mr. Essak Sait, that there should be an early opportunity taken by this House to appoint a Committee to go into the growth of, and the manner in which the money is spent by, this Department, I request the Honourable Member in charge of this to give a satisfactory answer to our query in regard to the Andhra Broadcasting station.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I want to oppose this grant because no broadcasting station has been given to my province though I have been asking for it for a number of years.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Sir, hopes were held out to us...

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is 1-15. 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. K. C. Neogy (one of the Panel of Chairmen) in the Chair.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): The House will now resume discussion of the motion under Demand No. 56.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Sir, hopes were held out to us on the floor of this House about a Broadcasting Station for the Province of Sind and in the last Advisory Committee of the Information and Broadcasting Department the Honourable Member in charge informed the Committee that he had in his possession every thing except accommodation. He said that they could not get any suitable accommodation at Karachi. It was in reply to a question by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai or...

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Member for Information and Broadcasting): I said, Sir, everything except equipments.

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: What is every thing without the equipment?

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: I remember, the equipment in Madras which was being shifted was proposed to be transferred to Karachi. That was what we were told in the Advisory Committee meeting and were also informed that there was no co-operation from the Provincial Government. I wrote a letter to the Provincial Government and I sent a copy of it to the Information and Broadcasting Department informing that the Provincial Government was willing to co-operate and give every assistance in the matter but nothing was done. I may inform the House that in the meantime the Americans have built up their own broadcasting station at Karachi. They started it within a month and here our own Government in India...

Mr. Sri Prakasa: How did they get the license?

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: You may ask the Department. The Honourable Member says that it is a military or defence broadcasting station but I have never heard anything else except American music programme from that station. Sir, I hope the Honourable Member will consider our case and give us a Broadcasting station at a very early date. We have no station in that zone except the Lahore station, although Madras has three stations. I hope the Honourable Member will consider our claims prior to any other.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): Mr. Chairman, it is one of the many tricks which the Executive always plays by setting up a discussion on larger and larger expenditure with the object of avoiding criticism with respect to expenditure already incurred. We were dealing with the supplementary grant for nine lakhs ten thousand under Broadcasting and we started with the criticism that this Department has grown beyond all proportion and that there was absolutely no check over the expenditure of this Department. No doubt in the interval claims for this Province and that Province have intervened and now I find that the Honourable the Leader of the House is chuckling at the manner in which the discussion is taking place. Just to pull it from that direction to its original direction, I must express my astonishment at the manner in which the expenditure is being incurred by this Department and this is not the first time I gave expression to a similar observation with regard particularly to this Department. Moreover there are absolutely no details whatsoever as to the extra services that are added to this Department in order that this additional staff became necessary and therefore additional expenditure was incurred. The description which he has given is far too meagre to give us any idea of any additional useful service that has been done by the Broadcasting Department during the course of the year. In fact, I think the Honourable the Finance Member would welcome an opportunity of the advice and the assistance of a committee of this House in order to scrutinise the expenditure of this Department particularly. It is stated, apart from the dearness allowance and honoraria that are given as a result of a general resolution passed during the year, there has been an increase of staff itself. How many persons were engaged, what is their pay and why has it become necessary that these people should be employed under this Department? What is the additional news service or even the music service that is added to the present programmes of the Broadcasting Department? I wish the Honourable the Leader of the House would take the earliest opportunity

[Mr Sami Vencatachelam Chetty.]

to explain and so far as the claims of such Provinces as have not got broadcasting stations are concerned, I wish to say that that is entirely a different matter and they would certainly be entitled to press for such extensions of stations when the time comes.

But since the question has arisen I wish to say a few words with regard to the claims of the Telugu districts of Madras Province for a broadcasting station. That was a matter which was promised to these districts long ago, at any rate, simultaneously with the installation of a broadcasting station at Trichy. My Honourable friend Prof. Ranga is not quite accurate in saying that Madras should be made essentially a Tamil broadcasting station. Nor is it in vogue. It is in fact serving all the languages that are prevalent in Madras Province. It includes Malayalam, and Canarese also. Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Canarese programmes are being broadcast from Madras station. I think that should continue as it is. If anything, until such time as the installation of a new broadcasting station in the Telugu Districts the balance may be tilted in favour of Telugu a little more than it is at present in Madras. But if a separate station is given to the Telugu Districts then I think a perfect equality should be observed so far as broadcasting in Madras is concerned. It must till then continue to be poly-lingual. To that extent I endorse the views of my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga.

In any case, the responsibility of the Honourable the Leader of the House to justify this increase in expenditure is very grave upon him and whatever might be the observations made in regard to the utility of broadcasting stations in each province, it is his proper duty to explain to the House most convincingly that this additional expenditure was necessary.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Chairman, I want to say a word or two on this subject. Some time ago in connection with a Resolution on broadcasting in this country I had something to say which was purely of a technical nature. I feel that when the question of multiplication of broadcasting stations is now being considered, the Honourable Member in charge of the Department should first of all satisfy himself with the best technical advice in the matter. The one question which is of paramount importance in setting up new broadcasting stations in different parts of the country is that in no case should this be done without a proper consideration of the surroundings of the locality, where such stations are proposed to be set up. There are such technical matters as the receptivity of the soil with regard to electro-magnetic waves. These are technical matters which should be very carefully considered and the mere fact that a particular province wants a broadcasting station should not by itself be considered a sufficient justification for the establishment of it in that locality.

● **Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon** said that he wanted a broadcasting station at Karachi. I do myself feel that every province should have a broadcasting station. I am in thorough sympathy with the demand, but my point is that it might well be from a technical point of view that Karachi may not be suitable for a broadcasting station while Hyderabad or even Sukkur may be. There may be real technical difficulties. Those who are regular listeners to Indian broadcasts will agree that Indian broadcast transmitters are so operated and electro-magnetic wave currents are thrown in such a manner that they very often collide or overlap and the result is that you hear a station located in a distant place, but not one near you.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: The station may be anywhere as long as it is in Sind.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: My point is a purely technical one. In a case like this the technical aspects must be thoroughly gone into. I am myself of the opinion that the way its expansion has gone on in this country has not been a success. That is my point. There may be a variety of considerations. First of all, the conditions of the surroundings where the broadcasting station is set up; secondly, the nature of the transmitter; for instance 14 K. W.

transmitter might have served in the days gone by, but the modern tendency is to have a transmitter of 5 K.W. at least. We should be thankful to the Honourable Member in charge that he has provided the Delhi Station with a very powerful transmitter, I think it is the second most powerful transmitter in the East.

An Honourable Member: It is the first.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I was under the impression that it was the second. Before you set up a broadcasting station in any province first of all make a thorough scientific survey of the locality where you want to instal it. Secondly, consider what kind of transmitter you are going to put up. It will serve no useful purpose if you start with a low power transmitter. It is better to wait for some time more before you can get a really powerful transmitter which can give efficient service.

There is another matter, which I want to stress in this connection. I personally feel that it is time that Government should provide adequate facilities for rural broadcasting. I raised this question on one occasion in the Public Accounts Committee, and I am very thankful to Sir Jeremy Raisman for his very sympathetic attitude in that connection. I publicly acknowledge it today. Now that he is going away I hope the new Finance Member will take the matter up and will help the Honourable Member in charge of this Department in finding money for this purpose. Rural broadcasting is of the utmost importance. Rural folks cannot afford to have expensive sets. These days the prices of radio sets have gone up so much that it is not within the means of most people to have them. This question will have to be seriously taken up.

Allied to this is another matter which I also mentioned in the Public Accounts Committee, it is that the Department should set up extensive and intensive research in the direction of manufacture of cheap radio sets, so that they may be readily available to the rural population. The Department should explore all possibilities of manufacturing in India cheap radio sets which will be within the easy reach of people of ordinary means in this country. I will again stress that earnest attention will have to be paid to rural areas. Where people cannot afford to buy, Government will have to provide free sets out of the vast sums of money which we are spending in this Department.

A point was raised by my friend, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty, and I think rightly. If a province like Andhra gets a station Telugu will play an increasingly important role, but that should not mean that all other languages should be shut out. Madras and Trichinopoly stations will broadcast in all the four languages of the Province. So long as Canarese and Malayalees do not get their own stations, their needs will also have to be catered for. Therefore, if you are going to have another station in Andhra—I may say I am in sympathy with the claims of Andhra—this matter will have to be kept in view. Every broadcasting station in India is ultimately controlled by the centre, and it should therefore be its policy that the broadcasting stations render useful service to the people of India as a whole.

With these observations I support the motion.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I had no mind to take part in this debate, but when I see other Members speaking for their respective provinces I think I should not allow my province of Bihar to go unrepresented. I was under the impression that the Honourable Member for Broadcasting comes from Bihar and so Bihar would have a station, but now I feel, Sir, that I was under a false impression. I think he is not doing anything for Bihar, he may be doing everything for other provinces. As regards the proposed broadcasting station at Patna when I put to him a question, he referred me to an answer he had given to a previous question, and also he complained of want of equipment. Now the sea is safe and lots of things are being obtained from all parts of the world, but so far as broadcasting equipment is concerned, there is still the complaint that equipment is not available in sufficient quantities. Sir, when I was in jail I heard that the

[Mr. Ram Narayan Singh.]

proposal to have a broadcasting station at Patna had advanced far ahead, but when I was out of jail I found that the progress was almost nothing. I therefore bring this matter to the notice of the House and to the notice of the whole Government, and to notice of the Honourable Member only. I may say one thing more. Ranchi is also a very important centre besides Patna; and there must be a broadcasting centre there also. But, Sir, what is the use of so many broadcasting stations when the radio sets are not available, as my friend, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, has just said? So, steps ought to be taken to make cheap radio sets available to the common people in the *mufassal*; and if this is not done all these radio stations will be utterly useless for these people. With these few words I say that the radio stations at Patna and Ranchi must be established at once.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Sir, I am sorry to strike a discordant note, because I find that everybody is fond of the radio and evidently everybody is listening in almost every morning and every evening.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): No, no; there are exceptions like myself.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I understand that the duty of the department is two-fold—to purvey news and music. I am an old-fashioned man and I am rather surprised that my Honourable friend the Leader of the House who has been perhaps the greatest patron of Benares music and musicians, should be in charge of this department and be happy over it. So far as I know, Indian music is not only to be heard, it has also to be seen; and I am really amazed that the Honourable Members of this House, including the Leader of the House, should enjoy music that cannot be seen. Indian music is not just one loud sound, like the European music. It has both sound and movement.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): Order, order: I am very reluctant to interrupt the Honourable Member, but he is perfectly aware of the restricted character of the scope of discussions on supplementary demands.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I am opposed to the whole department; and I must give some reasons for my position. In any case I hope that the Honourable Member will take steps to have television, because that may compensate for the loss to some extent.

The other thing is news. I will not in obedience to your ruling dilate on the previous point, though I thought it was an interesting one. I will now come to the other part, namely, news; I have great objection to the manner in which news is selected by the department. The only purpose for which I use my radio set is to get the news from Delhi in the night. I expect a lot of Indian news but I get nothing. I think that there should be more discrimination in the selection of news items. For instance, it is a sad thing that the radio did not broadcast the unfortunate news of the death of Mr. Khedan Lal, a Member of this House, and it did not also broadcast the news of the election of Sirdar Jogendra Singh in his place later on.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: It did.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: If it did, it must have done it two or three days later, because it did not do it that very night, because I was listening in that night particularly. In any case there are a lot of items of Indian news which we expect to hear, but we only get a summary of the war news which we have already read in the morning, and in which very few persons are interested. I therefore think that there needs to be some improvement, and if the Honourable Member is expanding, not in his person but in his department, at such a terrific rate, I think that we have every reason to expect some improvement in the conditions as they are.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Sir, I am very grateful to Mr. Tyson and to the other Members of the House in having treated me very kindly on this motion. I entirely agree with Mr. Tyson that the terms under which people work in the department and the terms which are offered to talkers and singers and other artists are scandalously low; and it is for that that the department went up to the Finance Department with certain proposals. It is not

so much the question of expansion as to try to improve the lot of those people who are working there, so that we may get the best results. As regards the expansion in the department, I heard Mr. Essak Sait to suggest that as there has been terrific expansion in the department it is necessary that some investigation should be made as regards what is being done by this department. I have absolutely no objection to that but I do deny that there has been any great expansion. What expansion has to be done is that suggested by the Honourable Members here, which I think should be done. Prof. Rangwanshi wants a station in the Telugu area; and Mr. Ram Narayan Singh wants a station somewhere in Patna—if not at Patna certainly at Ranchi. Mr. Yusuf Haroon is not satisfied, and is very angry with us, because he has not got a station in Karachi.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I join hands with him.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: . . . and Mr. Navalrai has been putting many questions before.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Since 1936!

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: . . . and now the Honourable Dr. Khare says "What about Nagpur?" I agree with all of them. I do think there is room for broadcasting stations, in all the provinces, subject to what Mr. Lakshmi Kanta Maitra has said, that is, that we must examine the question whether a radio station will be workable at certain places or not—all those technical questions should be examined first; but I am in entire agreement with all that has been suggested as regards the necessity of expansion of the Broadcasting Department, because I have heard nothing to justify my curtailing the activities of this department; though I agree with Mr. Essak Sait that some examination should be made whether we are going the right way or not; and there I agree: I have no objection whatever; and with that object I propose to place the whole matter before the Standing Finance Committee and will be prepared to answer any questions they like: any paper they want to see will be placed before them; any activities in the Department which they want to examine will be open to them.

As regards the reason why we have not been able to set up different stations, the answer is very simple. Whatever my intentions may be, whatever my desires may be, I am afraid in this matter there are others who have precluded my getting my objectives. I will not say how, but a number of equipments were lost; and in spite of my anxiety to have different new stations equipped, I could not get the equipment and therefore I am helpless. I will not deal with it for various reasons longer than that. I am sure the House understands what I mean.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is where the war comes in, Mr. Sri Prakasa.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Thirty cases went down in 1943; forty 3 P. M. cases went down in 1942; we have however been trying our level best, and His Majesty's Government are very anxious to let us have that equipment as soon as possible. Somebody suggested that the war was practically over. But food will be coming; consumers goods will be coming capital goods will be coming; then after that, our priority will come in. These are the difficulties which Government have to face; we cannot help it. After all, we cannot possibly say that our equipment should have priority over wheat, or over military needs and requirements and so on. But for that, I think at least in three or four provinces we would have had radio stations by this time, including Karachi and Nagpur and what is more important or most important, Patna.

There is one point which I must really answer and that was the main point I had to deal with and that has been raised by Mr. Chetty. Quite rightly he says that I must satisfy the House as regards the necessity for these items which are covered by the whole amount of Rs. 9,10,000. Out of this, over

[Sir Sultan Ahmed.]

Rs. 3,05,000 will be recovered from His Majesty's Government on account of the Far Eastern Bureau. Out of the remaining 6 lakhs—I am taking round figures—3,39,800 are covered by various items. Rs. 1,26,000 had to be paid on account of printing paper to Latin Press and other paper stocks. Then there is the increase of electric energy in the Delhi station and the electric rates have gone up. There is also the increased hours of working. This cost Rs. 50,000. Then the allowances come to 1,72,500. This is what you have sanctioned—the dearness allowance, the war allowance and all those things. Then there is a small amount spent for electric installations in the Madras and Peshawar studios. Then there are some small amounts with respect to cars and motor vehicles. There are certain purchases of stores made in England. That is for the electric transmitting station. The whole of this comes to 9 lakhs. That is my answer.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: With regard to the opening of new stations, I understand from the debate that to everybody the Honourable Member has been saying that there was no equipment and that the question would be considered when equipments were received. I happened to address him recently regarding the urgency of opening a broadcasting station in Karnatak for the Kannada speaking people, I also received the same reply. May I know whether there is any plan with regard to the expansion and opening of new stations in different areas and whether the Honourable Member is giving priority to Patna.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have got the evidence of Mr. Ram Narayan Singh that Patna comes last in everything. So far as Karnatak is concerned, I do not think it has been mentioned so far. The matter may be considered by the Planning and Development Department.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: I have got your letter with me.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: That is true. I say that all these matters will be considered at the proper time.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,10,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Broadcasting'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 58—EMIGRATION—INTERNAL.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: 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 on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Emigration—Internal'."

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): 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 on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Emigration—Internal'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 59—EMIGRATION—EXTERNAL.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,23,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Emigration—External'."

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,23,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Emigration—External'."

Failure to debar certain Holder of Office of Profit under Crown from continuing as Member of Legislature

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, I move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,23,000 in respect of 'Emigration—External' be reduced by Rs. 100."

To censure the Government for declaring that the holder of such office as the subject matter of the demand may continue to be Member of the Legislature.

In this matter, I will discuss the principle underlying the cut motion. I shall not refer to the personalities involved in the question.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: What are you censuring the Government for?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: You will understand it if you wait a little. The Government of India Act in section 26 very advisedly debar people who hold any office of profit under the Crown from being Members of this Legislature. We should not go back on this very sound principle. The Government here is already weighted with 39 nominated seats and further they give emoluments to people and send them to Australia, to Washington and to every other place in the world. They have got any amount of patronage in their hands, if they want to multiply persons supporting them in this House. Now, Sir, they have got another way of getting Members attached to them. His Majesty's Government after the war made certain amendments to their own constitution and by means of an amending Act, they passed an amendment to section 63E of the Ninth Schedule of the Government of India Act to this effect:

"Provided that an Act of the Indian Legislature may declare any office in the service of the Crown in India to be an office the holding of which does not disqualify the holder thereof for election as, or continuance as, a member of either chamber of the Indian Legislature, and any such Act may be made to have effect from any date before the passing thereof, not earlier than the third day of September, nineteen hundred and thirty-nine."

They passed this as an enabling section by which the position of those who entered war service could be safeguarded in the Legislature. Instead of passing an Act of Legislature as suggested by this amending Act, the Government of India found it easy to pass an ordinance. They have passed the Indian Legislature Prevention of Disqualification Ordinance. This is a travesty of what His Majesty's Government wanted the Government of India to do. They have taken advantage of the amended provisions of the Government of India Act and then had a short cut and passed an ordinance at the signature of the Viceroy and Governor General. What does that provide. Section 2(c) provides:

"an office certified by the Central Government to be an office created for a purpose connected with the prosecution of the war, or to be an office to which, but for war conditions, a member of the defence or civil services of the Crown would have been appointed."

Now, Sir, let me ask this question. Is this appointment of the representative of the Government of India with the Government of Burma connected with the prosecution of the war? I dare say, it is not. The prosecution of the war would not have been hampered if this gentleman were not appointed to this office. This office did not exist during the first three or four years of the war. The war went on merrily and the Japanese were beaten off the borders of India before this office was created. The war did not suffer in the least by the non-creation of this appointment. The prosecution of the war did not suffer in any way. Neither has it improved by this appointment? So, Sir, I submit this appointment should not be considered as one connected with the prosecution of the war. I submit it is a misuse, it is an abuse of law to have made this appointment and given exemption to the incumbent. This is the notification the Government issued:

"In pursuance of clause (c) of section 2 of the Indian Legislature Prevention of Disqualification Ordinance, 1942, the Central Government is pleased to certify the office of the representative of the Government of India with the Government of Burma to be an office created for the purpose connected with the prosecution of the war."

I ask any sensible man who understands things to tell me if this has anything to do with the prosecution of the war. I can even understand if the office is to be held somewhere in Rangoon or somewhere in the midst of the fighting line. This job is held comfortably here in Delhi, it is a civil appointment and it has nothing to do with the prosecution of the war, it has nothing to do with the military or the naval service. To make such an appointment and to give exemption under the Ordinance is something which we cannot understand. I say, Sir, it is against the spirit of the Ordinance, the spirit of the Government of India Act and the spirit of the Amending Act. The Government of India have made themselves a party to this illegal act. I dare say

[Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar.]

if it goes to a court of law—I do not know whether it will go—it will be held by any impartial judge that an appointment like this is not connected with the prosecution of the war. I say, Sir, it is absolutely wrong for the Government of India to have given this exemption. I understand, Sir, on previous occasions there have been appointments made and such exemptions have been given. At least, I know of one Honourable Member of this House—I do not want to refer to him because he is not present in the House—I think it was the Leader of the National War Front, though it was an employment under the Government of India, yet it was exempted and held to be one connected with the prosecution of the war—I speak subject to correction. I say, Sir, this practice must stop. If people want to take up appointments under the Government, let them do so by all means, we have not the least objection, let them take up these jobs at their sweet will and pleasure, but what we demand is that they should not be given the privilege of retaining their seat in this House also. I think it is a clear misuse of the powers vested in the Government of India and this should stop. Sir, I move.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,23,000 in respect of 'Emigration—External' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare (Member for Commonwealth Relations): Sir, at the outset, I want to tell the House that I endorse the principle enunciated by my Honourable friend opposite who moved this cut motion. But, I submit, Sir, that this appointment is an exception to the principle. The Honourable Member said that the Government have got a lot of patronage in their hands, that they can send people to Washington, they can send people to San Francisco, to Australia, and anywhere else; that they have got a large army of nominated men behind them and why should they take one elected man and deprive the elected part of this House of one vote. Quite correct. But the facts are otherwise. This appointment has not been made with a view to exercise any patronage to seduce any person or to dislodge him from his seat in the House. That is not the essential purpose in making this appointment. To substantiate my contention, I will point out to the House that Mr. Jammadas Mehta, the incumbent of this appointment, has on many occasions, not only spoken against the Government but also moved cut motions and demanded a Division and voted against the Government. Surely this is not patronage on the part of Government to invite him to vote against them. Mr. Jammadas Mehta is still functioning as an elected Member of this House.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: But is that right to keep him like that?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I wanted to avoid personalities, right or wrong. But the Honourable Member is entering into personalities. I only wanted to discuss the principle involved in making exemption under the Ordinance.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: The Honourable Member said that this appointment was made with a view to distribute patronage. I say it is not. I want to clear that position. Then, Sir, it has been questioned that this appointment has been concerned with any purpose connected with the prosecution of the war. I refute this contention also. The House is aware that a large number of labourers are being recruited for purposes connected with the carrying on of the war into Burma. These labourers are ancillary to the military and they are recruited more or less as military personnel. There must be somebody in charge of things connected with these labourers, to look after their interests and unless we appoint a man who has been connected with labour interests, it will be difficult to create confidence in their minds especially under war conditions. It was therefore thought necessary to put some gentleman to be in charge of this arrangement.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): But must he be a Member of this House?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: He must be conversant with labour problems and Mr. Jammadas Mehta was considered to be the proper person for that purpose.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: His duties are in Simla and Delhi and not at the front.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: His duties are to do his work properly. His labours are here; but his labourers are there.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: His labours are here; but his labourers are there.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: You, Sir, if I may remind the House, raised in the course of supplementary questions the desirability of appointing similar officers to Malaya and other places and I more or less anticipated the desire of certain quarters of the House in making this appointment. I maintain, Sir, it is not opposed to law, I maintain, Sir, it is no abuse of law, it is proper use of law, because when a certain appointment is definitely connected with war purposes, the Government could so declare under the ordinance which they have passed. Therefore, I maintain that there is nothing wrong in this appointment and no violation of any principle is involved in this case. I do not suppose that anybody could make a fetish of it.

I come to another aspect. This amendment has been moved by my Honourable friend coming from Madras. I am bound to tell him that when the Congress Ministry was functioning in Madras, the Premier wanted to have a certain gentleman in the Cabinet, but that gentleman did not happen to be a member of the legislature in Madras. So, the Premier got the Governor to nominate that gentleman to the Upper House and took him into the Cabinet as a Popular Minister. I do not see any difference between that case and the present one, in essence, there is no difference. Therefore, I stoutly maintain that no misuse of powers or principle is involved in this case. What is sauce for the gander is sauce for the goose, and my Honourable friend should not make any bones about it, and I do hope that with the explanation I have given, the Honourable Member will have the courtesy to withdraw his motion.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I rise to support this cut motion. What we are discussing today is a question of principle, whether a non-official Member of this Legislature, after having accepted an office under the Crown should continue to be a non-official Member of the Legislature. And judging from the speech of the Honourable Member in charge I must say that he has not given one single argument to show why a gentleman who has been appointed an officer under the Crown should continue to be a non-official Member of the Legislature.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): Order, order. The Honourable Member realises that the issue he has raised is outside the scope of the motion and does not really concern Government, but the Honourable Member himself who has accepted the appointment. Government could not possibly compel an elected Member to resign his seat.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I should like to point out that without that certificate under the Ordinance he could not possibly sit there. The primary cause is this certificate.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: We censure Government for issuing that notification. We certainly are not against our friend Mr. Jammadas Mehta being appointed High Commissioner for Burma. Although I do not like the labour movement to lose his services by reason of this appointment, I congratulate the Government of India upon having secured such an able man for this job of High Commissioner. But I cannot congratulate the Government of India on having used their Ordinance for a wrong purpose. The Ordinance was passed for enabling people who are doing war work to retain their seats in the Legislature. But the Honourable Member has not said anything as to whether the appointment of High Commissioner for Burma was necessary for war work. And we really cannot imagine what connection there can be between the prosecution of the war and this appointment. Personally I think it was wrong for the Government of India to have issued this Ordinance and changed the constitution of

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this Legislature. If the Government of India wanted to enable the Members to retain their seats, they should have left it to the Legislature itself. But they issued this Ordinance for a wrong purpose and wrongly changed the character of the Legislature. It is true that in England they have taken steps to enable some Members of Parliament to join war work, but they have done it by an Act of Parliament itself. I therefore feel that the Government of India issued an Ordinance for a wrong purpose. Secondly, I hold that conditions in England are different from those in India. In England they have conscription and therefore some Members of Parliament are bound to go and do some war work; and an Act of exemption is absolutely necessary there because of that conscription. It is true that during this war they have extended the use of this necessary exemption to some posts which have no connection with the war. But in India there is no such thing; there is no conscription and so there was no need for issuing any kind of exemption at all. And if any exemption was to be given, certainly it should have been given with the consent of the Legislature. Sir, I feel that the Government of India have failed in their duty in not consulting this Legislature in the first place, and in the second place they deserve to be censured for abusing the power which the Ordinance has given them.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Saït: Sir, at the outset I want to make it clear that in supporting this motion we are not actuated by any personalities. As a matter of fact I am sure the Honourable Mover (Mr. Chettiar) also was not actuated by personalities at all. It is a question of principle, and so far as that goes, I think my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi has placed it before the House very clearly and very definitely. The question is whether we in this House will agree to Government enticing away our Members by giving them fat jobs. It would certainly become an instrument for corruption in the hands of an irresponsible Government. In England conditions are quite different. There are many checks under which that Government has to work; even then it was after some years of war that the British Government thought it necessary to have a measure passed in the British Parliament. And Mr. Joshi has very rightly pointed out that that was done because there was conscription there. Members of Parliament are just as much subject to those laws as any one else, and therefore it was found necessary that certain Members who were found very essential for war work should be so exempted. Here I do not think Government have made a case or can make out a case for going against the very little democracy that obtains in this country. My Honourable friend has not made out a case that the gentleman who has been appointed was the only man available in this whole country. Even with regard to the particular services that my Honourable friend is expected to perform, the Honourable Member in charge will agree that there are any number of people who have such a representative character, who are leaders of labour and who can perform these duties. It is not as if there was a dearth of personnel that he should have gone in for this appointment.

Then, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to the observation of the Finance Committee. This is what is recorded on page 24:

- "(i) The Committee approved the proposal by a majority but felt that they should have been consulted before the appointment was made.
- (ii) Some members also said that their approval of the proposal did not imply approval of the conditions under which the appointment had been made."

So from the very beginning this Legislature and its representatives on Committees have made it quite clear, and as the House will remember, the press raised a big hue and cry against this; and we in this House feel that this certainly is not a procedure which should be encouraged.

I therefore very strongly support this cut motion and I hope the House will vote for it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I whole-heartedly support this cut motion. I cannot at all agree with my Honourable friend Dr. Khare when he says that he has not done any illegal thing. I think he has certainly abused the law and the privileges that the Members on that side are able to exercise under the law. Even today we have had news from London that Mr. Amery was not willing to send the Burma Government,—and along with that my Honourable friend the Indian Agent also,—to Burma because in Burma today all operations are being carried on under the military authorities, and therefore there could not be any place for the civilian Government in occupied as well as unoccupied Burma. As such it cannot possibly be a matter of military emergency that my Honourable friend Mr. Jamnadas Mehta should be particularly asked for and allowed to remain in this House while holding this office. I agree with Mr. Joshi when he says that the Government has certainly been wise in having a labour man for this job. If it is merely a question of abilities, my Honourable friend, Mr. Chettiar, has made it perfectly clear yesterday that there is one job here for which there are no qualifications and that is the Executive Councilor's job. Judged from that standard, I can assure my Honourable friend, Dr. Khare, that Mr. Jamnadas Mehta is certainly as able as any one of these gentlemen who occupy the Treasury Benches. It is his misfortune that he happens to be born in a slave country, that he is too impatient to get a job and therefore he has come to accept this very small job. Otherwise if he had only waited for his own proper time, he would certainly have become in his own time a Minister of a self-governing India, and that too a very able minister.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Along with you.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But my trouble with Mr. Jamnadas Mehta is this, and that covers my Honourable friend Dr. Khare also: Dr. Khare seems to think that the constituency of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has not suffered by virtue of the fact that he has accepted that job there and remained here. Let him compare his speech on the Finance Bill this year with the speeches that this gentleman has made in the previous years and you will find the difference. It is a poor apology. His own constituency will not at all be satisfied with his performance on this Finance Bill. There were occasions when my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, could not go into the Opposition lobby where he was only too eager to go into that lobby on occasions when he was a free man and a free Member of this Assembly. I can quote chapter and verse in order to prove that his constituency has suffered and this country has also suffered in allowing an elected Member of this House to go into a Government job and at the same time retaining a position here. It is a very embarrassing situation. (Interruption.) I do not know whether it is embarrassing to the Government at all, but it is certainly embarrassing to the non-official side of this Assembly.

Sir, it is a very easy gibe for people to say, "You are always ready to oppose anything we do, because you are always opposed to our war effort". We need not bring in that question here. The question of our participation in this war does not arise. The question is that this is not really a war appointment, but this is an appointment made in order to satisfy themselves and in order to assure themselves of the support of my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, who also happens to be a non-official member of this House. They have seduced him and they have simply deprived him of the privilege he would have exercised in voting against this Government whenever a non-official Member of his standing would have thought it his duty to vote against the Government by putting him in this very embarrassing situation. Certainly my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, has won an additional feather in his cap by making the best of both the worlds—by getting a job under the Government and at the same time retaining his seat in this House. He is in a position to say to other Members of this House, "I am able to oppose this Government; I am able to speak against this Government; I am even able to move a

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cut motion against this Government as any other non-official Member can do. I can only tell him and tell my Honourable friend, Dr. Khare, also that they have not done the right thing either by the country or by themselves by this sort of a joke.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: If it is a joke, why take it seriously?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is a question of patronage. Every Government exercises and enjoys a certain amount of patronage, and therefore it is nothing extraordinary. But there is a way of exercising patronage. Your way is absolutely wrong and obnoxious also.

The Honourable N. B. Khare: It is far better than the Congress ways when they were in office. I know it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You go out of your way to insult the public in this country to go behind the constitution of this country—week though it is, undemocratic though it is—and you come and inflict this insult upon us by placing this gentleman here in this House while he is a paid employee of this Government. Even abler than him and a leader even to himself, there was Mr. Aney, once our revered leader, who came to accept an office under this Crown, but what did he do? You expected him; he acceded to your expectations; he resigned his seat; made way for another person.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): No, no.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is right. Mr. Aney when he became an Executive Councillor lost his seat. So long as Mr. Mehta happens to be a paid employee of this Government, he is in no way different from an Executive Councillor and he should have resigned his seat of his own accord. If only he had remembered his past glorious days—he forgot that—it should have reminded him of his duty, but instead he goes out of his way. Dr. Khare did not know how to exercise his patronage. Why did you do it? My Honourable friend is as good as any one of you. He could claim to be an honoured servant of this Government, this company Government though it is. Instead of that, you put him in this unenviable position by going for him—an old colleague of ours and an honoured colleague of our past—in this manner. You did this. I say, even on his behalf I have to censure you.

There was a great man in England—Edmond Burke—who enunciated the principle that no job-man or place-man of Government should be allowed to remain in the House of Commons or any Legislature without first of all resigning his seat and then again seeking the approval of his constituency to retain his seat as a Minister. There were very bad days in 1760 and prior to that; there were very many men, like these place-men, stuffing the House of Commons. They pretended to be elected members but they were in the secret pay of George the III and they were always voting in favour of the Ministry, keeping out the elected members, the real representatives of the people, and therefore he wrote a book, a terrible condemnation of George III, known as 'Present Discontent', and he enunciated this principle that there should be no place at all for any place-hunters or for any place-men in any elected legislature. In pursuance of this principle, this salutary practice has been pursued in England that no one can accept an appointment under the Crown unless he first of all resigns.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Sir Samuel Hoare while he was Ambassador in Spain retained his seat in the House of Commons.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The difficulty is that you happen to be a doctor and not a historian!

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): The Honourable Member had better address his remarks to the Chair.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: No, Sir. How dare he address such remarks to you!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: There was a man called Bridgeman. He was appointed a Minister by the man who died only yesterday, Lloyd George. He sought re-election from his constituency. Three times he was refused. Then Lloyd George took advantage of a sort of special privilege given to these people during

the time of the last war. But it extended only for six months. Even before this period was over this Bridgeman, the unlucky, was obliged to resign from the Ministry and go out of the House of Commons. That was the position soon after the last war.

Then I come to Sir Samuel Hoare. Now he is Lord Templewood. In his case also advantage was taken of the war situation, as a result of which he had to be kept in Madrid to keep Spain on her good behaviour. Necessarily England needed his services but he was too big a man for Mr. Churchill. Mr. Churchill was very happy that this gentleman was got rid of because he was his rival in the Conservative Party, my friend Sir Sultan Ahmed. He got rid of him by this trick of his. He has had to get rid of another man—Malcolm MacDonald. He has gone to Canada. All that was answered by my Honourable friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar: that so far as England is concerned, exceptional war circumstances do prevail. Therefore there may be an excuse for those people, but there is none here. Here in India it is not a popular Government. It is a hopelessly nominated Government. Therefore there is all the greater reason why no elected seats should be robbed in this manner. We are poor already because of these seats. In addition to that one more seat is to be lost to us. We do not want to allow you to do this. That is why I am here on my feet to condemn you and censure you.

Sir, we are told that this agent is expected to protect our labour in Burma. What is that labour? There is no Indian labour in Burma now. Our labour is being recruited for military purposes. This gentleman has no control over that labour. They are being ill-treated. Nor do you have any control—(Addressing the Chair) Sir, I beg your pardon:—Dr. Khare himself stated so in answer to supplementaries. One answer was that he would look into the matter. Then after hesitation, because he was expecting inspiration from these other Members, he said, "Yes, certainly we will do that". What is he going to do? I am afraid he does not know. This Government does not know. If it does, it dare not do anything because it is under military administration. You cannot even dare abuse them. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, my Honourable friend Mr. Jamnadas Mehta certainly is a nice man. He is extremely anxious to go to Burma and look after Indian labour if and when he is allowed to go into Burma and until labour is allowed to go there. Indian labour is there but it is being exploited by the military and ill-treated and the conditions under which our labourers are working are not satisfactory. But neither Dr. Khare nor Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has the least possible power—they may use their influence—constitutionally or politically to improve the conditions of these people by making these military authorities behave themselves properly. And what are these military authorities doing? They are not recruiting just that labour which was in Burma in the past and which would like to go to Burma and which wants its conditions of immigration or emigration to and from Burma to be satisfactorily settled by this Government. They are recruiting helpless labour which was first of all recruited for army purposes from Malabar, and who for want of nourishment joined the army.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: All the conditions suggested by Government for labour welfare have been accepted by the military authorities.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: So far we have gained one point. They have accented our conditions. But what those conditions are we do not know. I do not know whether they have been worked out at all in his department.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Certainly they are!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I do not know when he is going to do it. In the meantime we are burdened with this loaded dice. We do not want Mr. Jamnadas Mehta to remain in this House as long as he accepts a job. Rs. 2,500 is nothing for him. I would like him to get as much salary as those gentlemen. But what our objection is to his presence in this House. He will ask me: "Look here Ranga, have I done no good. I have made a good speech. Why do you complain. I have made a good speech against the Finance Member".

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I have never said anything.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: He may tell me!

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): You are not hearing what he said:

Prof. N. G. Ranga: He has kept on saying that. Otherwise he would not tread on dangerous ground and annoy the Finance Member himself.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Imagination running riot:

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Quite right. Without imagination there will not be any Commonwealth Relations!

Now, Sir, I want to ask my Honourable friend Mr. Jamnadas Mehta to think of those glorious days of 1926 and 1930 and not to give a sort of jocular answer to us; not to use his very sharp parliamentary wits against us, because we are not in a position to dismiss him. But let him first of all resign his position here in this House and then go to the Burma Government and attack them, telling them what we all feel about Burma and the so-called blue-print. There is plenty of work for him to do there. There is enough, not for one Jamnadas Mehta but many such. For my Indian labour I want two Jamnadas Mehtas; their wage conditions will need another; their political disabilities will need a third. On top of it there is my Honourable friend, Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar. He is an industrialist, and industrialists have to be protected. Their interests were jeopardised. They need another man. Then there are the shipping companies. There are the Indian companies. They will deal with our men in turn. We do not want these shipping people to be discriminated against. Then why does my Honourable friend, when he is all alone, waste his time here and waste India's time and remain here and make speeches which are not followed by his votes? That is why I say my Honourable friend will do himself a very nice turn and do the country the same by no longer embarrassing my Honourable friend, Dr. Khare—his friend as well as our friend—by resigning his position and giving the constituency the freest possible choice to elect a really electable Member to this House and in that way no longer do any more disservice to this country that he himself unwittingly and wittingly the Commonwealth Relations Department have done so far.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): I appear to be like a red rag to my friend Prof. Ranga. All the same, I would like to say a few words on this question. I agree that in principle the position taken by my Honourable friend on the other side is absolutely correct and from the point of view of the future of the country I am anxious that this Government should not set an example to the Democratic Government that is likely to follow by doing anything which will do great harm to the constitution of the country. Already I find the news in the papers that the Sind Government are going to pass an Act creating two posts of advisers, to which they are going to appoint the two Hindu members who have been recently kicked out of the cabinet. The Government of today which is sitting on the front Bench has to lay down traditions which will stand in good stead to the people who are going to follow them and from that point of view I am quite prepared to agree that this appointment is very very unfortunate. I am not prepared to go so far with my friend Mr. Joshi as to say that the measure under which the exemption was granted was unnecessary in India. I know of some cases, at least one case, where a person holding a seat in the Legislature would have lost his seat, because he held a King's Commission. I agree with Mr. Joshi when he said that what was enacted by an ordinance should have been brought before this House. A regular Bill should have been brought before this House. My difficulty is this. If my presumption is correct that when Mr. Griffiths was appointed leader of the National War Front, I am not sure whether he was in receipt of a salary.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No, no.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: The statement made by Mr. Chettiar was not challenged.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: You cannot go about challenging every statement made.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: In that case this is the first appointment of the kind. Then I think the Government should have thought twice, before making the appointment. There is no dispute regarding the qualities and ability of the person concerned. But I cannot agree with Dr. Khare when he said that Mr. Jamnadas Mehta's freedom of action was absolutely unfettered. It cannot be unfettered and even if it is unfettered it is bound to give rise to a very delicate situation. Both the Government and he become suspect. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has been a great friend of mine. We have been associated in various activities in Bombay. We have known each other for over 20 years and I know that he would not have cared to accept this appointment except on the basis that he should be allowed to continue to be a Member of the Legislature and take part in labour activities. But whatever it is, taking a long view of the thing, the action of the Government is very unfortunate and I do trust that both the Government and Mr. Jamnadas Mehta will give their most careful consideration to this aspect of the question—whether from the point of view of correct constitutional principles this unfortunate situation should be allowed to continue. I do not think that this is a matter for censuring the Government because on merits they have made a good appointment. I for one am not prepared to say that there is no connection between the war and the Burma situation. I am not prepared to say that, because a large number of Indians will be in Burma when the army of reconquest goes in. I think it is necessary to have an Indian custodian of their interests but it was open to the Government to select a man who was outside the legislature and not to create this unhappy position, where their action is suspect and Mr. Jamnadas Mehta's position is also open to suspicion. (Interruption.) Even if they had appointed Mr. Joshi the trouble would have arisen. I know Mr. Joshi is a great friend of Mr. Mehta. When he spoke he had no personal motive in the remarks he made. I do trust that both the Government and my friend Mr. Jamnadas Mehta will consider their position. Mr. Mehta's disappearance from this House will be a great loss to the House but his relinquishing the appointment in Burma may also be a great loss to the Indians there. It is not a laughing matter, because I know something of the work which Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has done and is capable of doing. I have been associated with him in the tackling of many problems in the civic administration of the City of Bombay and I know his capacity and I know his drive for work. Although I have differed from him very often we have been closely associated on several activities in the past. When I say this I speak from my own personal experience. His disappearance from his new position may prove a great loss to the Indians in Burma but he has got to make a choice between this House and the Indians in Burma and now that this discussion has taken place, I hope the Opposition will not press this motion to a division.

Several Honourable Members: No, no.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: You have said that you have nothing personal against Mr. Jamnadas Mehta. You have nothing against the selection of the individual concerned. The only thing you object to is his membership of the House. Give him the opportunity and give the Government the opportunity to right the situation.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I must assure the House that I have no ill-will against Mr. Jamnadas Mehta at all. I hope no one will suspect that because I exposed the question of Rs. 13,000 being wasted on the Labour Federation, it is from that point of view that I have got to say a few words on this very important motion. It appears to me that this is a very important question on which the public mind has been much perturbed. If we allow elected Members who are sent by the people and they, after obtaining the vote of that electorate, come here to accept office under the Crown, I think we will be doing so not only to the detriment of the interests of the country but we will be laying down a vicious principle which is absolutely against constitutional law. I think it is considered on all sides that Mr. Jamnadas Mehta's holding both positions is

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against constitutional law. Now we have under the Government of India Act a rule—Rule 63 E—which lays down a general rule against such a procedure. It however makes an exception, to which I will come later on but the general rule is that if an elected Member accepts office under the Crown, he gets thereby disqualified and he must vacate his seat in the Legislature. I think even common sense would suggest that. I think self-respect would dictate that. That illustrates that I come in one position, change my colours and go and join another and become an enemy of the persons who elected me. There is no doubt that under the Government of India Rules there is an exception. But what is that exception? That exception allows job hunting with the permission of the Legislature. I am laying my emphasis on the word “Legislature”. I know that ordinances are being made, but the word “legislature” should mean this House. If the Legislature allows that by an Act it may not be legally though morally wrong for him to accept the position. I find that it is not the Legislature that has allowed it. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta is a member of this House, and I think this House should give him the permission, not that an ordinance should be made, which means an ordinance by the Government of India. In other words, the present Government of India are giving him permission to have a job under them, not getting any permission from this side. He now holds these two positions. With my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta we have had very cordial relations. He was in our Party, he went away from our Party. Long long ago Mr. Jamnadas Mehta was a member of the Congress, from there he jumped to our Nationalist Party, from there he has now gone to his blessed place, the Government. He is going out of India. He sails to Burma which is a long way off. We do not know whether he will reach Burma or not, but he will reach Simla all right.

So then, if there is any question of monetary necessity, one can understand. I remember once he said to us, he said so in this House also, that he does not own any house and that he lives in a Dharamsala in Bombay. Now if it is so—I do not myself say so, he said so at one time—if it is true, I think he has found a treasure now from which he can buy property and make himself happy. I will not go into all this any further. I am taking the constitutional point. It would be very graceful if he would come forward, chuck up the appointment, and be true to his constituency.

I do not want to say anything more on this point, but I can not forget one thing. When I look at Honourable Dr. Khare I remember his ways. He was also in the Congress, he left the Congress, or rather he was turned out of the Congress, I do not know which. He came to accept office. I used to hear him here beside me and throwing strong words at Government. Now he comes forward and says that Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has done right in accepting the post where he will be serviceable, but what about the prejudice to the public interests? Is it not losing popular side vote? If he would have been on this side, on every point, we would have got his vote. Now he does not vote on our side. Is it not against his own constituency? Without saying anything more I will appeal to him that he should not have both the positions. Let him select for himself, let him not be misguided by the Honourable Member who is in charge of what are called Commonwealth Relations, but they instead become individual relations.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: I feel it my duty to make a few observations in support of the motion made by my Honourable friend Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar. In doing so I do not feel any real necessity to be apologetic either to my Honourable friend, Dr. Khare, who made this appointment, or to my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, who had the misfortune to accept it. Sir, my Honourable friend, Dr. Khare, has practically admitted the absurdity of the appointment by his whole-hearted endorsement of the views expressed by my Honourable friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, in support of this motion. In fact, the very resort to the Defence of India Regulations in order to pass an ordinance to qualify a gentleman who has accepted a post under the Crown to retain his seat in the Legislature is itself a demons-

tration beyond dispute of the mischief and fraud that has been committed by Government on the very constitution. Sir, it is only a bad example for Government to offer appointments to the elected Members of this House and allow them to continue their seats in this Chamber. Apart from that, the enormity of the fraud which the Government have perpetrated on the constituency which elected my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, is too serious to be described. Now to what straits has this Government been driven in order to make this appointment and still allow Mr. Mehta to continue in this Chamber!

Is it that the interests of the labour of Burma would be considerably endangered but for the appointment of my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta? Could nobody else in this vast continent be found who could give the same help or assistance to the labourers of Burma? Or is it that this Government cannot carry on the administration without the vote of my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta? They have got a number of persons who are prepared to vote for them, and who are obliged to vote for them, whatever may be their own individual views. In spite of it and although they must have become accustomed to defeats and lost all sense of shame with regard to defeats,—after all the defeats they have suffered,—why should they add to the continuous and continual shame that is heaped upon them by making a further depredation on this constitution by allowing that gentleman, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, to continue here though he has accepted a place under the Crown?

Now, my Honourable friends Mr. Joshi and Prof. Ranga, having regard to their association with my esteemed friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, could not really bring home a part of the guilt at least to Mr. Mehta himself. I feel bound to say that in this transaction both the Government and Mr. Jamnadas Mehta have got much to explain their conduct. I do not believe that this ordinance would have been passed or this rule would have been passed, but for the request of Mr. Mehta that he should be allowed to retain his seat, even though he had accepted an office under the Crown. Otherwise, where was the necessity for the Government to say “You have accepted a place but you may also remain in the House”. That would be an unsolicited favour that must have been conferred upon him. I therefore take it that Mr. Mehta himself imposed it as a condition of his acceptance of the office that he must be allowed to retain his seat. Why should Mr. Mehta insist upon that? If he thought his services were useful in another sphere of public administration, by all means the choice is entirely his, and he should have chucked out the membership of this Assembly. But did he want to support this Government by not making that constituency open for election and allowing another Congressman to come in? Was he an accomplice in that transaction with the Government to keep off an elected member of that constituency from this side? Was that the understanding under which the Government has allowed that gentlemen to continue in his seat? If that be so, both are committing a great fraud upon that constituency; and I desire if merely in self-defence that my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, would say here and now that he did not care to retain his seat here since he had accepted a place there, or that it was at the request of the Government to accept that place and he would not thereby give up this seat and allow another man who represents the electorate to come into this Assembly and carry on. Therefore I cannot entirely exonerate my Honourable friend Mr. Jamnadas Mehta of being privy to this transaction, which is not at all creditable either to the Government or to himself.

Now, with regard to his own work in Burma, it is rather very doubtful if he will be able to do much. I quite understand the honesty of intentions of my Honourable friend, Mr. Mehta. He might be just surging with ideas and with proposals to bring benefit and assistance to these afflicted countrymen of ours in Burma and some of those refugees who would like to go back to that country, when that country is recaptured. But Mr. Jamnadas Mehta having an experience of public life for certainly more than thirty years must have known by this time the limitations under which this wonderful Government is carrying on, the limitations under which he has got to carry on his work.

[Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty.]

there, the impediments which are placed before him and all those things and I think prudence must have dictated to him to refrain from accepting a job so embarrassing to himself and embarrassing to this country.

My Honourable friend, Dr. Khare, does not appear to me all to be serious when he admits his defeat. He has got a few ideas always obsessing his head—they appear to be in his bonnet. Now, one criticism—I think I heard it for the 6th or 7th time in this House—is that a Chief Congress Minister in one province went out of the elected group and nominated or requested the Governor of that province to nominate that gentlemen and made him a minister. Surely I do not think in his serious moments he would argue the point that both the cases are analogous. This is in quite a different category. I can understand that instance being compared to his own appointment in the Executive Council. That is a possible explanation; but what has the appointment of my friend, Mr. Mehta, to do with the nomination of a gentleman to a House and making him a minister? Certainly Dr. Khare is nominated and thereafter made a Member of the Executive Council or he was made a Member of the Executive Council and thereafter nominated to this House; that is an analogy which may hold good in comparing it with Dr. Rajan and Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: My point is that. He was nominated to the Legislative Council by the Governor and then was included in a popular Ministry.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: I am sure that the British Members on the other side are aware of the practice in the House of Commons. If a gentleman accepts office or a place under the Crown, while he is a member of the House of Commons, he resigns his seat and that healthy practice ought to be observed even in the limited powers of our constitution. Unfortunately, he does not seem to have any regard either for the privileges of the House such as they are, or for the practices of the constitution elsewhere, or the *bona fides* and good intentions of either the persons appointing or the persons appointed. Unfortunately, my friend Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has been placed in a very very embarrassing position. On this very resolution, I wonder how he is going to vote. Would he in conformity with the best traditions of parliamentary practice, in conformity with his own conception of how the Government should be carried on, agree with the observations made by my friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, and vote for the cut motion? Or will he, giving the go-by to all those concepts and all those high principles by which he stood so long, vote with the Government which appointed him? I know he is placed on the horns of a dilemma. Surely you cannot ask an agent who has been appointed by Government to vote against it: that will be ingratitude and I am sure he will consider it to be ingratitude. But what about the constituency which elected him and sent him here? What about his own opinions and what about his own experiences? What about his own views with which he has got to disagree in case he does not vote with us?

Now, Sir, of all the constituencies, the labour constituency is a very jealous master. Though on this occasion he has been elected by Poona in place of my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil, yet his affiliations with labour are not yet divorced. They still continue. I am sure this labour will have a very watchful eye on my Honourable friend Mr. Mehta. (Interruption.) Therefore I am glad that this discussion has taken place. It has cleared a good deal of misunderstanding about the action of the Government and the action of my Honourable friend Mr. Jamnadas Mehta. Now we see that Mr. Mehta has been practically enticed away by the Government, but I am sure he is too old a man to be in the hands of the seducer for all time. I am sure he will get out of it very soon. But I am sure nobody is going to leave him so long as he is in the hands of the Government, because he is too old a hand for that purpose. At any rate I expect that in the interests of decency of parliamen-

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLY. GRANTS FOR 1944-45

ary practice and with a regard to seeing that the high principles of the constitution should stand aloft without being injured in this clandestine manner, I hope that Mr. Jamnadas Mehta will walk into our lobbies and I am sure he will do so.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): The question is: "That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,23,000 in respect of 'Emigration—External' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. K. C. Neogy): There are amendments in the name of Mr. Essak Sait. Does he wish to move them?

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: I do not want to move them.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That a reduced supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,22,900 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Emigration—External'."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—42.

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. Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth. 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. Ghiasuddin, Mr. M. Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C. Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar. Inskip, Mr. A. C. Ismaiel Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee. Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir. 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. Jampadas M. Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad. Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis. Piare Lall Kureel, Mr. Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy. Ram Chandra, Mr. Richardson, Sir Henry. Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka. Shabban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad. Sheehy, Sir John. Siva Raj, Rao Bahadur N. Spence, Sir George. Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir. Sundaresan, Mr. N. Thakur Singh, Capt. Trivedi, Mr. C. M. Tyson, Mr. G. W. Tyson, Mr. J. D.

NOES—56.

Abdul Basith Choudhury, Dewan. Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad. Abdul Qaiyum, Mr. Abdullah, Mr. M. H. Ahsan, Mr. Muhammad. Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthanayanam. 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. Das, Mr. B. 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. Habibar Rahman, Dr. Hans Raj, Raizada. Hegde, Sir K. B. Jinaraja. Hosmani, Mr. S. K. Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad. Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr. Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T. Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.

The motion was negatived.

Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal. Lalchand Navalrai, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad. Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta. Mangal Singh, Sardar. Manu Subedar, Mr. 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. 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.

DEMAND No. 60—COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: 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 on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

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 on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, just one word. This demand is No. 60 at present. In the Budget it was No. 59. I found some difficulty in tracing this. I find a lump sum of one lakh provided in the Budget. May I know what is it for? There it is said: "lump provision for the Government of India, Administrative Intelligence Room". In this connection, I want to say that the statistical department of the Government of India should improve. If it is to be improved it must be from the point of view of the good of the people. I know with regard to food and other things, there are no reliable statistics of any sort. We are asked to provide for lump sums and we must have the right to expect a good system of statistics. I hope Government will evolve a good system of statistics which will tell people where they stand.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as the last point is concerned as I have said, I have already taken steps by getting together all the statisticians of the different departments and trying to find out how we can reshape our statistical policy and statistical methods. I do hope that I will be able to have a report in the course of the next two or three months. All the statisticians of the different departments are now meeting together. I have already taken steps in that direction. As regards administrative intelligence room, I gave explanation during the Budget discussion that it is exactly for the purpose of placing at the disposal of all the departments and such others who may be interested in all the materials in an intelligent form. This is being attempted in one place where on all economic problems which anybody may possibly think of statistics could be got readily at hand.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I want some information about the appointment of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India. No details are given here. The Economic Adviser, Sir Theodore Gregory, was brought to this country—I remember the occasion—on the understanding that he was not to be the permanent incumbent of the post. I do not know whether Government are thinking of making this post permanent. If it is to be a permanent one, then this House has certainly strong objection to making Sir Theodore Gregory the permanent incumbent of this particular post. In fact on that occasion, this House censured Sir James Grigg.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: There is nothing about the Economic Adviser in the Supplementary Demand. It is only in the main demand.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go into all that.

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 on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 61—CENSUS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary 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 on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Census'."

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

"That a supplementary 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 on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Census'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 64—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The explanation given on page 27 is:

"Due to the setting up of additional Provincial and Regional Labour Supply committees, Labour supply depots and Labour supply bureaux."

I find on page 12 under the Demand for Labour:

"Creation of the Directorate of Unskilled Labour Supply for co-ordination of the work of the provincial and regional labour supply committees and the labour supply depots."

I think, Sir, there is a repetition. I should like to know what is the difference between the two.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): That demand was quite different. It was for the pay of officers, it refers to the salaries of officers, while this is quite a different thing. This is on account of opening of certain labour supply committees, labour supply bureaux and labour supply depots. This is the cost incurred in regard to workmen and that refers only to salaries of officers of the Secretariat.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I will read it again:

"Due to the setting up of additional Provincial and Regional Labour Supply committees."

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: This is for co-ordination, that is done in the Secretariat. The item on page 12 refers to salary of officers working in the Secretariat, while this demand refers to work done outside the Secretariat.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 66—MINT.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,80,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Mint'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,80,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Mint'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 69—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 12,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Superannuation Allowances and Pensions'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 12,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Superannuation Allowances and Pensions'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 70—STATIONERY AND PRINTING

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 62,81,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 62,81,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[28TH MAR. 1945]

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, I had a cut motion down in my name but I will not move it; I will have a discussion without moving that cut. In the note we find that part of it is due to the adjustment in respect of lend-lease stores. We had a couple of days back an elucidation from the Finance Member as to how the lend-lease arrangement is working. He gave us an account and said that the shipments that they got under the lend-lease system have no dollar value and consequently no sterling value and consequently no rupee value. Then how does he adjust this amount for the articles that he receives under lease-lend arrangements? On page 5 of his budget speech the Finance Member says:

"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 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."

Without having the values put upon them I should like to know how he arrives at these figures. What is the price he pays for them? Today in reply to a question the Railway Member gave us figures of the prices of wagons and engines that he receives from the U. S. A. But according to the Finance Member they do not come with any value attached to them. Then how do they price these things? Then, in return for these lease-lend articles we supply them with a lot of things, and I should like to know whether these lend-lease operations are working to our advantage. In the House of Commons, on a discussion of these lend-lease operations it was said by some one that it is not possible to make these calculations, and significantly added that it is not desirable. Possibly the British Government is making a huge profit out of these transactions. But I am not concerned with that; I am concerned with India. I should like to know if any calculations have been made with regard to these lend-lease arrangements and whether Government have made any estimate of the prices of articles they are getting. If they have estimated it, I should like to know at what rate they have made it. I understood the Railway Member to say today that the cost of wagons and engines that come from the U. S. A. is more than five times the cost before the war. How do they arrive at that figure? I should further like to know whether they have a list and account of all the articles that they are supplying from this country to the U. S. A., what is the price of the goods that they are supplying and at what rate they have calculated them. I presume it is all at controlled rates. And as far as I understand even from the House of Commons proceedings, the price that the Americans are quoting for post-war articles is one-third of what they are quoting today. So what is the rate at which we are paying for these articles and how do they arrive at these figures? I hope the Honourable Member will give a reply to these points.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, this is a very important matter. Unfortunately it has come up before this House at this late hour and so it cannot be taken up as seriously as it deserves. My Honourable friend has not been able to give us much information; when Honourable Members took him to task he said he was not in a better position himself because he was not supplied with the necessary information when the lend-lease operations had begun and when the American supplies began to pour into India. It was only later on that the Americans began to tell him that these were not intended to be free gifts but that there was a price list attached to these shipments. Now we want to know this. When they placed these orders abroad, did they compare the price lists at all between these competitive countries, England and America? We should like to know whether there is any sort of competition at all between England and America and whether they took the trouble of placing their orders—even to the extent that in war time the necessary competitive market does not prevail—in that market which offers them better goods and, if possible, cheaper goods. We do not know whether there are any principles that are suggested for the guidance of our purchasing mission in America in making their purchases there. My Honourable friend has just now said that the Americans are quoting post-war prices at one-third the prices which prevail to-day. I do not know how far

that is correct but I do know one thing that in regard to agricultural goods they passed a law which has made it incumbent upon the American Government to maintain 80 per cent. of the war-time price level of agricultural goods for two years after the war is over. If that is any sort of guidance at all in regard to industrial goods also I am afraid the post-war prices of industrial goods also are likely to be very high, may be forbiddingly high, so far as India is concerned. Some scientific, detailed and serious inquiry has got to be made into this matter, and at least our future Finance Member may be left with some guidance from the present Finance Member if at all he is capable of leaving any guidance—with the information that is there at his disposal, because we do not know how much of information the Honourable Member has at his disposal. Therefore I hope the Honourable Member will take this House into his confidence and give us some reliable and detailed information, so that it may be possible for this House to at least formulate an opinion on this matter and then be in a position to pursue it in future.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I submit that a good deal of the discussion has been irrelevant to this particular demand and has dealt rather with the general question of lend-lease and reciprocal aid, which I endeavoured to deal with in my reply to the debate on the consideration motion of the Finance Bill. However, I will say this. We are not always in a difficulty about obtaining information regarding the prices of lend-lease goods. There are certain goods which we have actually purchased; we have not obtained them on lend-lease and so we know the prices attached to those. And there are certain goods regarding which the question as to whether they will be lend-lease or will be paid for is not always finally settled, at the time when they are despatched. So the question of price is known. On the other hand, it is quite true, as the Honourable Member said, that there have been many Lend-Lease consignments to us of which we have had to make the best estimate we could of their value.

What I should perhaps explain, Sir, is the method of accounting in the Government of India for this type of transaction. The position is this: The cost of reciprocal aid is charged to the defence estimate and therefore the particular head of account which should be the beneficiary of Lend-Lease is also the defence estimate. Therefore when we supply Lend-Lease goods, when we pass them on to Provincial Governments or to Commercial Departments or paying departments, we charge it to them and raise a credit to the defence estimates. In this case, the Stationery and Printing Department has to serve many departments, including some paying departments, and therefore it is necessary to charge the Stationery and Printing Department with the cost of these Lend-Lease typewriters and so on, and they, in turn, of course will pass the debit on to the departments to whom the goods are actually supplied. That is the reason why this part of the Supplementary Grant has become necessary because at an earlier stage this method of accounting had not been settled upon. Once it is decided that a credit must be afforded for Lend-Lease goods to the defence estimates, then it is necessary to raise these debits.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already spoken.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, it is a very important question. May I know who is the person

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has made his speech and it is not possible to go round and round.

The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 62,81,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 71—MISCELLANEOUS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,09,55,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,09,55,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, this is composed of a large item of expenditure—payment to the UNRRA—and then, Sir, there is payment to the Permanent Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the promise that was made by the Member in charge of this Department. I refer to Sir Azizul Huque. While moving a motion for the acceptance of this organisation by the Legislature, he made certain promises to this House. I am sorry he is not here when this matter is being discussed. He made a promise that if and when the House approves of this organisation and on India joining that organisation, he will later on bring a motion before this House to fix the amount of contribution which this country is to pay to that organisation and more than that he said that the method of payment which this country chooses to make will be decided i.e., whether in kind or in cash. He went further and said that if he has to make the payment in kind, he will consult the industries and the trading interests in this country, and then consider in what way the payment is to be made. Now, I will just read a few lines from his speech:

"I do not say that that is the amount which I shall bring before the Legislature; the House will have the fullest opportunity to decide what should be the amount of contribution at that stage. But that is roughly my personal guess."

In all sincerity he owes it to himself to table a Resolution in this House giving the figure which he thinks is good enough for contribution by this country. That has not been done. The Honourable the Finance Member in his speech makes a passing reference—I will not say passing reference—he makes a reference that it has been decided to contribute 8 crores of rupees to UNRRA. Is it honest to take decisions at the back of this House when there is a specific promise made on the floor of this House that this will be put before the House?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I know.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Of course you know, but you forget.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: You have forgotten.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: He goes on:

"Then the question comes as to how much we should pay and in what shape. As I said, that will depend on the extent to which our supplies may be available. And assuming that we contribute about 8 or 10 crores of rupees or 7 million pounds, we may pay the whole of the 7 million pounds in foreign credit or pay only 7,00,000 pounds in foreign credit and the rest we can give in supplies. As I said, these are matters which can only be discussed after I am able to consult the trading and industrial organisation to find out whether there is a possibility of supplies being available, what are the things which we can spare that we want to spare. That is necessary; and I do not want to take that responsibility on me without consulting the trade and commercial interests"

And now, Sir, I find in the explanatory memorandum to the Budget that this money is expected to be sent in kind. Here it is said:

"India's contribution to U. N. R. R. A. has been fixed at 8 crores of which a sum of Rs. 1.10 is likely to be expended this year mainly to finance supplies required from India. The balance is being provided in the next year's budget. . . ."

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That does not mean that payment has been made.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I do not say that you have paid all the amount; you have only paid 1.10 crores, but you have fixed the payment of 8 crores of rupees without consulting this House.

Secondly, I want to know whether you have consulted the trade interests and what supplies you are going to send from this country. I know that cloth and textiles have been sent out of this country to the great detriment of the civilian population of this country. He may come forward with any explanation, but the fact remains that we have suffered and I want to know what supplies he wants to send by way of help to U. N. R. R. A. The Government of India and some of our friends are more anxious to please and help other people outside the country than the poor people of this country. Sir, I want to know whether he consulted the trading interests, what are the articles that he has sent, and why he did not bring this matter before this House in the form of a specific Resolution.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: This is a very important matter and we have much to say. It is already five o'clock. Can we take it up to-morrow?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can continue his speech to-morrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 29th March, 1945.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 29th 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:

Mr. Yeshwant Narayan Sukthankar, C.I.E., I.C.S., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official); and
Mr. Sitaram Chintamani Joshi, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

SAFEGUARDING OF INDUSTRIES ACT

1448. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) What action was taken by the Honourable the Commerce Member under the Safeguarding of Industries Act of 1933?
(b) Is this Act repealed and, if so, at what time and for what reasons?
(c) Was that Act dropped, because its provisions were in conflict with any of the provisions of the Government of India Act, viz. sections 111 to 121?
(d) Was any representation received by Government from commercial bodies against making the Safeguarding of Industries Act a dead letter and for reviving action similar to what was provided for in that Act?
(e) If so, from whom and at what time?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The action taken by the Government of India under this Act was explained in the course of the debates on the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 1934, to which the Honourable Member's attention is invited.

(b) The Act was limited in duration to the 31st March 1935, and ceased to be in force after that date.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). No, Sir. But representations were received in 1937 from certain minor industries for assistance against Japanese competition. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to a list of these industries which was laid on the table of this House in reply to the unstarred question No. 20 by Professor N. G. Ranga on 4th February, 1938.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the apprehensions of distress after the war entertained by many industries now established, will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of resuscitating an act with similar provisions for the safeguarding of these industries?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The question is now under examination.

QUININE REQUIREMENTS

1449. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) whether Government have calculated the total amount of quinine required for the country;

(b) how much is now available in India by way of quinine or quinine substitutes;

(c) what steps Government are taking to make up the balance; and

(d) what steps the Government are taking to see that they are also distributed to the people who need it at controlled prices?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The average pre-war consumption of quinine was approximately 210,000 lbs.

(b) and (c). The total amount of quinine and quinine substitute at present available in India is approximately 500,000 lbs. in terms of quinine.

(d) The responsibility for distribution rests with Provincial Governments. Quinine is distributed through hospitals and dispensaries and through Government selling agencies. Quinine substitutes are distributed from Government depots to medical practitioners and retail chemists. The Bengal and Madras Governments have arranged for distribution in rural areas through post offices. The retail selling price of quinine substitutes has been fixed at $\frac{1}{2}$ anna a tablet.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I did not hear the answer to part (c) of the question. Will the Honourable Member kindly read his answer again?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: As the answer to part (a) is that the average consumption was 210,000 lbs. and the answer to part (b) is that we have available approximately 500,000 lbs. in terms of quinine, there is no deficit to make up.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: May I know if all this quinine is produced in India or is imported from outside?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No quinine, of course, is imported from outside at present. Because there is no source from which we can import. About 90,000 lbs. a year is produced in India.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the fact that the system of distribution being defective quinine does not reach the average citizen, will Government take some steps to improve the system of distribution?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It is very difficult for the Central Government to take steps in what is the provincial part of the matter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know if there is any constitutional difficulty which prevents the Government of India from undertaking the responsibility of making India self-sufficient by themselves trying to produce quinine in this country?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That is a multi-form question, Sir.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Could not quinine be sold in post offices as before?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not know that there is enough quinine. I see that quinine substitutes are being sold from post offices in two Provinces—Madras and Bengal.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Why not in other Provinces also?

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

TRADE TREATY OR AGREEMENT WITH CEYLON

1450. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the Honourable the Commerce Member got a trade treaty or any agreement relating to trade with the Government of Ceylon?

(b) Has any representation been received from the Government of Ceylon with regard to trade, and does that involve the handling of all trade with Ceylon by negotiations between the two Governments and the elimination of private trade?

(c) Have Government received any representation from Chambers of Commerce?

(d) What is Government's policy with regard to the functioning of private trade between the two countries, and what assurance can Government give that no attempt will be made to restrict the opportunities of private trade?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No, Sir.

(b) No such representation has been received from the Ceylon Government.

(c) Representations urging maintenance of trade channels in regard to supplies to Ceylon have been received by Government.

(d) The Government of India's policy is to permit trade through normal trade channels, except where there are compelling reasons for authorising departure from this policy.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member explain whether it was the Ceylon Government which wanted to interfere with the usual trade channels or whether it is the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: In the public interest I am not prepared to disclose that.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: There was a movement that all Indian traders and Indian labourers should be sent back to India. Is that movement still in existence?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not aware of any such movement but we have received from time to time representations.

BLACK MARKET FOR CLOTH IN ASSAM

1451. *Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state whether he is aware that there is a serious black market for cloth in all the commercial and trading centres or Assam; what steps has he taken or proposes to take so that the civilian population can procure their minimum required cloth in the open market?

(b) What is the total yardage of cloth that has been allocated for the whole population of Assam by the Textile Commissioner?

(c) Who are the members of the Textile Advisory Board for Assam, if there is such a Body to advise Government regarding allocation etc., for the province?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Owing to general shortage of cloth, particularly of fine varieties, black marketing activities exist, to varying extent, in almost all the Commercial and trading centres in the country. The Government of India are not aware that such activities have assumed serious proportions in Assam.

Under the New Distribution Scheme the Central Government is confident of ensuring that Assam receives its allotted quantity of cloth regularly. Thereafter the Provincial Government, which will have full control over the distribution of the entire quota of cloth within the Province should be able substantially to reduce black-marketing.

(b) Assam, including Assam States, has been allotted a monthly quota of 9,109,000 yards of cloth on the basis of 10 yards per head per annum.

(c) Apparently the Honourable Member is referring to the Provincial Textile Advisory Committee. A list of members of the Textile Advisory Committee for Assam is placed on the table of the House.

List of members of the Provincial Textile Advisory Committee for Assam

1. The Honourable Sir Syed Muhammad Saadullah, Kt. Premier.—President.
 2. Alhaj Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan, M.L.A.
 3. Babu Kamini Kumar Sen, M.L.A.
 4. Maulavi Muzarrat Ali Sarkar, M.L.A.
 5. Sriji Surendra Nath Buragohain, M.L.A.
 6. Babu Samarendra Narayan Choudhury, M.L.C.
 7. Mr. A. Wittaker, C.I.E., M.L.A.
 8. Sriji Bhairab Chandra Das, M.L.A.
 9. Mr. K. W. P. Marar, I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Assam in the Supply Department.
 10. Mr. M. Hadi Hussain, I.C.S., Additional Secretary to the Government of Assam in the Local Self Government, (Industries Department).
- The Additional Secretary, Local Self-Government (Industries) Department, will work as Secretary to the Committee.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: With reference to the reply to part (b) of the question the Honourable Member stated that so much cloth has been allotted and could he tell us that all that cloth has reached the place?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have been keeping a watch over all despatches to the different Provinces. As far as I am aware in the last few months we have been trying our best to see that the despatches reach the Provinces.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: May I know from the Honourable Member whether there is any controlled or fixed rate for handloom weaving?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As far as I am aware, there is no price controlled or fixed for handloom cloth.

MALARIA RAVAGES

1452. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the extent of the toll of malaria in the last and present financial years?

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(b) In which part of the country is it mostly prevalent?

(c) How does it compare with the pre-war attack and mortality rates?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) In some Provinces deaths from malaria are separately recorded only in municipalities. A statement showing reported deaths from malaria for the years 1938 to 1943 is laid on the table. Figures for 1944 are not yet available. The reported figures cannot be relied on as entirely accurate as the reports are not based on a medical diagnosis.

(b) The main endemic areas are in Bengal, Assam, Bihar, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces and Berar, and Madras, but the disease is prevalent and epidemics are liable to occur in other areas also.

(c) The available information including the recorded deaths from 'fevers' indicates that mortality from malaria was above the pre-war average in 1943 and the early part of 1944 in Bengal, Bihar and the Punjab. Attacks of malaria are not recorded.

Statement showing reported deaths from Malaria in the different Provinces of British India during the year 1938-43:

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
British India	1,577,865	1,411,614	1,393,079	1,408,058	1,513,476	1,775,316
N.W.F.P.*	50	30	36	93	67	70
Punjab	5,015	2,477	3,218	4,366	1,938	6,861
Delhi	315	243	329	283	1,149	952
U.P.	819,057	751,168	717,319	707,456	747,462	800,694
Bihar*	1,320	4,373	3,777	1,057	†	†
Orissa*	480	592	497	589	378	769
Bengal	416,521	341,321	369,448	388,381	426,573	674,330
C.P.	302,250	276,432	265,265	269,233	285,573	254,109
Bombay	29,790	28,833	29,602	32,099	28,906	32,819
Sind	1,686	1,546	2,106	2,731	2,911	2,498
Madras*	1,190	1,394	1,271	1,335	1,827	1,787
Coorg.						
Assam*	181	202	197	205	256	290
Ajmer-Merwara*	1	3	14	215	436	137

* For municipalities only.

† Not available.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government enquire whether it is not a fact that malaria is spreading to new areas and that it is becoming endemic in a larger number of towns?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We will examine that.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: What is the percentage of increase in mortality recorded in the three Provinces mentioned by the Honourable Member?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That is very difficult to say. As we have not got figures of attacks, it is very difficult to say what the proportionate increase, if any, in mortality is.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that the disease is widespread, what steps are Government taking to fight malaria?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Widespread distribution of quinine and quinine products.

Sardar Mangal Singh: The Honourable Member said that figures are available only for urban areas. Does he mean to suggest that no records are kept for rural areas?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No, Sir: but figures are recorded only for municipal areas in N. W. F. P., Bihar, Orissa, Assam, Ajmere, and apparently in Madras—I am not quite sure whether it is Madras or Sind but in the other provinces figures are recorded for rural areas as well.

Lala Sharo Lal: May I know if Punjab is affected by malaria?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes.

NON-INDIAN COMPANIES BEING SET UP IN INDIA

1453. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether there has been lately a growth of non-Indian companies being set up in India and styling themselves as India Limited at the end of their names;

(b) whether Government have investigated into the matter of their origin, capital and personnel;

(c) if so, the number of such companies now; and

(d) what action he proposes to take in the matter?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) (i) Five companies registered outside British India with the words 'India Limited' at the end of their names established places of business in India during the four years ending 1942-43; and

(ii) 108 companies were registered in India with those words at the end of their names during the five years ending 1943-44.

In regard to (ii), it is not known how many of these companies are owned by non-Indians. It is, however, apparent that there has been no remarkable growth during recent years of non-Indian companies of the nature mentioned.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) It is not proposed to take any action for the present.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: He says 'for the present': Does he propose to take any action in the future?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It depends on the nature of the development.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know the capital involved?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am quite certain that the majority of them are not from outside. At a casual glance I find from the names—such as P. C. Roy & Co.—that they are not of foreign origin.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will Government please place a list of the companies on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If you require it, I will certainly place a list.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I know what significance is to be attached to certain observations made in the second report of the Reconstruction Committee of Council at page 23 where it is stated:

"It is a matter for consideration whether action should not be taken to check the growing tendency for companies domiciled abroad to establish branches or subsidiaries in India for the purpose of both import and internal distribution."

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That refers to a tendency. I am expressing in terms of facts. Tendency is a tendency. I am expressing what is the actual fact. But if there is anything as has been expressed in the report, I have no doubt that necessary steps will be taken to check it.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will they please investigate the matter and place the result before the Standing Committee for Commerce Department?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I could do it if the House will agree to expand my staff.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether any company has been registered with American capital?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Not to my knowledge. I have got a list, but from that I do not think I can find out the caste, creed, colour, or country of the company.

APPLICATION FOR HAJ PASSAGE BY MR. HABIBUR RAHMAN OF SYLHET

1454. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state if it is a fact that Mr. Habibur Rehman, son of late Mr. Saman Ali of Satgori, post office Kanaibazar, Sylhet, applied for a Haj passage on the 11th September, 1944?

(b) Is it a fact that, with reference to his application dated the 11th September, 1944, the said Mr. Habibur Rehman was issued with a reservation card No. 2611 requiring his presence on the 2nd October, 1944 at Karachi?

(c) Is it a fact that the said applicant presented himself at the Haji's Camp on the 2nd October, 1944 and Mr. Waziffadar made an order to the Mogul Line for the issue of a ticket by the first batch?

(d) Is it a fact that the Mogul Line refused to issue the ticket in consultation with the Haj Officer?

(e) What were the circumstances under which the Haj Officer permitted the Shipping Company to refuse tickets against the Government of India reservation cards?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Yes.

(b) According to the original reservation card issued to him, he ought to have reached Karachi not later than the 1st October, 1944, but he actually arrived there on the 2nd October and a fresh reservation card was issued to him.

(c) Yes.

(d) No. Mr. Habibur Rahman himself did not register his name at the office of the 'Mogul Line' for a ticket for the first sailing as directed.

(e) The question does not arise.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: With reference to part (d) of the question, where in it is stated that the 'Mogul Line' refused to issue the ticket in consultation with the Haj Officer, is there any such thing? Was the Haj Officer consulted in not issuing a ticket?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Not at all.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the fact that a number of pilgrims have been put to trouble, may I know what steps the Honourable Member has taken to prevent such unfortunate happenings in future?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I know certain difficulties might have arisen, certain inconvenience might have been caused, but we know very well that pilgrims have failed to report in time.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Does the Honourable Member know whether the Port Haj Committee

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: All complaints are inquired into, and whatever is possible is done.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the inquiring officer is an independent officer? It is no use having an inquiry by the officer concerned. We must have an independent agency for such an inquiry.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Officers cannot inquire into complaints against themselves; that is obvious.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Has the Haj Officer the authority to permit or not to permit the issue of a ticket?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I want notice of that question.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the fact that the rules on the matter are technical, will the Honourable Member see that people do not suffer on that account?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Government will do their best.

HAJ PASSAGE FOR MR. MOHAMMAD KALA MIAN OF VILLAGE MAYANI

1455. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state if it is a fact that reservation card No. 187, dated the 16th September, 1944, was issued to Mr. Mohammad Kala Mian, son of the late Mohammad Husain Ali Bhyani, village Mayani, post office Abutarab directing his presence at Karachi on the 1st October, 1944, with reference to his application, dated the 31st August, 1944?

(b) Is it a fact that the said Mr. Mohammad Kala Mian arrived at the Haji's Camp on the 1st October, 1944 with a passport from his district, dated the 27th September, 1944?

(c) Is it a fact that the said pilgrim was directed to the Imperial Bank of India, Karachi, for payment of Hedjaz dues, and that he paid on the 1st October, 1944 in the Imperial Bank, Karachi, Rs. 714-12-0?

(d) What were the circumstances under which he was not given passage in the first batch?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). He did not present himself at the Hajj Booking Office at any time before the date of the sailing of the first batch of pilgrim ships and could not therefore obtain a ticket.

HAJ PASSAGE FOR ONE MR. JAMALUDDIN

1456. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state if it is a fact that reservation card No. 2553 was issued to one Mr. Jamaluddin, son of Jamal Mia, directing him to reach Karachi on the 2nd October, 1944, with reference to his application, dated the 31st August, 1944?

(b) Is it a fact that the above named pilgrim arrived in the Haji's Camp on the 2nd October, 1944, but was not given a steamer ticket? If so, why?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) and (b). Reservation card No. 2553 was issued to him on arrival at Karachi on the 2nd October 1944 which he himself failed to present to the shipping company for securing a ticket as directed.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if this particular pilgrim reached the Haj Camp on the day specified?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I believe he must have.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Why was he not allowed to travel?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: He himself failed to present the card. It was his fault.

HAJ PASSAGE FOR MR. REHMAN ALI OF VILLAGE MAYANI

1457. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state if it is a fact that one Mr. Rehman Ali Sarang, son of the late Ala Buksh Bhyani of village Mayani, post office Abutarab, Chittagong, was issued with reservation card No. 202, dated the 16th September, 1944, directing his presence on the 1st October, 1944 at Karachi?

(b) Is it a fact that the said Mr. Rehman Ali along with his twenty-eight colleagues reached Karachi on the 1st October, 1944?

(c) Is it a fact that the said Mr. Rehman Ali and his colleagues paid the Hedjaz charges on the 2nd October, 1944?

(d) Is it a fact that the said pilgrim and his colleagues were in possession of pilgrim passes, dated the 27th September 1944, from the Bengal authorities?

(e) Why were these pilgrims not provided with tickets for the first batch?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Yes.

(b), (c), (d) and (e). Haji Rehman Ali Sarang did not present his reservation card to the Hajj Booking Officer at any time before the date of the first sailing and could not therefore get a steamer ticket. As the names of Mr. Sarang's colleagues have not been stated I cannot give any information regarding them.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if these 29 persons had to go back or where they had to go?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have no information.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: The Honourable Member made the statement that these persons did not present themselves. They did present themselves. I was present there myself, I took them up to the office, but they were short of staff and they could not issue the reservation cards.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot argue a matter like that now.

HAJ PASSAGE FOR CERTAIN HOLDERS OF RESERVATION CARDS

1458. ***Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state if it is a fact that holders of reservation cards Nos. 2552, 2515 and 2622 arrived in Karachi in time for the first batch?

(b) Is it a fact that steamer tickets were not issued in exchange for the above mentioned reservation cards? If so, why?

(c) Is it a fact that three days before the scheduled departure of steamers, one steamer was released by the Haj Officer for cargo service with less than 100 pilgrims?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) and (b). The persons concerned arrived at Karachi after the 30th September 1944 the last date prescribed for the arrival of pilgrims of the first batch. They were given reservation cards on the 2nd October 1944 which were not presented by them to the shipping company for tickets as directed.

(c) No.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Does the Honourable Member realise that it may be possible for the officials concerned to put forward these technicalities to get over these difficulties? These people are being put to a lot of trouble—they come from very long distances only to be turned back from Karachi.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: If they fail to present their cards themselves, I do not know who can help them.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if the Honourable Member has appointed some officer to help the pilgrims to observe these prescribed technicalities?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Certainly.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know what is the report of that officer about these cases which I have mentioned?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I cannot give a report of other cases. This is the information I have got from the report itself.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Has the Honourable Member ever gone to Karachi to see the arrangements there?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: No; I had not the good fortune to go there.

PRODUCTION OF TOBACCO

1459. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state how the total production of tobacco in the latest year, for which the figures are available, compares with such production in the year 1938-39?

(b) Has there been any diminution since the peak was reached on account of the "Grow More Food" campaign?

(c) What efforts have been made and with what success for the growth of superior quality of tobacco in India?

(d) Have any special strains been developed in India, or strains planted from Philippines, Cuba, or U. S. A. or any other country?

(e) Who has, on behalf of Government, undertaken the research with regard to methods of curing tobacco, and for how long, at what cost and with what results?

(f) When do Government expect the arrival of Burma cheroots and Manila cigars to this country, and will the revival of this trade affect the growth of tobacco or its demand for the local cigar factories?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The latest year for which figures for production of tobacco are available is 1942-43. The total production during this year was 4,31,000 tons as compared with 4,91,000 tons in 1938-39.

(b) There was a decrease from 12,92,000 acres in 1941-42 to 11,27,000 acres in 1942-43, due in part to the Grow More Food campaign and in part to other causes.

(c) and (d). The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research have been financing a Tobacco Research Sub-station at Guntur for several years. Work has also been carried out by the Central Government at Pusa, by several provincial Governments and by the Indian Leaf Tobacco Development Co. As regards Virginia cigarette tobacco, the variety found to be generally most suitable for Indian conditions is Harrison's special. This is now being grown from seed produced in India, instead of depending on seed imported from the U.S.A. A new variety has been evolved at Guntur (Amarlo 5) which gives a brighter coloured leaf. Improved varieties of hookah tobacco (Pusa 18) and Bidi tobacco (K 49) have also been evolved at Pusa and in Bombay respectively and are grown on a wide scale. Some experimental work has also been undertaken in Bengal for the production of Java, Sumatra and Manila tobacco with imported seed.

(e) The tobacco research sub-station, Guntur has been carrying out research on methods of tobacco flue-curing since 1937-38. Experiments are still being conducted and it is premature to indicate results. Extensive research work in this direction is contemplated, to be undertaken by the proposed Indian Central Tobacco Committee.

It is not possible to indicate the cost involved in the experiments inasmuch as curing is one of the several items of the programme of work of the Tobacco Research Sub-station, Guntur.

(f) (i) The arrival of Burma cheroots and Manila cigars may be expected when normal conditions return.

(ii) It is not possible to say at present the extent to which the growth of tobacco and its demand for local cigar factories will be affected by the import of these articles from Burma.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Do Government expect to obviate the need for imported tobacco for mixing in cigarette making in this country at any time?

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

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any research being carried on for eradicating the pest that is damaging this crop, about which I had already asked last Session?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not know.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any effort being made to increase the productivity or yield per acre of the tobacco being grown in Guntur district and other places in order to reduce the total area under tobacco so that it may be converted for growing other crops under the Grow More Food Campaign?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not know whether it is with a view to diverting land to food crops, but obviously improvement of the yield must be one of the objects of research.

ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

1460. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India proposed economic sanctions against South Africa but the proposal was rejected by His Majesty's Government; and

(b) whether the Government of India propose to move again in the matter and persuade His Majesty's Government to agree to their proposal; if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Do I understand that the Government of India did not take up this question or that the information is of a confidential nature?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: No; as I stated before in the House the matter is certainly under consideration, but Government has not taken any final decision yet in the matter. It is still under consideration and when the decision will be taken, certainly it will be made known.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are the Government considering the question of recalling the High Commissioner from South Africa?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: It does not arise out of this.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: May we know when the Government are likely to arrive at a decision?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: As I have said before, negotiations are still going on and the Honourable Member will understand that no decision can be taken when negotiations are still going on.

INDUSTRIALISTS' MISSION TO BRITAIN

1461. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state on what basis the composition of the mission of big industrialists, which is proceeding to the United Kingdom is determined?

(b) Has any proposal been received for the inclusion amongst them of representative of Indian shipping and shipbuilding interests?

(c) If so, what decision, if any, have Government reached on this proposal

(d) What agenda, terms of reference, material or programme has been fixed in connection with this deputation?

(e) Is any official accompanying them from India, or will they be piloted by officials of the India Office?

(f) Is this delegation expected to submit any report to the Government of India?

(g) If so, will such a report be made available to the Legislature?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The industrialists concerned were selected in view of the position they occupy in the Indian industrial world.

(b) Yes.

(c) The number of industrialists in the party has necessarily to be limited. It is not, therefore, possible to include representatives of every industry in it.

(d) There is to be no agenda. The visit will be unofficial in character and the members of the party will be free to arrange their programme and discuss any matter, unfettered by any terms of reference or any form of Government control.

(e) It is the intention, in compliance with the wishes of the members of the party, to send, if possible, an official from India as secretary to the party.

(f) No.

(g) Does not arise.

Mr. Mann Subedar: In view of the Nuffield-Birla combination about which a statement has been made from London, and the apprehensions roused amongst the industrialists of this country, will the Government reconsider their decision with regard to this deputation and drop the deputation?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not see any justification for dropping the deputation even if there be some discussion between one Indian concern and one British concern as to their future business arrangements; we have got firm control over our future plans.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What safeguards are Government contemplating to protect the progress of industry in India and keep it in Indian hands instead of in the hands of large cartels and combinations?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is a large question which the Honourable Member is raising.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am asking whether the Government are giving any hints to this deputation if that deputation is not to result in these world combinations?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I completely repudiate the idea that this deputation is being arranged for any purpose except to serve the best industrial interests of India, and there is no idea in the mind of Government that there will be anything to justify the fear which is in the mind of my Honourable friend.

SARASWATI VALLEY PROJECT AT AJMER

1462. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the water-works scheme known as the Saraswati Valley Project was started in 1941 or 1942 at Ajmer and that all work thereon has now stopped; and

(b) if Government propose to consider the necessity of restarting the work in view of the water scarcity at Ajmer?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to starred question No. 648 on the 5th March, 1945.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Has there been any further progress since then?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We are trying again to see whether the material is available.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: The Honourable Member is certainly aware of the deep discontent in Ajmer for want of water; and may I take it that the Government is seriously considering the projects?

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

REPORT ON WORKING OF FOOD ADMINISTRATION IN AJMER-MERWARA

1463. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member for Food be pleased to state:

(a) if he has received the results of the enquiry held into the affairs of the working of his department in Ajmer-Merwara by the Food Commissioner and Food Regional Commissioner and the steps, if any, he has taken as a result of the report; and

(b) if the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara has issued the notification saying that the public shall have to accept wheat and barley in the future with an admixture of 30 per cent. of dust, etc.; and if the department's consent in the matter has been secured?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) - No formal enquiry was held, but the Chief Commissioner, assisted by officers of my Department has effected much improvement in the food administration of Ajmer-Merwara.

(b). No, Sir.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Is it a fact that the Food Department is compelling purely rice eaters to take wheat to the extent of one-sixth of their ration?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I submit that does not arise out of the question on the paper.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is this being done in Ajmer Merwara?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With reference to the reply to part (b), will he please inquire into this matter, because I have information that such a notification has been issued?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am afraid the information which my Honourable friend has got is not correct. I have inquired into the matter.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Let him give rice or wheat but without mud.

CONTROLLED RATES OF PRICE OF RICE IN DHANBAD SUB-DIVISION

1464. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the present local controlled rates of price per maund of the different kinds of rice in Dhanbad Sub-Division in the Province of Bihar?

(b) At what rates is the Provincial Government charging the two Coal-Trade Organisations for supplying rice for the benefit of colliery labour? Is any incidental charge realised by that Government from the said Organisations in addition to the controlled price of rice in Dhanbad Sub-Division? If so, at what rate and for what reasons?

(c) Has any complaint been received recently from the Indian Collieries Union stating that the Joint Pools are still charging from its members approximately Rs. 4 per maund of rice, over and above the local controlled prices?

(d) Has any comprehensive report been obtained by Government in this or any connected matter, from the Welfare Commissioner who is stationed at Dhanbad?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The wholesale control rates for rice in Dhanbad Sub-Division are Rs. 11/- and Rs. 12/- per maund for coarse and medium qualities respectively. The corresponding retail rates for the 2 qualities of rice are -/4/7½ and -/5/- per seer.

(b) The Provincial Government are charging the two coal trade organisations the basic wholesale control rate at the source of supply of Rs. 9/- per maund for coarse and Rs. 10/- per maund for medium quality plus -/4/- per maund to cover administrative charges. The organisations have to pay in addition the cost of the bags and the actual incidental charges incurred in effecting despatches of rice from the source of supply to the consuming centres.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to (b), is the Honourable Member in a position to tell the House whether the resulting price which is charged to the collieries is higher than the local controlled price, having regard to all the different levies which are paid?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am afraid I have not made any calculations.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: That is really the point of the complaint.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My Honourable friend can make the calculations.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to (d), I take it that this officer is an officer of the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: In view of the frequent complaints received in regard to this question, will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of obtaining a report from this officer as regards these matters?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: This work will not fall within the purview of his duties. This is a matter for the Provincial Governments.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member is aware that the complaint amounts to this, that the Provincial Government is not fully co-operating with the Central Government in the matter of making rice supplies to the collieries reasonably cheap?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I will get into touch with the Provincial Government, but I do not think I can ask the Coal Welfare Commissioner to deal with this matter.

PRODUCTION OF SUGAR

1465. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

- the annual total production of sugar in the country;
- whether production has increased since 1939;
- the annual total exports of this country and to what places it was exported;
- how the present shortage is explained;
- the basis of distribution of sugar to various provinces; and
- whether the production in Native States is also taken into consideration?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The total annual production of sugar in India has varied between 10 and 12 lakh tons in recent years.

(b) Production was highest in 1939-40, and 1943-44, at about 12½ lakh tons, but was not so high in the intervening three years.

(c) The annual total exports are about 17,000 tons of sugar to neighbouring countries.

(d) The present shortage is due to increase in population, increased requirements of the Defence Services, the relatively high increase in urban population which is the main consumer of sugar, and higher purchasing capacity of the public. It is also due to the estimated fall in production in the current year.

(e) The available supply of sugar is distributed to various Provinces and States on the basis of their pre-war average consumption during the years 1935-36 to 1938-39. Adjustments are, however, made in special circumstances.

(f) Yes.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: With reference to (c), is it not a fact that the Provinces are not getting even their 1935 average quota even today?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not aware. I am giving them according to the average consumption during that year.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: They are not getting that quota even today?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: What province does the Honourable Member refer to? If it is Madras, I will inquire into the matter. I am not aware that Madras is not getting its quota.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Is the shortage of sugar due to shortage of cane plantation?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not think it arises out of this question.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: It does arise. How is the present shortage explained?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There are a number of causes for the present shortage. One of them is smaller cultivation of cane.

NON-INCREASE IN SIZE OF RATION IN MALABAR

1466. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the Adviser to His Excellency the Governor of Madras in charge of Food made a statement in the Madras Provincial Food Council that the size of ration in Malabar could not be increased to 1 lb. per adult per day, because Railways were not placing enough wagons to carry the grains to West Coast; if so, whether it was true; and

(b) if the wagons are available now to carry foodgrains to West Coast; if not, do Government propose to arrange for alternative transport for the said purpose?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b). I understand that the Adviser said that the main difficulty was transportation. Arrangements to overcome this have been made.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Now that the wagons are available, from when will the increased ration of one pound per day be given?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As soon as the stuff is there to make the ration one pound a day possible.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Has any inquiry been made to find out whether one pound of rice is sufficient for a man who can eat more than that?

HIGHER SIZE OF RATION IN DELHI

1467. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have accepted the principle involved in resolution No. 1(b) of the 5th All India Food Conference, namely, that until all deficit areas can be ensured sufficient supplies to enable them to sustain a basic ration of 1 lb. of cereals per adult per day, the size of the basic ration in any area should not exceed that quantity; if so, why the size of ration in Delhi is still kept at 18 ozs. while in Malabar it is 12 ozs.;

(b) whether any time limit was given to Provincial Governments and States to conform to the principles laid down in that Conference;

(c) the size of the supplementary ration agreed to be given to manual workers, and if the cultivators of foodgrains come under that class; if not, why not;

(d) whether he is aware that in the Madras Presidency a child up to 2 years is not entitled to any ration;

(e) the sanction behind the resolutions of the All India Food Conference; and

(f) whether Government propose to keep a constant watch over all Governments and direct them to follow the resolutions to which they are parties?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The principle of the Resolution has been accepted. It lays down the size of the basic ration in urban areas assuming that in addition a supplementary ration is provided for heavy manual workers. Where no such supplementary ration is provided, as in the case of Delhi, the Government of India are prepared to allow a higher basic ration up to a limit of 8 lbs. per week.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No scale has been laid down, but in urban rationing administrations are advised, subject to supplies being available, to aim at the provision of a supplementary ration for heavy manual workers upto 50 per cent. of the Basic ration. Cultivators of foodgrains are not excluded from the category of heavy manual workers.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) They have the force of recommendations to the Government of India, embodying a large measure of agreement and common purpose between Provincial and State Governments, on the subjects with which they deal.

(f) The Government of India will make every endeavour to that end.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that in several towns in the Madras Presidency cultivators living in urban areas are not treated as coming within the category of heavy manual labourers, will the Government of India issue definite instructions to see that these people are included within that category?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: We have already done so, as I have stated in my answer.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member only said that they are not excluded from this category. It does not mean that they are to be included. In either case, the agricultural worker who does heavy manual labour takes much more food than one pound, as was mentioned by my Honourable friend Mr. Rangiah Naidu.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The negative includes the positive.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the objection to give a definite instruction on the lines I have suggested, unless the Honourable Member has got any mental reservation?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I will with pleasure draw the attention of the Madras Government to this matter.

COMPULSION ON TEXTILE MILLS TO PURCHASE LEASE-LEND GOODS

1468. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state if it is a fact that textile mills are compelled to purchase Lease-Lend goods under compulsion and threat such as is contained in the following letter, from T. P. Barat, signing for Textile Commissioner, addressed to cotton mills in India, dated the 19th February, 1945:

"Please refer to this Office Circular No. CX2(8)/LL/17955, dated 27th December 1944, for which I hold your acknowledgment, requesting you to place orders for gross Lease-Lend Shuttles with Messrs. Nowrosjee Wadia & Sons, Bombay. It is observed that you have not so far acted in accordance with these instructions.

2. In this connection you are informed that the Mill-Stores and Priority Assistance Committee of the Textile Control Board have recommended that if you do not place order for Lease-Lend Shuttles with Messrs. Nowrosjee Wadia and Sons Ltd., Bombay, under advice to this Office within 14 days from the receipt of this letter, all assistance to you for procuring stores, fuel, cotton, etc., would be suspended forthwith.

3 You are therefore requested to place your orders for the full quantity of shuttles concerned within the time limit specified above; otherwise this office would have no option but to act on the recommendations of the Mill-stores and Priority Assistance Committee?"

(b) What is the total quantity of shuttles so imported? How does the price, at which they are to be taken from a specified single firm, compare with the pre-war price and with the price of shuttles manufactured in this country?

(c) Have Government given any assistance to shuttle manufacturers of India and have they considered the effect of their action on those who have produced shuttles in India during the war?

(d) What is the object of shutting out stores, fuel, and cotton from people who do not place orders for shuttles as called upon, because they have adequate number in stock?

(e) Is it a fact that the Lease-Lend shuttles work out at Rs. 125 per dozen as against the local price of Rs. 60 to 70 and the British price of Rs. 75 per dozen, and is it also a fact that the Lease-Lend shuttles have been found inferior and unsuitable for the requirements of looms in India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes. It is not however under threat or compulsion that the mills are asked to purchase these Lease-Lend shuttles as would be apparent from the answers below.

(b) 1,000 gross. The average pre-war price of imported shuttles was Rs. 20/- per dozen. Prior to the introduction of control over selling price of shuttles on the 31st December, 1942, the price of indigenous and imported shuttles ranged between Rs. 225/- and 300/- per dozen. The order for the Lease-Lend shuttles was placed on the 30th September, 1942, at a price of Rs. 125/- per dozen. The maximum price for the imported shuttles was fixed on the 31st December 1942, at Rs. 84/- per dozen. The revised ceiling price due to improved supply position and distribution and price control is now Rs. 75/- per dozen. Indigenous shuttles manufacturers were not able to manufacture at these rates and accordingly their prices were not subjected to control.

(c) Yes, but unfortunately it has been impossible to procure supplies of suitable timber out of which satisfactory shuttles can be manufactured in India.

(d) Those shuttles were imported by Government at the express wish and on the recommendation of the mill industry through their representatives on the Mill-stores and Priority Assistance Committee of the Textile Control Board. In these circumstances this Committee has ruled that it is only fair that any mill which can use these shuttles should receive its share on a *pro-rata* basis irrespective of their cost and any such mill refusing to purchase these shuttles would be deprived of any Government assistance to procure essential millstores like fuel, cotton etc.

(e) Yes. These shuttles are inferior to English shuttles but they are not unsuitable for use in the mills to whom they have been allotted.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member give an assurance that all assistance would be rendered to the local shuttle manufacturers who have helped this country during the war period by permitting them to import the necessary wood from outside and make the dollar exchange available to them, if a representation is sent to the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I received a representation and I had a long discussion with the Bharat Timber works at Bombay, if I remember the name aright, and I am having that question examined as to what extent this industry can be developed within India?

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Is the Honourable Member aware that shuttles received from America were not delivered by the manufacturers in accordance with specifications sent out from here by the Textile Stores Controller?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not aware of that. I shall make enquiry into that. I admit they are inferior to English shuttles, but they were ordered at a time when there were no shuttles available and it was on the recommendation of the Committee we did it and it is only fair that any mill which can use these shuttles should receive its share.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: It is not a question of inferiority. Is the Honourable Member aware that it is difficult to use these shuttles because they are not in accordance with specifications of shuttles which we ordinarily use in this country?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: This is a point quite outside the question which was put by my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, but in view of the specific question which he has raised, if my Honourable friend drops a line to me, I will have the specific question examined.

AREA UNDER IRRIGATION IN BALUCHISTAN

†1469. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the total area brought under irrigation in Baluchistan since the war began;

(b) how much of such area was brought under irrigation by Government and how much by private enterprise;

(c) the total amount spent by the Government on such projects; and

(d) whether any sums were advanced to Zamindars for bringing land under irrigation?

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

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a), (b) and (c). No substantial areas have been brought under irrigation in Baluchistan since the war began; but two flood control schemes, sanctioned by Government, costing about Rs. 68,000, will add about 1,000 acres. As a result of more intensive cultivation of lands under irrigation and expansion of dry farming coupled with the Administration's procurement measures, Baluchistan has become a surplus province with wheat, paddy and Jowari for export to other provinces.

(d) The information is being collected.

LIQUOR SHOPS IN VICINITY OF RAILWAY COAL MINES

1470. ***Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that there are liquor shops in the vicinity of Railway coal mines; and, if so, the days and hours when they are open;

(b) whether the management of these mines are aware that these liquor shops tempt miners to waste their wages on drink and ruin their health and that, consequently, the attendance of the miners and the output of coal in the mines on the day following the pay-day is adversely affected;

(c) if the reply to (b) above is in the negative, whether Government propose to call for a report on the matter; and

(d) whether Government also propose to ask the authorities concerned either to abolish liquor shops in mining areas, or to restrict the hours of opening and the quantity of liquor sold per individual and to close them fully on pay-days?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes. There are liquor shops in the vicinity of coalmines owned by railways as well as by others. I regret I have at present no information about the days and hours of opening but I shall obtain it and place it on the table of the House.

(b) No.

(c) Government will call for a general report on the relations between drink and the health and production of miners.

(d) Excise administration is a Provincial subject. On receiving a report, however, Government will consider if any recommendations appear necessary in regard to liquor shops.

I should add that about December 1944, the retail prices for distillery liquor in the Bihar coalfields was increased and the Provincial Government is watching the effect of this increase of prices before considering any other action to restrict the consumption of liquor. A report received last year from Bengal suggests that there has been no evidence of excessive consumption of drink in the Bengal coalfields area.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Sir, in view of the fact that the coal situation is very grave in this country and that it is necessary to have the utmost output from coal mines, will Government consider the importance of taking immediate steps to close down the liquor shops in their vicinity, even though it is a provincial matter?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am afraid we have no control as the Honourable Member suggests.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: May I know if the liquor shops were located in the vicinity with the consent of the Local Government?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I say, that is a matter for Provincial Government.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS FOR RAILWAY COAL MINERS' CHILDREN

1471. ***Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) whether there are any primary schools for children of the miners working in the Railway-owned coal mines; and, if so, the number of schools and pupils—boys and girls—attending each of them;

(b) whether the number of schools and pupils has increased or decreased since June, 1939, and what the difference now is;

(c) whether these schools are co-educational, and if there are women teachers on their staff;

(d) if a midday meal is provided to the pupils at these schools; and, if not, why not;

(e) whether these schools are under entire or partial management of the Coal Mine Authorities or under some other local authorities; and

(f) what steps Government are taking to promote elementary education among miners?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes. I regret I have no detailed information about the numbers of schools but I shall obtain it. As regards the number of children of miners attending the schools, it will not be easy to obtain the information as the schools are open to other children as well.

(b), (c) and (d). I have no information but I shall obtain it and place it on the table of the House.

(e) The schools are under the management of the Hazaribagh Mines Board to which the Railway collieries make financial contribution.

(f) The responsibility for educational facilities is primarily that of the Provincial Governments.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Sir, the Honourable Member told us the other day that there is a welfare committee, may I ask if the Honourable Member will draw their attention to the suggestions that I have made in this question and also get a record of the children of the miners who attend the schools?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: There is nothing to prohibit the Welfare Committee from interesting themselves in this and taking action in the matter.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: I want to know, Sir, if the Government will give instructions to this Committee to give their attention to these matters?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, it might do, there is nothing to prevent the committee from doing it.

CALCUTTA MARWARI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S STATEMENT RE COTTON TEXTILES SUPPLIED TO BENGAL

1472. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies been drawn to a statement, issued by the Marwari Chamber of Commerce of Calcutta, published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, dated Calcutta, the 16th March, 1945 (3rd Dak Edition) and other newspapers, questioning the accuracy of official statements to the effect that Bengal received more than her quota of cotton textiles during the period of six months ending December, 1944?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please make a comprehensive statement dealing with the various points of criticism raised by the said Chamber?

(c) On which dates was any embargo imposed on the exportation of cotton cloth and yarn to Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan, respectively, and from what sources did these countries use to obtain their supplies of cotton cloth and yarn prior to the imposition of the said embargo?

(d) Is any preventive staff of the Central Customs Department posted at any point on the communication routes between India on the one hand and Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan, respectively, on the other, and what are the duties of the said staff with reference to any traffic in cotton yarn and textiles?

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

(b) (i) The Textile Commissioner has converted the figures of actual despatches in terms of yards as revealed in the customs figures into bales at the rate of 1,500 yards to one bale.

(ii) It was decided to fix a separate quota for Assam on the representation of the Assam authorities, who claimed that they were not receiving their share of cloth out of the total allotment to the Bengal deficit zone.

(iii) The question of taking account of the increases in population since that date and the revision of quotas is now under consideration.

(iv) The Textile Commissioner had in January last invited all Provincial Governments to furnish any reliable and verifiable figures to him in regard to their internal cloth production, if they felt that the basis on which the Textile Commissioner had proceeded to fix the allotments was incorrect. The Textile Commissioner will undertake a revision of the quotas as soon as he receives this information from Bengal and other Provincial Governments.

I am placing a full statement replying to all the points raised in the Chamber's statement on the table.

(c) No embargo on export of cloth and yarn to Tibet and Nepal has been imposed by the Central Government. Certain quantities of textiles have always been exported to these countries from India but procurement of cloth specifically for export is now impossible except against export licenses issued by or under the orders of the Central Government within the prescribed quota. The question of embargo on exports to Bhutan does not arise as it is treated as part of India in the Bengal deficit zone for the purpose of the scheme of distribution of cloth and yarn.

(d) Yes. The Central Excise staff is posted at the communication routes between India on the one hand and Nepal and Bhutan on the other hand; but such staff is not doing any customs preventive work at present. In regard to the communication routes between India and Tibet the necessary control is being exercised by staff under the control of the Political Officer, Sikkim.

Statement

(i) The Marwari Chamber contends that the basis of one bale being equal to 1,500 yards, which is assumed by the Textile Commissioner, is wrong. This criticism is based on a misapprehension of the position. Despatches to Bengal have been mostly by sea and the Textile Commissioner has converted the figures of actual despatches in terms of yards as revealed in the customs figures into bales at the rate of 1,500 yds. to one bale. If a smaller yardage content for a bale had been assumed by him, that would merely have given a higher number of bales but would not have affected the total number of yardage despatched to Bengal.

(ii) The next point made by the Chamber is that huge quantities of cloth had been exported to Assam from Bengal up to the 7th November 1944 on which date export to Assam was banned. Again, this criticism is based on wrong information. For a time Assam was treated as part of the Bengal deficit zone and cloth which was despatched to Bengal included her requirements also. Because of this fact, the total quota allotted to the Bengal deficit zone was arrived at on the basis of the total population of the two Provinces. It was decided to fix a separate quota for Assam on the representation of the Assam authorities, who claimed that they were not receiving their share of cloth out of the total allotment to the Bengal deficit zone. In other words, so far from Bengal having suffered because of exports during this period to Assam, Bengal actually appears to have gained to the extent of the quantities which may have failed, for any reason, to pass on to Assam.

(iii) The next point raised is that no account is taken of the increased population of Bengal. This is correct. In the absence of any definite information as to the extent of increase for the purposes of allotting cloth throughout the country, the Textile Commissioner has worked on the basis of the 1941 census figures. The question of taking account of the increases in population since that date and the revision of quotas is now under consideration.

(iv) The Chamber maintains that the estimate of the output of local mill and handloom production, which has been assumed by the Textile Commissioner for the purposes of arriving at the quota which Bengal should receive from outside, is incorrect. The Textile Commissioner had in January last invited all Provincial Governments to furnish any reliable and verifiable figures to him in regard to their internal cloth production, if they felt that the basis on which the Textile Commissioner had proceeded to fix the allotments was incorrect. The Textile Commissioner will undertake a revision of the quotas as soon as he receives this information from Bengal and other Provincial Governments.

Other points raised in the Chamber's statement relate to internal distribution.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Has the Honourable Member satisfied himself that whoever may be the authority for exercising check over smuggling to Tibet and Sikkim is doing it efficiently?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: There has recently been a conference over that question and we have brought it to the special notice of the Political Officer, and I think if my Honourable friend goes to that part of the country, he will find that it is easy to check things at that end.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Under which Government is the Political officer?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Under the Government of India.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Surely the Honourable Member has control as to how it is working?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Through the relative Department.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Does the relative Department do its work?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I already replied, this question has been examined at a conference and we have drawn the special attention of the officer to its importance.

+1473*—1478*.

RICE ROTTING IN GOVERNMENT GODOWNS IN MANIKGANJ

1479. *Mr. A. Satyanarayana Moorty: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Food please state if the attention of Government has been drawn to the news published on page 5 of the *Hindustan Times* dated 17th instant that 1,00,000 maunds of rice was rotting in Government godowns in Manikganj (Dacca-Bengal)?

(b) Have they verified if this is a fact?

(c) Do Government propose to make enquiries and find out the person or persons responsible for such a large wastage?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take to prevent recurrence of such happenings?

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

(b), (c) and (d). An enquiry has been made from the Bengal Government and the information will be laid on the table of the House when received.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: May I know from the Honourable Member whether he is going to visit the storage place and find out if the foodstuffs are properly secured?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member said he would collect information and lay it on the table.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Sir, I should like to know whether the Honourable Member is going to visit the places of storage of foodstuffs.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. That does not arise at all.

FOODSTUFF DESTROYED IN BENGAL

1480. *Mr. A. Satyanarayana Moorty: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the total quantity and value of foodstuff that had to be destroyed in Bengal in 1944 for want of proper care in storage?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: An enquiry has been made from the Bengal Government and the information will be laid on the table of the House when received.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that very often these foodstuffs are stored in the open and exposed to rain and wind?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, Sir, that is not a fact.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Is it a fact that large quantities of rice, deteriorated at Munshigunj and a considerable quantity of *atta* also deteriorated at Dacca recently?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am unable to answer that question without notice.

FOOD SCARCITY IN ORISSA

1481 *Mr. A. Satyanarayana Moorty: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Food Member been drawn to a news item published on page 4 of the *Hindustan Times Evening News*, dated the 16th March, 1945, regarding a statement by Mr Bisvanath Das, Ex-premier of Orissa, saying that the conditions in Orissa are deplorable and people are living on "banshini" a preparation made of bamboo trees?

(b) Do Government propose to verify the facts and see that sufficient quantity of rice and other essential foodstuffs are immediately supplied to Orissa?

+These questions were withdrawn by the questioner.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The answer to both parts of the question is in the affirmative.

PROPOSAL TO CLOSE DOWN SILVER JUBILEE T.B. HOSPITAL AND MUNICIPAL T.B. CLINIC, DELHI

1482 *Mr. Satyanarayana Moorty: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) whether he is aware that the Delhi Municipal Committee have decided to close down Silver Jubilee Tuberculosis Hospital and the Municipal T. B. Clinic from July 1945;

(b) the reasons for not provincialising the above institutions; and

(c) if Government of India propose to give a grant-in-aid to keep them running for the present if they cannot provincialise them forthwith?

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

(b) Owing to deterioration in the financial position it has been necessary to avoid all expenditure unless it contributes to the war effort or is otherwise quite unavoidable.

(c) The Government of India have appointed a special officer to draw up a comprehensive scheme for the improvement of the health services generally in the Delhi area and the question of provincialising the Tuberculosis Hospital and Clinic or giving a grant to the Municipal Committee will be reconsidered on receipt of his report.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What other facilities will be available for the public of Delhi and Delhi Province in regard to this particular matter of tuberculosis?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Honourable Member is assuming that the hospital is going to be closed.

PRODUCTION OF POTATOES IN FARRUKHABAD

1483 *Mr. A. Satyanarayana Moorty: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the production of potatoes in Farrukhabad this season;

(b) the number of tons for which export permits are given;

(c) the number of tons remaining in that local market;

(d) if he is aware that the number of tons left behind exceeds the requirements of the local civilian consumption;

(e) if he proposes to take steps to see that necessary permits are issued for their export;

(f) the number of tons purchased by the military for dehydration purposes; and

(g) whether Government propose to make transport arrangements to send the surplus stock to deficit areas?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) to (g). The production is estimated at 19 lakh maunds of which export is permitted upto 12½ lakh maunds. In addition there is a military demand of 1.35 lakh maunds. On completion of these quotas the residue left would be 5.15 lakh maunds which is not considered to be in excess of local requirements for consumption and seed within the Province. I regret that I have no precise figures of the amount actually exported to date but the ban is being temporarily lifted to facilitate the clearance of the exportable surplus. Necessary assistance for movement is being given by the Provincial Government.

DEPUTATION OF INDIAN BUSINESSMEN TO BRITAIN

1484. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state why the deputation of Indian businessmen is being sent to the United Kingdom?

(b) When was the proposal first mooted by the Government of India?

(c) What is the agenda of the deputation?

(d) Was this deputation invited by the United Kingdom interests?

(e) Why is it necessary for the Honourable Member to go on deputation?

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

ELECTION TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE & FORESTS

(f) Is it proposed to make future plans for India in consultation with people in the United Kingdom?

(g) Is it one of the objects of the Mission to discuss the sterling balances?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) To enable the industrialists of this country to make contacts in U. K. and to study the developments and technical advances made by industries in that country during the past few years.

(b) Early in 1944.

(c) There is no agenda. The visit will be unofficial in character and the members of the party will be free to arrange their programme or discuss any matter, unfettered by any terms of reference.

(d) No.

(e) The visit of the industrialists has no connection with the visit if any, of any Member of the Executive Council.

(f) No.

(g) No.

APPLICATION OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES ORDINANCE TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

1485 *Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Essential Services Ordinance applies to all Government employees; and

(b) whether protests have reached the Government regarding non-application of the provisions of sections (5) and (6) of the Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance II of 1941, in regard to obligation of the Crown not to discontinue the services of the Crown servants without a reasonable cause, and the issue of rules regulating or empowering a specified authority to regulate their wages and other conditions of service?

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

(b) No.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask why Government have not taken steps that are necessary to be taken under the Essential Services Act?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My Honourable friend's question was whether protests were received.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR FOOD DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Thursday, the 22nd March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Food, eighteen nominations were received. Subsequently eight Members withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, Pandit Nilakantha Das, Shams-ul-Ulema Kamaluddin Ahmad, Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan, Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt, Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu, Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha and Mr. B. Das to be duly elected.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have further to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Friday, the 23rd March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for Agriculture and Forests twelve nominations were received. Subsequently two Members withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Raja Bahadur Kushal Pal Singh, Mr. Ram Narayan Singh, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh, Sardar

[Mr. President.]

Mangal Singh, Shams-ul-Ulema Kamaluddin Ahmad, Nawab Siddique Ali Khan and Mr. C. P. Lawson to be duly elected.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have further to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Friday, the 23rd March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for Education, twelve nominations were received. Subsequently two Members withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, Pandit Shambhudayal Misra, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, Mr. Sri Prakasa, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, Mr. W. Tyson, Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam and Mrs. Renuka Ray to be duly elected.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have also to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Friday, the 23rd March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Education, Health and Lands other than Agriculture and Forests and Education, eleven nominations were received. Subsequently one Member withdrew his candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde, Mr. Badri Dutt Pande, Lala Sham Lal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal, Sardar Sant Singh, Dr. Habibar Rahman, Sir Syed Raza Ali, Sir F. E. James and Mr. Piare Lal Kureel to be duly elected.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1944-45—contd.

DEMAND No. 71—MISCELLANEOUS—contd.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, in this demand they want money for meeting the contribution towards the proposed World Food and Agricultural organisation and also for the Famine Enquiry Commission. I learn that the report of the Famine Inquiry Commission is not yet available; I should like to know whether this Commission has submitted its report at all, and if so, when it is going to be published. Coming to the question of the world food organisation, we are told that it has been decided that India is to contribute up to 4.25 per cent. of the total expenditure of that organisation. We do not know at what stage the Government of India were taken into consultation in fixing this particular quota as India's share of this expenditure, and on what basis this share has been fixed at all. If we are to look at it from the point of view of the importance of relative benefit that the different countries are to derive from this organisation, I am afraid this quota is rather too high. America, England, Australia and Canada and other countries have a much greater productivity from land and has better processing and other equipment, much better marketing services and much greater assistance from their respective Governments so far as their agriculturists are concerned. In those countries effective steps are being taken to ensure minimum prices for their agricultural produce and also to protect their farmers from sudden slumps of prices in the post-war period. Our Honourable Member has not been able to give any such assurance at all; he is not trying to do any such thing. He is only flirting with the idea of a committee—mostly an official committee—to concert or rather think of measures that may have to be taken by the post-war administration in India, to fix minimum prices, and so on. The level of scientific agriculture in this country is very low. The amount of research that

is being carried on is not quite adequate and the processing services are hopelessly undeveloped; marketing, even according to the admissions of Government, is very insufficient, costly and wasteful. In these circumstances I do not think it is really right on the part of Government to have agreed to this 4.25 per cent. as their quota of contribution for the expenses of this world food organisation. In fact this organisation has not yet come into existence. And I cannot understand on what basis they could have made their estimates at all, and with what scientific precision they could have come to this particular

figure of their quota. I do not know whether the Standing Finance Committee has been consulted about this matter or whether the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has been consulted and whether they were given full facts at all. I do not also know whether the Government of India propose to consult the Standing Committee which is being constituted before they come to a final decision in this matter. We ourselves are not supplied with any more facts than this bare statement that it has been fixed. I think it is a very arbitrary decision on the part of Government.

Coming to the question of U. N. R. R. A., I find that the contribution that we are asked to make is rather too high—eight crores of rupees. India is a very poor country and in spite of it there are war budgets and inflation which we are having. Soon after the war is over, India is likely, even according to the admission made by our own Finance Member, to face a slump in her price level. Certainly India would find it very difficult indeed to bear this burden of eight crores of rupees. And why should we make this contribution? To help the rest of the world to rehabilitate itself. Are we so very well rehabilitated in our own country, or are we likely to be so very well rehabilitated in our own country after the war that we can afford to be so very liberal-minded by placing such a large sum of money at the disposal of the rest of the world? What was happening in this country last year? The House knows what happened when the Bengal famine was rampant.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is going into old history. Bengal famine has been discussed fully in this House.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): It is in connection with rehabilitation that he is mentioning the famine.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Application was made to the U. N. R. R. A. and they sheltered behind constitutional difficulties, namely that the application should come through the British Government. Later on they made an amendment to the effect that if in future India were to be visited again by another famine, then the U. N. R. R. A. may come to think of the advisability of making a contribution to India. This is the way in which we are likely to be treated in future also. Just when we are in need of it, we will not be able to get any help from it.

What are the countries which are likely to get much more help and which are likely to make insistent demands and get their demands satisfied? They are European countries—they themselves have said so again and again. European countries are very much in their mind and to them they make their contributions. Even as they are today, after the destruction and exploitation which has been carried on by Nazis, I am sure, Sir, their people are much more prosperous than our people. Yet we are asked to make these contributions for the rehabilitation of those people. We want them to be rehabilitated provided it does not cost us too much, for eight crores is too much indeed. Therefore, I take very strong objection to this kind of procedure that Government of India adopts.

Sir, they are increasing our international responsibilities. We do not mind going into these international organisations if at all it is going to be beneficial to us. It has not been proved that this participation is really a beneficial thing for India. In the Philadelphia Conference India could not get a permanent seat on the Executive. My Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, himself was obliged to admit in his report to this House that any industrial country was able to get much more consideration than India. America and England as a matter of course got permanent places reserved for them, but India could

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

not be given a permanent place. The same thing happened at the International Monetary Conference.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot discuss all those conferences on this motion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I am not going into all that; I am making a passing reference.

And now there is the San Francisco Conference.

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

Prof. N. G. Ranga: This is another international shackle that is put round our neck as a sort of an ornament. I only tell this Government that this ornament burns us, instead of adorning us. It does not help us; it costs us very much. Therefore, I warn this Government that unless it changes its ways and it avails of every possible opportunity to take this House into confidence before it makes any such commitments in regard to these international matters, and before it agrees to get India's share in the financial burden fixed, it is not likely to satisfy this House and it is not likely to satisfy this country.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): The House will remember that so far as U. N. R. R. A. is concerned, it is a fact that I promised at that stage to place the question of grant before the House. It is no secret when I say that at the last Session I consulted the Leaders of the different Parties and in accordance with their advice I made this provision in the budget. I will not say anything more than that actually the amount to be contributed by India was also decided as between the Leaders. I thought that the fact that I have placed it in the Budget is sufficient to give an opportunity to the House. I placed eight crores of rupees in the Budget which will partly be spent this year and partly during the next year.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province: General): Why did not you consult us about the San Francisco Conference?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is another matter!

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think my Honourable friend is a lawyer and I would have given a lawyer's reply that it is quite irrelevant for the time being.

So far we have not discussed the supply of any other article except jute. Certainly enquiries have been made as regards other supplies. So far as jute is concerned, we have always tried to put ourselves in touch with the industries as to the quantity that may be available and, in fact, it is in our interest that our jute should go abroad in order that the growers might have a fair and proper price. Beyond that if there is any other question which affects the consumption in the country, we will try to keep it within the export quota as far as possible, but if beyond, we will certainly consult the interests concerned especially the Chambers in order to find out their views as to the supplies which might be given from this country. I hope, in the circumstances, the House will agree that we have taken all the necessary steps which should have been taken in this connection.

With regard to the Food Organisation matter, the House will remember that it agreed to it, and agreed to a contribution which will be only a very small part of the total contribution. This Organisation will really place the experience and talent of the world at the disposal of all those who will work in food matters, and from that point of view it is welcome.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): On a point of information. Would this amount of Rs. 8 crores cover a period of two to three years?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I explained, that is the entire amount for such time as may be required.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): So far as the Leaders of Parties have agreed to the amount of contribution to the

U. N. R. R. A., I shall not make any reference, but my present task will be to tell the Honourable the Finance Member that his resentment and anger against my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, when he questioned the propriety for the payment of large sums of money to U. N. R. R. A. was rather a show of indecent haste. I quite appreciate that the Honourable the Finance Member has by this time lost his patience but he has vented his resentment and whole criticism against my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar. Still, I find, Sir, that my friend was thoroughly justified in alleging that the Finance Member was rather indecently hasty in making provision and in making payments to this fund.

It was originally stated that only a sum of Rs. 30 lakhs would be paid and I think the Finance Standing Committee gave sanction to that amount about February last. Now but, even within a month, we find, Sir, that the balance of Rs. 1,10,00,000, that is to say, Rs. 86 lakhs are proposed to be paid, if not already paid to the U. N. R. R. A. fund this year, and it has also made provision for Rs. 7 crores for the next year's budget, though at the inception of this proposal the Finance Member said that having regard to the peculiar backward economic condition of this country he would see that the payment of this large sum of money is spread over a number of years. Though the provision of Rs. 7 crores in the next year's budget might not mean that it is going to be paid to the U. N. R. R. A., it means, to the extent that this budget is concerned, that that sum is increased in the deficit between the revenue and the expenditure next year. I do not know why the Honourable the Finance Member should have provided for the balance of Rs. 7 crores in one year, though the actual payment might not have been made. If he spread this large amount over another 7 years and debiting one crore every year, our deficit would have been less to that extent.

Sir, there is one curious argument mentioned in the notes of this proposal. It was felt and perhaps agreed to by all parties concerned that India would not be able to pay at the rate of one per cent. of its national income and that the other parties were generous only to agree to a sum of Rs. 8 crores. Even that is to be justified on the ground that anything less than that amount would not be befitting the respect or dignity of a big country like this. This is sometimes the argument of a spendthrift that he must spend more than his means just to keep up his dignity. I thought that was one of the most dangerous of enemies of any canon of orthodox finance: to bolster up the position of any individual, body or institution for over-spending and thus becoming bankrupt sooner than necessary.

Moreover India has been the scene of war to some extent and is perhaps likely to be so in a greater degree next year. So a comparison between other countries which are not exactly scenes of war is also not a proper comparison. However, Sir, I thought it was my duty to mention that the Honourable the Finance Member was not completely right when he waxed very indignant over my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar's criticism, in charging the Honourable the Finance Member of being indecently hasty in providing for the payment of this fund.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): I would like to have information about the Indian Scientists' Mission. There is a demand here of Rs. 61,000. I thought almost all the scientists who had been sent out were employed by universities or other institutions. As far as I know they were sent out on deputation by their respective employers. I would like to know whether they were paid additional salary by the Government of India.

Secondly, I would like to know whether these scientists will make any written report to Government and whether that report will be published and made available to the various universities and institutions engaged on scientific research.

Seth-Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): Under the demand there is provision for Rs. 2,69,000 for the Famine Enquiry Commission, and we are told that it was set up in response to a demand from the

[Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon.]

Central Legislature. This demand was made on the floor of this House somewhere in the budget session of 1943. It is now two years and we do not know what has happened to this Committee. We read about it sometimes in the papers but we are not told when this enquiry committee is going to complete its enquiry. I do not even know whether the Government proposes to lay on the table at an early date the report which they have finished about Bengal. When this Commission was appointed by the House, the House is entitled to get this report or it should be told when the report will be completed.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): A question has been asked about the item under J.—Indian Scientists. The Indian Scientists were the guests of His Majesty's Government while in the United Kingdom and in respect of that part of their deputation the Government of India bore the cost of their passages and I think some small allowance in England. Of course they also went on to the United States of America and it was necessary to give them, in view of the cost of living there and the fact that they were not the guests of the United States Government, allowances for the period of their stay—six or seven weeks. I think these figures cover those.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: And the salaries?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Two of them are certainly Government officers. As regards their report, we have not yet received it, but we will consider placing it before the House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: About this Famine Enquiry Commission: I have asked for information and Mr. Haroon has asked for information.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That is not the affair of my Department.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who deals with it? Government is responsible for it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has made his speech. I cannot allow him to go on making another speech.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Some Department or other must be held responsible?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has made his speech and he has heard the other side's reply.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: A reply has been made but not about the Famine Enquiry Commission.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If they do not want to reply to that particular matter I cannot make them. The Honourable Member can vote as he likes.

The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,09,55,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 72—GRANTS-IN-AID TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,25,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Grants-in-Aid to Provincial Governments'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,25,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Grants-in-Aid to Provincial Governments'."

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I want some information in regard to this particular demand. I find that this demand relates to what happened in the Standing Finance Committee on the 31st July 1944 but another item of an analogous character which was placed before the Standing Finance Committee at that meeting in regard to a subvention to the United Provinces Government does not find a place here; nor do I see that it finds a place in the demands for grants in 1945-46. I would like the Government to tell us whether this amount of subvention

to the United Provinces is going to be adjusted by reappropriation or some such action or that the payment of the whole amount is to be held in abeyance. And if it is going to be paid at all, when will this House have an opportunity of having a say on it. I see that it has not been budgeted for in 1945-46. It does not find a place in this particular demand to which it is related, because both the transactions were put before the Standing Finance Committee at the same meeting. I would like to have some information on these points.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I cannot say immediately whether the provision for the adjustment with the United Provinces Government, which my Honourable friend referred to, is being made but what I can say is this. With regard to the supplementary demand now before the House it is a matter of simple arithmetic. We are now giving the Bengal Government in this year 7 crores. We have already got provision for 1½ crores and the supplementary demand we are asking for here is the remaining 5½ crores; nothing else is included under this supplementary demand.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: What is going to happen to the other matter, which was also discussed at the same meeting of the Standing Finance Committee?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: We have not yet made a demand for that amount. It may not have been finally decided as to what the amount will be. It may not have been yet brought to account.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,25,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Grants-in-Aid to Provincial Governments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 73—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,76,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,76,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 73-A—POST-WAR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,77,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Post-War Planning and Development'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,77,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Post-War Planning and Development'."

Mr. H. A. Sathar-H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Sir, I want to call the attention of the House to the remarks made as early as 31st October, 1944, by the Finance Committee, when first this demand was placed before them. This is the observation on page 4:

"The Committee approved the proposal but felt that an early opportunity should be taken of explaining the scope and functions of the Department to the Legislature."

My complaint is that the Department has not yet taken any opportunity to explain the functions and scope of its work. We had a Resolution on which of course the Department did not take the opportunity of explaining it. Then there was a *cum* motion when the Honourable Member did speak but yet I think that he is one of the least communicative of the Honourable Members sitting on the Treasury Benches.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I thought that this matter had been discussed several times before in the House.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Yet we are as thirsty as we have ever been before.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Your thirst is unquenchable!

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: The other day in reply to my friend Mr. Neogy he said that the panels are being constituted and once they are finally constituted he will place a list of the members on the table of the House. I do not think he has carried that out so far. There was information yesterday in the press that 25 out of the 29 panels have already been constituted. I hope that he will take this opportunity of telling us how far he has made progress and when he expects to finish the constitution of these panels, so that we may have an opportunity of knowing before the end of the Session as to where we are.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): I have two grievances against the Government of India in the matter of Planning. The first is that the Government of India does not give sufficient representation to Labour on the various Planning Committees which they have formed. Sir, it seems to me that the Government of India, as it is constituted today, is a capitalist government, and on account of that special reason they do not wish to consult labour interests in regard to planning. They feel that if labour is consulted, their plans may have to be changed, and for that reason Labour is not sufficiently represented on the Planning Committees. That is one reason why I am not in favour of giving any grant to the Planning Department. My second reason is that the Planning Department does not pay sufficient respect to the Indian Legislature. Planning has been going on for two years, and it is the duty of the Planning Department to place a resolution before the Legislature for its consideration. Even our friend the Honourable Food Member.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot raise a general debate now.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I must say why I am opposing the grant.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is it entirely a new service?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: It is a new service. The Honourable Planning Member should have brought forward a Resolution for consideration by the House, so that the House could give him some guidance, but it seems that Government have no respect for the Legislature, they do not care for the guidance which the Legislature may give them. That is my second point. My third complaint is that they do not even give sufficient information to the Legislature. For instance, they promised that they would appoint some panels. From newspapers, and not from State documents because we are not given these documents, I find that these panels will consider whether a particular industry will be managed by the State or by private capitalists. Now in this question we are all very much interested, Labour should be consulted and Labour should be represented on the Panels, but they do not do that, they do not even give information to the Legislature. We find some stray information of this kind in the newspapers. Government is treating the Legislature badly. I feel, Sir, that this is a very unsatisfactory way, and I am afraid, Sir, that the Legislature will not be consulting its own dignity if it will vote this grant.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot Non-Muhammadian Rural): It is an entirely new Department.

Sir F. E. James (Madras: European): Laurel and Hardy.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I do not want to touch the ground which has already been touched. On two occasions this Planning Department has come for discussion in this House, once on a non-official Resolution, and another time on a cut motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There was no provision in the last budget?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: It is a new Department, and in a case like this Government should have given facilities in a different way. On their own initiative they should have brought forward a Resolution. I am sorry Government have not chosen to take notice of this House in regard to this matter of planning which is a very important matter for the future welfare of the country.

Now, Sir, I would like to say few words about the Department itself. The Honourable Member for Planning has given various statements, has made various speeches in different parts of the country. It is only from these speeches or statements that we know anything about his attitude and this Department itself. Even before the Department started we had a bad augury in regard to it. The Finance Member in his budget speech said it is post-war planning: in no sense of the term can this be understood to mean planning during the war.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is quite incorrect; it is planning during the war, and execution after the war.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Exactly, the Finance Member and the country for which he stands will accept post-war planning for eternity, but will never come to a conclusion. I know, Sir, what has happened in other countries. Execution of very big schemes of industrial expansion have been carried out in other countries during the war. What has been done in Canada? What has been done in Australia? Aeroplane factories have been installed in Canada and Australia during the war. In fact war is an opportunity to many of these countries for developing big industries, and then these industries are necessary for the defence of the country. I heard, Sir, the other day a speech by Vice-Admiral Godfrey, and he said: The base for defence should be as near as possible, but the base of our arsenals and industries for the production of war materials are 6,000 miles away. We do not even have shipping; we have to depend on U.S.A. for it; we have to depend on England for it. Everybody else in the world have taken these defence measures which are most important for the security of the country. In many other countries they have developed these things during the war, war has been the occasion for them to develop these industries, but what is the position here? Planning should wait till after the war. They are not even prepared to begin after five years of war.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am glad to find that the Honourable Member will support a big Navy for India to-day.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Let the budget come before us, let it be our budget, it will be possible. We know that the Finance Member is printing paper money and using it for war. Cannot I get money for using it for the benefit of the country? If I can get an opportunity I will do it.

Now I want to launch a protest, a strong protest, on the way things are done. Things must be done here and now. Afterwards outside interests which are strong—in war time they are quiet,—will come in our way. Even during the war when shipping was attempted to be developed in this country I understand the Board of Trade in England objected to it, because they plan for one hundred years ahead. They say after the war what will happen to their shipping if India develops her own shipping. Even with the risk of prolongation of war, even with the loss of human life that it will mean, they want to preserve the shipping for themselves for many years to come. That is their attitude. If that is going to be their attitude, what is the meaning of having this post-war planning. There is a saying in Tamil: the object of planning is to come to a conclusion. The Government of India seem to be thinking all the time, but will never come to a conclusion. It is a wrong thing. Now I would like to warn the Honourable Member in charge of Planning. I would like him to avoid the evils of capitalism which are prevalent in other countries. They have established big industries, it is true, but they have class hatred, struggle between capital and labour, ruthless exploitation of the masses and killing of individuality in workers and also lowering of the moral standard. I want, Sir, that if industries are to be established in this country, they must encourage the village artisan to produce better and more, and encourage village industries and cottage industries.

[Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar.]

Now, Sir, I would suggest one thing. I come from an industrial area, there is no end of trouble between capital and labour. And I would suggest this for the Planning Department to undertake. If he can evolve a system by which labour can be brought into partnership with capital; I think he will go a long way in avoiding industrial quarrels in this country. As far as I know this system works in the Tatas, from where the Honourable Member comes and it has to a certain extent succeeded there. If he can arrange the profits to be shared by labour also, that will be a long range planning to avoid the eternal quarrels between labour and capital in this country.

Above all, I would like the establishment of these big industries to supply raw materials to many of the cottage industries in this country. Today the big industries are in competition with the cottage industries. They want to kill them; they have succeeded in killing some of them; but that is not the way in which the problems of this country are going to be solved. We are 400 crores of people; next to agriculture, the biggest industries are handloom and some of the cottage industries. But by developing a few big industries here and there we are not going to work for the salvation of this country. Our big industries should produce the raw product for the cottage industries in the various parts of the country, so that the cottage industries will live and flourish, and millions of labourers will earn a respectable livelihood in their own houses.

Now, I would like to refer to a statement made by the Honourable Planning Member that the real bottle-neck is going to be want of personnel. I have studied with interest what efforts he has made in this direction. He is planning to send—it is all planning—500 people to the United States and the United Kingdom to study certain subjects; most of the subjects which I find there were not subjects in which after a study they will return and work in the factories themselves. It is mostly scholastic, and I am very doubtful whether the men for whom he is spending this money will be able to come and work and help to set up big factories or industries, which it is his intention to build up. I would like him to send men who are working in factories already and who know something of its working, so that when they return they will be put in charge of the big factories.

I have nothing more to add, but only to say this, that I hope that the process of planning will some day come to actuality and that it will be of lasting benefit to our people and that it will be run and planned and executed from the point of view of the large masses of this country.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, we are asked to grant this money for post-war planning. One of the items should be to plan in such a manner that there will be no place at all for this European Group in a legislature like this. We meet here in this House to do some serious work according to the best of our abilities and our lights, to serve our people, to serve our country. We do not meet here to turn the whole House into a cinema. This is not a place where employment has to be provided for prospective cinema directors, people who cannot find any place at all—any honourable and fit employment in their own countries but who somehow or other manage to run into this country and get themselves employed as paid and professional legislators. There was an honourable gentleman who was brought into this country, or rather who brought himself into this country, and who allowed himself to be employed by the Madras Planters and then he went into the Madras legislature on behalf of those people, all the time having his cushy job of payment from the planters.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not know how all this is relevant.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: There is an honourable gentleman who made a personal attack on both of us, Sir, two Members of this House. He made such an indecent attack that he ought to be ashamed of himself and of being a Member of this House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not know when such an attack was made: when did it happen?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Just now, when Mr. Chettiar was called by you to speak.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What did he say? The Honourable Member should have risen in his seat there and then, if any unparliamentary expressions were used.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My Honourable friend Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar was called by you and so I did not wish to interrupt him.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If any unparliamentary remarks were made by any one, surely it was up to any Member of the House to rise and point it out at the time.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is not too late, Sir. I am on my feet and I have every right to tell the Honourable gentleman what I consider to be his duty. Sir, this gentleman was afterwards transported from Madras to Bengal and there also he was employed by the planters or some other body and paid a handsome salary, and from there he was transported to this Legislature. This kind of paid and professional legislators we are ashamed of. We do not want any more of these people; and when they come here, let them first behave.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is not justified in making personal remarks like this.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: He has made a personal attack against us and I am only answering.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should have drawn my attention to it then.

Sir F. E. James: If my Honourable friend will allow me, I made no personal attack on either my friend who is just now speaking or my friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar. I merely interjected what I hope was in good humour.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Oh! it was humour. To insult other people and then try and call it humour.

Sir F. E. James: I merely interjected what I intended to be a perfectly innocuous and good-humoured remark; but if that remark is in any way offensive to either of my honourable friends, I would beg permission to withdraw it and ask that it may be expunged from the proceedings.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): What was the remark?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am glad the Honourable Member has withdrawn his remark and I hope hereafter he will confine his remarks to his drawing room and not transport them into the debates of this House. Coming to this question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member need not take notice of every interruption that is made in this House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We have to take special notice of these gentlemen because they have, really speaking, no place at all here, and on top of that they come and insult us.

Coming to the question under discussion, I wish to say this: that while they accept my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi's contention that there was not proper representation given to labour on these various panel committees that are being constituted, my grievance is even greater than that. There are our peasants and there is no special effort made by my Honourable friend in charge of planning to give organisational representation to the various peasants organisations that are to be found in this country. Even if he were willing to consult only those organisations which are prepared to go with this Government, there are plenty of them in the Punjab, associated with their own Punjab ministry, and other organisations in Bengal and so on in various provinces. No proper steps have been taken at all. Agriculturists have a great stake in post-war planning. Many people pay lip homage by saying that these

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post-war plans are intended to benefit them. The Bombay planners have said it—one of the authors is this gentleman, and the Government of India also says so. But the proof of the pudding is in the eating. In the preparation of their plans there does not seem to be any proper or adequate place given to the real representatives of the peasants from any part of the country or from all parts of the country.

There are also these cottage industrial workers. There are millions of them. In organised industries you have not more than 5 millions. But in one industry, the handloom industry alone, there are 10 million working, according to your own statistics. There are various other cottage industries. They are nowhere in your picture. In answer to my supplementary questions and in personal conversation the Honourable Member said that the Provincial Governments are seized of this subject, and when their reports come over here, it will be the task of these various panel committees to go into those matters, and that there will be no need for a special committee for cottage industries. I am not satisfied with that position. Then, for whose benefit are you planning now? For every body's benefit, you will say. But in actual fact, we are afraid, that unless proper care is taken to plan in such a manner especially as to benefit the great masses of the people of this country, that is, the peasants, there is every likelihood that we may be loaded with a plan which is likely to benefit only a very small section of our people, that is, the industrialists and the industrial workers who may be associated with them; and the rest, the masses of the country, may be exploited for their benefit. One of the authors of the Bombay Plan stated that it is but right that the agricultural peoples must be satisfied with a much lower standard of living than the industrial workers. The reason he gave was that while industrial workers are working with the aid of machinery, agricultural workers have to work with their hands and nothing more. This is from your own colleague, Mr. John Mathai. Therefore he said that industrial workers ought to earn more and enjoy more. This would not do. We want unit for unit of labour equal remuneration whether a man works in a factory or on the field.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It does not arise out of this.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I want the Honourable Member to bear these considerations in mind. We do not want the village to be neglected. There is a sort of fascination for the towns. These ten gentlemen hail from the towns. They created the town of Jamshedpur and naturally they are fascinated by towns. This country wants village life to be modernised in such a manner that the villages will be able to enjoy all the modern benefits of science, art and organisation, while all the key and basic industries are managed by co-operative ventures or by the Government itself. When you plan, you must plan for the poor man, the common man and you must take care to see that the first fruits of planning do not go into the hands of a few people. You should not trust your luck or fortunes to either the undependable taxation machine or the inflationary measure or any other method for the proper distribution of wealth. See that the first fruits of your planning are not snatched away by two or three or even two or three hundred entrepreneurs or big capitalists. There is a sort of fascination for the big industrial concerns, as if all the wisdom is concentrated in their brains alone, as if these gentlemen alone are capable of enterprise, planning, organisation, production and distribution of wealth. It is all wrong. Soviet Russia has shown that it is all wrong. Until my friend was transported to this House, he was not so much of a capitalist as a manager. It was possible for the Tatas concern to have engaged him. It would have been possible for this Government to have engaged him. In future, it is not necessary to have a number of sleeping partners in these various industries drawing fat commissions and fat dividends and they have been doing nothing but encouraging absentee landlordism and capitalism. I want all these gentlemen to help us to organise co-operative ventures and help

the poor people of this country. I do not see any reason why all this unearned income should be put into the pockets of a few gentlemen, whether they come from Bombay or Ahmedabad or Sholapur or Cawnpore or even Madras and Coimbatore. In all these places these big capitalists are rising like mushrooms because of this war.

My Honourable friend was interrupted by the Finance Member who asked 'how can you build up new industries during the war'. Well, new industries have been built up. If you had not set up the Eastern Group Council or if British imperialism had not stood in the way and if we had our own choice and had a free hand, we would have made the same progress that Australia and Canada have made. The industrial potential of Australia and Canada was nothing compared with our industrial potential at the beginning of this war but they have the political potential and that is why they were able to develop their industries. We have also developed to some extent though it is on wrong lines. My Honourable friend said only yesterday 'take patents for the several inventions and place them at the disposal of the public, so that the public may be able to use them'. It is not a bad thing. I am opposed to patents. I want these things to become the property of the public. I say that these patents should not become the property of a few big capitalists; they must be available for use by co-operative ventures and by Government for the benefit of the people. We must utilise these things ourselves and exploit them to the greatest possible benefit. I agree with my Honourable friend Sir Jeremy Raisman on one thing, although on many points I disagree with him very violently. That is, in future the State has got to look to State enterprises in a very large measure for the increase in State revenues. Several Members on the floor of the House who are interested in capitalistic development have taken him to task. I am not prepared to take him to task. On the other hand, I will look forward to future enterprises to work on these lines. But we do not want state enterprises to be developed in such a manner that they will misbehave like the Railways. We will develop our state ventures in such a manner that it would be possible for every state enterprise to have democratic control and criticism on them. We must also develop our co-operative ventures. I may disagree with my Honourable friend on very many things as to what happens in Soviet Russia but there are very many good lessons that we have got to learn from Soviet Russia. There was a time when it was a fashion to think that everything that came from Soviet Russia was bad. Now the wave is in the other direction. Let my Honourable friends on all sides of the House read the experience of Soviet Russia. Let us try to develop our future in such a manner that the benefits of the planning do not fructify into the pockets of a few gentlemen but will fructify into the pockets of the general public of this country. This means that you have got to develop a new distribution system, a new system of distributing your wealth. I would make one suggestion. It has already been adopted in England and to some extent in America, because of their war economy. It is this according to the grades of incomes you grade the price also that you are going to charge for various commodities absolutely necessary for every individual to have. Then grade your price lists in regard to the consumer goods, toilets and all the rest of it. I am not going to allow my friend the Finance Member to run away with it. Sir, my friend is a very clever man. If he gets even a little bit of a hint, he will take it up and impose taxation. I am really afraid of him, because he is so ingenious. But I am really making this suggestion in regard to future planning by a future Government. That is why I am mentioning the subject today. Then you lower the price of such commodities that are absolutely necessary for the consumption of the poor people. In that way, you subsidise consumption of goods to the poor people. You over-price the goods which are needed for the richer people after allowing a particular minimum quantity of consumption. In that way it must be possible in your future planning to transfer wealth from the richer people, from the more highly paid people, to the low paid people and also to the poor people

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and in this way from the towns to the villages, from the high salaried to low paid and from the employed people to the unemployed people, in this way you have to transfer wealth. Then alone there will be some equality of distribution in wealth. That does not mean that I want to equalise all wages and all salaries for all people.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is explaining his own plan.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I want the Honourable Member for Planning and Development to keep these considerations in mind and see that his planning will satisfy all classes of people in towns and villages, industrial workers as well as peasants.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal (Member for Planning and Development): I and my Department have absolutely nothing to conceal, we have everything to gain and nothing to lose by publicity. Therefore it is particularly an irony of fate that I, of all the Members of the Government, should be singled out as the least communicative of all the Members. As a matter of fact, my Honourable friends will find, when they know me a little better, that I am very communicative and very fond of publicity—of the right kind. The reason why there has not been more expositions of the scope and nature of my Department before the Legislative Assembly is that there has been no opportunity and for that, I am not to blame. The first opportunity that arose when I was prepared to explain the scope and nature of the work that I was doing was in the November Session over the Resolution of my Honourable friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. My Honourable friend Mr. Essak Sait said that I did not speak then. I do not want to harp on the same thing, but I was not allowed to speak. On the second occasion that arose which was on the cut motion, on all the points that were raised, I tried to explain the position of my Department as far as it was possible to do so within the limited time and opportunity at my disposal. Now that a Standing Committee to advise my Department has been set up, its meeting is going to be held shortly and the very first item on the agenda is the explanation of the nature and scope of the Department; so that the House will see that it is not for want of inclination on my part that they are not as fully apprised of the activities of my Department as they would like to be, but simply because there has been no opportunity to do so. For that I am not to blame. I am quite prepared if the House so desires and if the Honourable the Leader of the House could spare the time to sit for one, two, three days or even a week, it necessary, to explain the nature and scope of the activities of my Department. As I say, I have everything to gain and nothing to lose by publicity.

Then, Sir, as instances of my misdeeds, various things have been pointed out. Take the case of the panels about which my Honourable friend Mr. Neogy asked a question. Out of 29 panels, the personnel of only 16 panels were ready and even with regard to those panels a number of people who had been invited had not replied. After considering the whole thing, I thought instead of putting up half a list, it would be better if I waited for a few days longer and put up a complete list of all the panels. A simple thing like this has been the cause of suspicion. Therefore, when my Honourable friend Mr. Piracha again raised the question and wanted a statement to be placed on the table of the House, I did so without any further hesitation because now 25 panels have been formed, instead of the 16 which were only ready when Mr. Neogy put the question. Even now all the panels have not been completed and with regard to many panels which have recently been formed, we have not yet received all the replies from the gentlemen whom we propose to appoint. That has been made clear in the statement which has been laid on the table of the House. Now, Sir, it is stated that the information with regard to these panels was only available to the Members from the newspapers. That is because most of the Honourable Members appear to pay more attention to newspapers than to the proceedings before the House. The statement

was laid on the table of the House and that has been copied by the newspapers not to any detailed extent. The general directive was also laid on the table of the House long ago—nothing has appeared in the newspapers of which the House has not been apprised even before the items appeared in the newspapers.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): But the printed proceedings have not yet come. They take one or two months.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The statement was laid on the table of the House. That was all I could do under the rules.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Why don't you circulate it to all the Members?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is enough if a copy is laid on the table of the House.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: My Honourable friend Mr. Joshi says that labour is not properly represented. Now, Sir, in every committee that we appoint, in all the post war policy committees that have been appointed, I have consulted my Honourable friend the Member for Labour and the committees have been appointed in consultation with him.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: But he does not represent Labour.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Does not the Honourable Member represent labour?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: He represents the Labour Department and not labour.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Another instance of misunderstanding which I would like to point out is with regard to the men who are supposed to be sent out to foreign countries for training. Five hundred is the number constantly mentioned. Five hundred are the number of students whom we wish to send out for training in U. K. and U. S. A. in various branches of science and arts with a view to employ them on their return. Some of them might already be employed with various Government departments, others are likely to get employment. Although we cannot guarantee employment in the case of every one of them, we are not restricting ourselves to these 500 students. Over and above that we are quite prepared to send as many as a thousand students if their parents or their employers or anybody else is prepared to bear the cost of their training arrangements.

Then, it is said these are merely academic students and what we should try and do is to send people from factories. I think this has already been explained to the House on a previous occasion. Certainly it has been explained in answer to a question which was put to me that over and above these students whom we are sending for academic as well as practical training, there is a scheme sponsored by the Labour Department under which we propose to send quite a large number of men who are already employed in factories in the capacity of foremen and positions of that kind with a view to their obtaining further experience and training in factories in U. K. and U. S. A. so that they will be fitted on their return to take up positions of greater responsibility in the industries with which they are concerned. So, it seems to me, Sir, that there is still a great deal of misunderstanding over the whole position and I very much hope that when the Standing Committee functions, all these misunderstandings may be removed. If over and above that, the House desires any further information with regard to the activities of my Department as I have stated repeatedly, I am quite prepared to give that information and if the House desires to have one or two or three days set apart for the purpose of discussing the affairs of my Department, I am quite prepared, so far as I am concerned. I do not know what the Leader of the House agrees, but so far as I am concerned, I am perfectly prepared and willing to do so.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,77,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Post-War Planning and Development'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 74—CIVIL DEFENCE

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 33,43,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Civil Defence'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 33,43,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Civil Defence'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 75—DELHI

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 17,63,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Delhi'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 17,63,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Delhi'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 76—AJMER-MERWARA

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,30,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Ajmer-Merwara'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,30,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Ajmer-Merwara'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 77—PANTH PIPLODA

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: 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 on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Panth Piploda'."

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 on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Panth Piploda'."

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, this Panth Piploda has been eluding me for a very long time like a veritable Scarlet Pimpernel and I am glad I have at last caught it. I should really seriously like to know what and where it is. From the name, ending as it does in an 'a', I was wondering whether it is a Sanskrit noun or a Latin adjective. Is it some territory? If so, where is it? I have tried to find and locate this place in every map that I could get hold of, and I have not found it at all. The total demand in the next year's budget under this head is Rs. 16,000 and the supplementary demand is for the very petty sum of Rs. 1,000. The territory must be exceedingly small, because not even a Tahsil in the U. P. can be administered with only Rs. 16,000 a year. I should be glad to know the history of Panth Piploda, its geography and above all, I should like to know how the name is pronounced.

Sir George Spence (Secretary, Legislative Department): Sir, Panth Piploda is a British Indian Chief Commissioner's province, as the Honourable Member will find if he will refer to section 94 of the Constitution Act. It is an area, or separate areas, all completely surrounded by Indian States in Central India.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How many square miles?

Sir George Spence: I am afraid I cannot say.

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 on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Panth Piploda'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 80—DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,48,65,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,48,65,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Item 3 in the explanatory memorandum speaks of permanent peon quarters; other items speak only of construction of quarters for clerks. In New Delhi Capital Outlay new mushroom growth of buildings have come out and there have been statements made in this House that many of them will be demolished at the end of the war. I would like to know whether in the schemes of construction in which the word 'permanent' has not been used are those temporary houses which will be demolished? If not, why that word is used with reference to some quarters alone and with reference to some others it is not used.

Secondly, I would like to know whether in the case of those temporary quarters, the cost has been debited to capital. It would be wrong if it is debited to capital in the case of those temporary quarters because they simply won't exist after the end of the war according to the undertaking given by the Government of India. His Excellency the Governor General himself stated that many of these quarters will be demolished at the end of the war and in the case of those quarters it will be manifestly unjust to put the expenditure incurred on their account under capital. It must be put to revenue. Sir, I would like to know what are these quarters which are really permanent and what are the quarters which are temporary and if any portion of the money spent on the temporary quarters is debited to capital?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): I am sorry I was not here to listen to the points raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar. But I should like to tell him that these quarters are permanent.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: All of them?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, and the necessity that forced us to undertake this construction.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I know that. I know my Honourable friend can give a lecture on that.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I think it is a great advantage that in the midst of so much money which is being spent on building temporary structures, we have succeeded in securing at least these quarters as permanent houses which will enable us to house a large number of clerks' population which will be working in the Secretariat.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The other point that I raised was this. Some buildings which have been put up in New Delhi will be demolished at the end of the war. I would like to know whether they have been put under capital or under revenue?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Actually the point does not arise on this Supplementary Demand because, as my Honourable colleague has just pointed out, all the quarters which are provided for in this will be permanent quarters and, therefore, are obviously debitable to capital. But it is the case that some of the temporary structures have also been debited to capital. The reason is that the criterion for debiting expenditure to capital or revenue follows another and a simpler division. It has been recently reviewed in consultation with the Auditor General and the position is that, broadly speaking, all expenditure on construction in New Delhi is debited to capital except certain

[Sir-Jeremy Raisman.]

items below a certain size. The principle of conservative finance is to endeavour, of course, to debit as much to revenue as can be borne and that means that many small works of a capital of permanent nature are nevertheless debited to revenue, so that that balances the effect of debiting to capital the cost of certain assets which will be as long lived as other capital assets.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,48,65,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 82—INTEREST-FREE ADVANCES

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,73,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Interest-free Advances'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,73,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Interest-free Advances'."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: On this item I would like to have the views of the Finance Member over the way in which interest-free advances of large sums of money are being given for commercial undertakings. The Public Accounts Committee has had occasions to go into this matter and on more than one occasion they have pointed out that every year large amounts are being asked in this item by way of supplementary grants. Rs. 14,73,00,000 has been advanced for purchasing Sudanese cotton for the textile industry. The industry can pay the interest on the money invested. I would like to know whether it is the policy of the Government to give interest-free money even for commercial undertakings. In the Public Accounts Committee's Report for last year, I have seen that for the Supply Department large amounts of money have been advanced—about one crore ninety-eight lakhs, of course this is subject to correction—and a large part of the work of the Supply Department was also of commercial nature. There are also other items of large expenditure involved in capital expenditure which are mainly of a commercial nature. I would suggest that if a thing is of a commercial nature, it should be loaned—it should not be given interest free. An industry like the Textile industry can very well pay interest on any amount advanced to it. They are paying huge amounts by way of Excess Profits Tax and they are taking large dividends, and they would not be averse to pay any money by way of interest for this amount.

In addition to this, I would like to bring one more point to your notice which I raised when supplementary demand for Commerce was being moved; but it was not attended to because it was drowned in a few other observations. Part of the money under the Commerce Department has been spent in purchasing Egyptian and Sudanese cotton. That money also ought to have been debited to the commercial undertaking and money must have been recovered from the commercial undertaking concerned. This practice of advancing large amounts—Rs. 14,73,00,000 in this case—to admittedly commercial undertakings and to industries which earn money for themselves is wrong in principle. I have not been able to get at any figures as to how much money till now has been advanced as interest-free to commercial undertakings like this. I should be glad to know if he has any publication which would give us an idea of these things. I would like him to consider this matter and see that for commercial undertakings interest on advances is not made. If any expenditure is incurred in the course of helping the commercial undertaking in any department of the Government of India, that money should be charged to the debit of this industry and I think that is the proper thing to do.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like to have some information from the Honourable Member in regard to this matter. I would like to ask him if the

creation of a cotton co-ordinating committee in Alexandria has not arisen because of the war because of the relative absence of free movement of goods from one country to another. Secondly I would like to ask him if the constitution of this committee has been due because the Government of India wanted to increase production of textile goods in this country and therefore it wanted to give all the facilities necessary for this industry to import higher grade cotton. Thirdly, I would like to ask him if the Government does not get an overall benefit by the industry flourishing in this country and therefore the expenditure in the matter of constituting the committee or selecting the officers to serve thereon or in the matter of furnishing the necessary funds for the purchase of cotton by the committee is not got back by way of additional tax revenue obtained.

Since the point has been raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Chettiar, I would like the Finance Member to make it clear that he and his department have a direct responsibility to help the industry. It is a responsibility laid on the Government by reason of the fact that conditions are difficult and they want industry to maintain maximum production.

There is likely to be a general misapprehension in the minds of Members of this Assembly and outside that because the Government is taking a certain action, it is to help a particular industry and not in the national economy. The question of cotton has made it clear that Government can take action in the general interest of national economy. It is not a matter of obtaining one or two per cent. by way of interest. The Government's policy should be made clear so that this misapprehension on the minds of Mr. Chettiar and others may not exist.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I am very grateful to my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, who has very kindly furnished a good deal of the background of this matter and it seems to me has given the reply to at any rate the underlying difficulties of my honourable friend, Mr. Chettiar.

The reasons why Government enters this field and why they feel it justifiable to assist by means of public finance had been quite rightly indicated broadly by Mr. Krishnamachari and I do not think I need go over that.

The technical position is that wherever Government has to provide working capital for any purpose, it does so by means of advances and usually by means of interest-free advances because that is the capital which is continually being turned over. In the present case the Government provides the immediate finance for the purchase of the cotton in question, but simultaneously it obtains a deposit from the importer to cover the payment. As I understand it, the time lag between the two is either nil or negligible. In the circumstances, there is no justification for making provision for the charging of interest. I quite agree with my Honourable friend that if large sums are placed at the disposal of private industry for a time, even though they may be recovered—if the money remains in the hands of private industry for a considerable time—it is in accordance with the ordinary business practice, and Government practice, to make some charge for the use of the money. But in this particular case, I understand that the period is so short that that consideration does not arise.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,73,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Interest-free Advances'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 83—LOANS AND ADVANCES BEARING INTEREST

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,74,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Loans and Advances bearing Interest'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,74,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the

[Mr. Deputy President.]

year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Loans and Advances bearing Interest.'

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Bengal has been given a grant gratis of Rs. 10 crores and now this is a loan. I would merely point out that the Bengal finances have been very badly managed indeed and the things brought out by this Public Accounts Committee Report are sufficient evidence that the responsibility of the Government of India exists to see that the money given by them is administered properly without corruption and without loss to the people of this country. I hope, Sir, even if the present Finance Member goes away the coming Finance Member will take it as his responsibility and see that the money voted by this Government is spent properly.

This is the last demand for grants that the present Finance Member is moving and I should add my word of appreciation of the Finance Member and more than that, to one gentleman whom I have never seen and to whom I would like to pay a tribute. I have never seen the Auditor General, Sir Cameron Badenoch. I have read much about him in all these reports and I should like to pay a tribute to the way in which he has done his duty.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am grateful to my Honourable friend for his kind words and still more for the tribute that he has paid to the retiring Auditor General, Sir Cameron Badenoch. I did make some observation on that same subject at the time of the debate on the Report of the Public Accounts Committee.

The Honourable Member quite rightly indicated that it is through advances such as these that we get involved in the strictures which are passed upon a possible maladministration or failure to account for the sums in question because it is the duty of the Auditor General on behalf of this House to see that these monies are properly accounted for—monies such as these—and we the Central Government are in the difficulty that we have to come to the assistance of another Government. The circumstances are well known and are very exceptional and I think it is generally recognised that in circumstances of such extreme difficulty and hardship a Provincial Government must look to the Central Government for assistance, and no Central Government in this country could fail to respond to the appeals of a Government situated such as the Government of Bengal. At the same time, it must be remembered that that applicant is a Government and that when you pass money to another Government for public purposes that Government has to exercise the powers and rights of a Government in regard to the administration of those sums. It is neither constitutionally proper nor is it practically feasible to follow out all the details whereby these sums are spent. The Central Government would require to have five times the personnel which it now has, if, in addition to carrying out the execution of its own administration, it also had to place one Central man side by side with every Provincial officer to follow out all the transactions which those Provincial officers have to execute.

I am very glad indeed that my Honourable friend referred back to the Public Accounts Committee's report, because it is precisely in matters such as these that the Central Government inevitably becomes involved and this House also, by voting these sums, must recognise that it is placing large sums of money at the disposal of another Government, over which it cannot have day to day control.

As to the strictures passed by the Auditor General I have no doubt that the Auditor General would not have delivered himself of judgments of that kind unless he was satisfied that there was justification for them and it has been no part of my endeavour or that of the Central Government to attempt to minimise in any way the seriousness of the situation brought to notice by the Auditor General. At the same time, I should say this House must realise that in the present constitutional position of India, you have a Central Government and you have Provincial Governments. They are entitled to look to us for assistance and, at the same time, if assistance is given, it is neither proper nor practicable to follow out the administration of the sums

provided in such degree of detail as to ensure beyond the peradventure that no mishaps occur.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: You must certainly make sure that it is properly spent and that a repetition of what has occurred in the past might not occur again.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: We certainly endeavour as far as is possible to see that moneys are spent on the purpose for which they are provided but, as I pointed out, there are very severe practical limitations on the extent to which that can be done.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkund and Kumaon Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Surely in the Provinces also there are officers akin to the Auditor General?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: There is an Accountant General in Bengal to report to the Auditor General.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,74,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Loans and Advances bearing Interest'."

The motion was adopted.

THE MINES MATERNITY BENEFIT (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Mr. Deputy President, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, Sir Syed Raza Ali, Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Mr. H. G. Stokes, Mr. S. C. Joshi and the Mover with instructions to report on Monday, the 2nd April, 1945, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkhand and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Why is not there a lady Member?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore cum North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I suggest Mrs. Subbarayan.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My Honourable friend might move an amendment at a later stage and I will then deal with it.

As the House is aware, we have already got the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, which was passed in the year 1941. This Bill seeks to amend that Act and the reasons why this amendment has become necessary can be very briefly stated.

When the Act of 1941 was passed it was intended to cover cases of maternity benefit for women working on surface. We had no such case as we have now of women working underground. Unfortunately, for the reasons which I have explained to the House on more than one occasion, we had to permit women to work underground in coal mines. As I have stated that provision is of a temporary character and I hope and trust that Government will be able to reimpose the ban very soon. But notwithstanding the fact that the lifting of the ban is of a temporary character, it is felt that in view of the criticisms made in this House as well as outside, it is necessary to amend the Act in order to provide for cases of pregnant women working underground. It is to give some benefit to the women working underground that this amendment is intended.

The provisions of this Bill are mainly two. As it is, there is already in the Act a provision which prohibits women working after delivery for four weeks. We now propose to add a provision prohibiting women working underground before confinement. That period will be a period of ten weeks, so that under the present Bill no woman would be allowed to work underground for ten weeks before her confinement. Similarly there is a provision for the benefit to be given to her. That benefit will be at the rate of twelve annas per day for fourteen weeks in all—ten weeks before confinement and four weeks after confinement.

[Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.]

The qualifying condition for enabling her to earn the benefit is 90 days work underground within a period of six months. These are mainly the provisions of this Bill.

Sir, I have noticed that there are certain amendments which have been tabled and I might tell the House that I have also thought of certain amendments which I want to move on behalf of the Government. But as the time is very short and as the matter is urgent, I think the interest of everybody concerned would be served, if the Bill were forthwith sent to the Select Committee, so that the amendments that I have in mind and the amendments that have been tabled could be considered round the table with mutual give and take. It is because of this proposal, viz., to refer the Bill to the Select Committee (which was not my original intention) that I do not propose to dilate at any length on this Bill. With these observations I move.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, Sir Syed Raza Ali, Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Mr. H. G. Stokes, Mr. S. C. Joshi and the Mover with instructions to report on Monday, the 2nd April, 1945; and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Mrs. Renuka Ray (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, in speaking on the motion to refer the Mines Maternity Benefit Bill to a Select Committee I want to put forward the view and the attitude of representative women in India. Sir,

3 P.M. we have heard what the Honourable the Labour Member told us about the Objects and Reasons for this Bill. The implication behind them is clear. It is true that it intends to prohibit pregnant women from working underground, but at the same time it is clear that Government do not intend to reimpose the ban, in spite of the fact that the House has made its opinion clear, and in spite of the fact that Government did not challenge a division and so naturally the country expected that Government was going to concede to the demand; and also regardless of the continued protest against the withdrawal of the ban since 1943. Women have now been working underground in mines for more than a year and a half, though at the time it was said that it was a very temporary measure. The introduction of this Bill means that Government not only do not intend to remove the ban, but it seems that till the war is over, women will continue to work underground. We find even in this Bill said again that "the measure is of an emergent and temporary nature, and that the ban will be reimposed as soon as conditions permit". I do not know when these conditions are going to be, when it will be possible for Government to reimpose the ban. At present even from the utilitarian point of view we find that during the last year when 16,000 women were working underground, coal production has fallen further by $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., 23 million tons was the target and that figure has not been kept. Government have not been able, in spite of women working underground, to keep up, far from raising, the coal production. This is a serious menace to the country and one of the causes of the cloth famine. I wish to reiterate the argument I put forward on the Finance Bill that other fundamental causes are being overlooked. It is perfectly true to say that the mine-owner is really getting an indirect subsidy by keeping women underground because wages in coal mines have not yet come upto the same level as wages in the neighbouring industries, and if that were done, there would be no reason why in spite of utilitarian considerations, Government should not yield to the public demand in this matter.

So far as the Bill itself is concerned, it may, to some extent, alleviate suffering. I do not want to oppose the Bill, but I do want to point out that it is very inadequate, that it is less than a half measure, and that it can by no means satisfy the demand of the country for the reimposition of the ban. Sir, even as far as the Bill goes, I do not know whether it will be even as successful in what it intends to do because it is not so easy. For instance, today there exist

regulations in the mines about housing, but even now in some of the mines back to back dwellings still exist. Though they were condemned long ago. Even now we find that there are violations of the Childrens Act. Now that is a straight Act. This will be much more difficult to enforce. Last Session when I raised this subject about violating of the Childrens Act, the Honourable Member for Supply asked me to give him some cases. I reported to him cases in two mines. I have been down there myself, I have seen for myself, and boys who were below adult age were going down. This Session when questions were put in this House, the Labour Member replied that they did not have this information. You see how difficult it is in the case of a straight Act like Childrens Act, properly to enforce it, how much more difficult will it be to enforce this Act. The only real way in which you can prohibit women working underground will be to reimpose the ban. As I have said before, it is not only a question of pregnant women, but of all women who are potential mothers. I should like to say that it is not possible for us to give our sympathy and support to this measure inasmuch as it is only a sop. I have no desire to obstruct it either as it is to alleviate the distress of some at least of these unfortunate women. It is not possible for us to enforce our demand on Government, however great that demand may be. But I should like to say to the Labour Member and his Colleagues that to concede a very just demand made on behalf of the down-trodden in the country is not a sign of weakness, it is a sign of strength on the part of Government. It will enhance their reputation greatly.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan (Madura and Ramnad cum Tinnevely Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I entirely endorse the views expressed by my Honourable friend, Mrs. Renuka Ray, and I would not have got up to supplement her remarks if I was not sure that this Government has a tendency to misrepresent our views and our actions. I am conscious that my Honourable friend, the Labour Member, is anxious to shorten this debate and save time, and I shall not therefore take up many minutes of this House. I would like, in a few words, to make my position quite clear both as regards this Bill and as regards the main question, that is, the ban on the employment of women underground in mines.

Sir, I would first like to reply to the remark made by the Honourable the Labour Member in the course of his replies to some supplementaries to my question regarding women miners. He characterised the vote of this House as a mere 'political demarche'. I was really surprised at this because surely he must remember the history of this ban. However I will now mention only one fact. I was an Adviser to the Government of India Delegation to the International Labour Conference in Geneva in 1934. It was at this Conference that all the delegations from all the Member Nations unanimously recommended an international convention prohibiting employment of women underground in mines. The Government of India ratified this convention, I think, in the following year. Surely the International Conference did not do this as a political stunt, nor did the Government of India adopt that attitude as a political stunt. I am mentioning this to impress on this Honourable House that this question of banning the employment of women underground in mines is certainly not political in any way, but is an entirely humanitarian one. Speaking for myself, I would never have agreed to join the Government of India delegation in 1934 if I had the slightest suspicion that the Government of that day were adopting that attitude as a mere political stunt to impress world opinion.

The next point to which I want to refer is the motion that is before the House now regarding the amendment to the Maternity Benefits Act. I do not oppose this Bill; in fact I support it, but that does not in any way affect my conviction that this ban against employment of women underground in mines should be reimposed as soon as possible. I do not oppose this Bill for the mere reason that I feel it is necessary to give some relief to these poor helpless women whom this Government insists on sending to work underground in mines. I regret that that relief is very poor and the number of women affected by it very small. I want to point out also that, while my Honourable friend tries to emphasise

[Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan.]

that the withdrawal of the ban is a temporary measure, it is already one and half years old and it reminds me of a comparison in my language, that a thing is like Hanuman's tail when it goes on endlessly. I want to assure by Honourable friends opposite and this Honourable House that no amount of threats and biting comments can make me change my attitude with regard to this question. I shall continue to protest against this action of the Government and I shall continue to strive my very best for the reimposition of this ban, by trying in every way possible to cut off this Hanuman's tail.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I have only one or two words to say on this. The absence of our two sisters, our colleagues Mrs. Renuka Ray and Mrs. Radha Bai Subbarayan, on the Select Committee calls for an explanation from us. We would have very much appreciated if these two sisters had agreed to be on this committee; but unfortunately they wanted to hold themselves in reserve lest the Honourable Member in charge of labour affairs should play some practical joke on the Select Committee and then get his own way and come here and get them also committed; and another reason is that they want to be loyal to the resolution passed by the All India Women's organisation. I appreciate their point of view. The Members on this side of the House are also in wholehearted sympathy with the attitude taken up by the All India women's organisation, that Government has done wrong in having lifted this ban, that Government should take the earliest possible steps to reimpose it; but subject to that we must do what little we can to improve this Bill so that when it becomes an Act, the lot of the women employed both on the ground and also below the ground in mines would be immediately improved, even while Government makes up its mind to reimpose this ban. It is for these reasons alone that we are going into the Select Committee and not because we are in any way in sympathy with the Government point of view that it is absolutely necessary for them to lift this ban and force these women—I will not call it allow these women, but to force them—to go underground and work in the mines.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. Deputy President, at the outset, I would like to make it quite clear that neither the introduction of this Bill nor even the passing of it at an early date will reconcile me and the labour movement in this country to the employment of women underground in mines. The Government of India did a great wrong to the women miners in this country by beginning to employ them underground on the pretext, if I may say so, of labour shortage. If there was labour shortage, I have no doubt that the Government of India could have got, in a country with a population of 400 millions, a hundred thousand or two hundred thousand miners needed, by paying them properly. But unfortunately the Government of India does not believe in the policy of securing labour for raising coal, by paying them properly. Unfortunately, they believe in trying to secure the necessary labour by wrong methods; and one of the wrong methods—there are several methods used by the Government of India, but on this occasion I shall deal only with one wrong method with which we are concerned today—namely, by re-employing women underground. Sir, the Government of India not only did a wrong to the women in the mining area, but their purpose of securing more labour and raising more coal has not been achieved. I had suggested on several occasions that the Government of India should make an inquiry and ascertain facts through some impartial committee; unfortunately the Government of India refuses to do that. They are afraid of facing facts, and they continue to be blind and to follow a wrong policy. Public opinion in this country has expressed itself against the policy followed by the Government of India. Unfortunately, you know that the present Government of India is not responsive to the public opinion in this country at all. When the people in England heard that women were employed underground in India, there was a debate in the House of Commons, and somehow the Government of India is at least responsive or amenable to the public opinion in the House of Commons; there were references in the debate

there to the employment of pregnant women or women who are near their delivery, and the Government of India heard about it and this is the origin of the Bill. As the Bill is going to a Select Committee, I do not wish to take up the time of this House on this occasion. I shall have an opportunity of making my suggestions in the Select Committee, and after the Bill comes before the Legislature again I shall have another opportunity of dealing with the clauses of the Bill.

Lastly, I again make it quite clear that the passing of this Bill is not going to reconcile me to the employment of women underground in Indian mines.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I thought that on this very important matter some opinion should be expressed from our Party. Therefore I got up; there is another reason also; that in some quarters amongst some women there is an impression that I am against their welfare. So far as progressive matters are concerned, I do not wish that they should run too fast; but within reasonable limits I would always help them.

Coming to this measure, I call it even less than a half-way measure. I think the Honourable the Labour Member should have taken courage in both hands as he does when addressing us and giving us answers in a bold manner. I thought that he would comply with the demand and the agitation outside that the ban on women working underground should be re-imposed. In this Session, this has been one of the main items of discussion. From the very beginning the lady Members of this House and others have expressed their view that women should not be allowed to work underground. When questions were first put, the Honourable Member began to make excuses just as his other colleagues do. He said that it is the husbands themselves who want their wives to work underground. I think he was disillusioned on that point. He was asked by me whether he would take me to the mines, so that I may personally inquire of the husbands, but he did not do that. However, I am glad he is moving in the matter. At present he is providing that women should not work in mines ten weeks before the confinement is expected to take place, on a certificate given by a doctor. Some difficulty will arise there. If they have their own doctors and they are honest, there will be no difficulty. The Honourable Member should see to it that unnecessary objections are not raised in respect of the certificate. I would like to know whether it is proposed to provide in the Select Committee as to who will pay for the certificate. The women should not be made to pay. Then it is said that four weeks will be allowed to recoup the health of the women after confinement. Some women may remain in delicate health after confinement for more than four weeks. This matter should also be considered in the Select Committee. Instead of making laws by degrees and stages, this question of working in mines should be considered from all points of view and the Bill should be moulded accordingly and relief should be given. The excuse is put forward that this is a war measure and it is said that they should have all labour by compulsion or persuasion or inducement. So long as the war front is there, I will not blame the Treasury Benches. They accepted their posts in order to work for the British people and ignore the view point of the Indian people. I do not blame them but I request them that on this point they should be solicitous of the Indian point of view and they should do all they can for the welfare of women labour.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surma Valley *cum* Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): I want to say only a word or two. We have nothing to find fault with this Government so far as industrial labour is concerned. We blame them only as regards agricultural labour. As regards industrial labour they are doing whatever is necessary. It is futile to attempt to uphold in regard to these legislations any theory of abstract right. It is all a question of probability and degree. This Government with all their faults are considering the question from the stand point of probability and degree. I am satisfied with attitude of Government in regard to factory legislation. I will not go into details as the Bill is being referred to a Select Committee.

As regards the desirability of stopping the employment of women underground, there are no two opinions. Everybody wants that this system should

[Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon.]

Central Legislature. This demand was made on the floor of this House somewhere in the budget session of 1943. It is now two years and we do not know what has happened to this Committee. We read about it sometimes in the papers but we are not told when this enquiry committee is going to complete its enquiry. I do not even know whether the Government proposes to lay on the table at an early date the report which they have finished about Bengal. When this Commission was appointed by the House, the House is entitled to get this report or it should be told when the report will be completed.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): A question has been asked about the item under J.—Indian Scientists. The Indian Scientists were the guests of His Majesty's Government while in the United Kingdom and in respect of that part of their deputation the Government of India bore the cost of their passages and I think some small allowance in England. Of course they also went on to the United States of America and it was necessary to give them, in view of the cost of living there and the fact that they were not the guests of the United States Government, allowances for the period of their stay—six or seven weeks. I think these figures cover those.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: And the salaries?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Two of them are certainly Government officers. As regards their report, we have not yet received it, but we will consider placing it before the House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: About this Famine Enquiry Commission: I have asked for information and Mr. Haroon has asked for information.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That is not the affair of my Department.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who deals with it? Government is responsible for it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has made his speech. I cannot allow him to go on making another speech.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Some Department or other must be held responsible?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has made his speech and he has heard the other side's reply.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: A reply has been made but not about the Famine Enquiry Commission.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If they do not want to reply to that particular matter I cannot make them. The Honourable Member can vote as he likes.

The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,09,55,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945 in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 72—GRANTS-IN-AID TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,25,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Grants-in-Aid to Provincial Governments'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,25,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Grants-in-Aid to Provincial Governments'."

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I want some information in regard to this particular demand. I find that this demand relates to what happened in the Standing Finance Committee on the 31st July 1944 but another item of an analogous character which was placed before the Standing Finance Committee at that meeting in regard to a subvention to the United Provinces Government does not find a place here; nor do I see that it finds a place in the demands for grants in 1945-46. I would like the Government to tell us whether this amount of subvention

get his holiday. I said that that was a matter which might be left to be subsequently decided in such a manner as we thought best. The Select Committee thought that it was so important a case that provision ought to be introduced in the Bill and accordingly a new provision has been introduced.

Another new principle which has been introduced in the Bill is the power given to the Inspector to act on behalf of a worker who has not been able to get his holidays or has not been able to get the pay which he is entitled to obtain as a result of the holiday. The Select Committee realised that it was no use leaving the worker to his resources in order to prosecute his employer either criminally or civilly in order to secure the benefit which the Act gives him and which the employer has failed to give him. Therefore it was the duty of the State to take upon itself the responsibility of seeing that these benefits were secured to the workmen. This has now been done by the conferment of the power on the Inspector to act on behalf of a worker.

Another important change which has been made by the Select Committee is with regard to the making of the rules. Honourable Members will recollect that in the original Bill, the power for making rules under the Act in order to give effect to the provisions was left to the provinces. Now, it was felt in the Select Committee that if the rule-making power was left to the provinces the different provinces might make different set of rules, and consequently there might be variety of provisions under the same Act. That undoubtedly would have very serious consequences on the different industries. One industry in one province may be subjected to one set of rules, a similar industry in another province may be subjected to a different set of rules and it would introduce a very undesirable element in the competitive character of the industry taking India as a whole. The Select Committee therefore recommended that the Government of India should have the authority to give directions to the provinces in the matter of making rules so that the desire or the object of securing uniformity in these rules would be achieved. These are, Sir, some of the fundamental principles which have been incorporated in the Bill as a result of the deliberations in the Select Committee. The rest of the provisions are more or less as they were in the original Bill and call for no comment. Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the Honourable Member in charge was congratulating the Select Committee. It is true that two or three of the points that were made at the time when the Bill was being committed to the Select Committee have come to be noticed by the Select Committee and accepted. But it has dropped a very important word for which at least my Honourable friend has given a very lame excuse. I wish to tell him that this fascination for uniformity is not well justified. Take the railways for instance. Day after day we are having discussions with the Railway Member regarding matters affecting different railways, salaries, wages, emoluments, etc. If that is right, I do not know how it can be wrong if different provinces come to extend this privilege of leave beyond the minimum period of seven days or 14 days. Rather this is a reactionary move on the part of the Select Committee. Then, Sir, there may be certain Provincial Governments who may be willing to go beyond this particular minimum period of leave and favour the workers—I should not say favour the workers—thus help the workers, because the workers deserve much greater leave than the minimum period provided here. Moreover, where is the question of uniformity in regard to wages earned in Bombay or Ahmedabad by the mill workers as compared to the wages earned by similar mill workers working in Coimbatore or Madras. The Coimbatore workers do not get even half as much as Bombay and Ahmedabad workers get. It may be a little more than half, but certainly very much less than what the Bombay and Ahmedabad workers get. If it cannot be wrong for Bombay Industry to pay higher wages than those paid by Coimbatore industry, then how can it be wrong if the Bombay industry, through the good offices of the Bombay Government, were to choose to grant

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

leave to a greater extent than what is provided anywhere else. If this is a concurrent subject I do not want the Government of India to fetter the hands of the Provincial Governments, if any one of them is doing greater justice to the workers than the Government of India. All that the Government of India can be expected to do is to lay down minimum standards—not the maximum—and leave it to the Provincial Governments, if any one of them were to be willing to go beyond the minimum that may be prescribed by the Central Government.

Then there is another point that was made by several of us the other day. Why do you insist that a worker should continue to be employed for one year continuously in the same factory if he is to be entitled to enjoy this leave? It must be made possible for a worker, if the conditions of work in any one factory are not quite satisfactory, to leave that factory and go to another one in the same place or in another place, without any prescribed period, and get himself employed there. And if he has put in one year's continuous industrial employment within the same factory or two or more factories within the same year it must be possible for him to be entitled to this holiday. We made that suggestion but the Select Committee does not seem to have considered it; or, if it has considered it, it does not seem to have made any helpful amendments at all.

Sir, these are two of my most important objections to the Select Committee's Report. We have tabled a number of amendments, some of which deal also with the duration of the holiday. We hope the House will be willing to co-operate with us in getting as many of those amendments as possible accepted by Government and incorporated in this Bill. My feeling about the work of the Select Committee is both satisfaction and dissatisfaction.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official). Sir, I have not many remarks to make regarding the changes made by the Select Committee in the original Bill. I should have liked, as I said in my speech when the Bill was referred to Select Committee, that the provisions of the Bill had been applied to workers engaged in other occupations instead of the benefits being confined only to those who are working in factories. I would have liked the provisions of the Bill to be extended to those people who are working in mines, on plantations and in various other industries. Unfortunately I could not get the Select Committee to accept the change which I should have liked to be made. And I do not blame the Select Committee either, because the original Bill was framed by the Government of India in such a manner that the Select Committee itself perhaps could not make the change which I wanted.

Then, Sir, I was rather disappointed that the Select Committee did not accept my proposal that the continuous holidays should be for a fortnight at least and not for seven days; and although I could not persuade the Select Committee to accept my view I am hoping that the House will support me when we come to discuss my amendments. I am glad that the Select Committee has given an extended holiday than was proposed by the Government of India to children.

Another point on which I am disappointed with the action of the Select Committee or with the refusal of the Select Committee to accept my view is that I would have liked the workers to get before they began their holidays full pay for the days of the leave with pay. The Bill proposes that they should get only half the wages. I consider that the payment of only half the wages will not give much material help. I would like the wages for the days of the holidays to be paid before the holidays begin.

Then there is one defect which still remains in this Bill, in spite of the Bill having been examined by the Select Committee, which is that in order to be entitled to get the benefit of this Bill the worker must continue to work in one factory for twelve months. I think this is a very faulty clause. I had explained in my speech on the motion for reference to Select Committee that a provision of this kind tends to bind down the worker to one factory. From the point of view of the worker this is not a very good arrangement. Under the present conditions in India, if a worker has to get better wages and better conditions,

the only weapon which he can use to secure his object is to go to another factory where conditions are better or at least to hold out a threat that he would leave and go to another place where he expects to have better conditions. I therefore do not like any provision which will be an obstacle in the way of the worker going to another factory. A provision of this kind under which the worker is tempted to remain with one employer is not, from the point of view of the worker, beneficial to him on the whole. I would therefore like that the benefit of this Bill should be given to a worker who may change his employment from one factory to another. There also the Select Committee disappointed me and I am hoping to secure justice at the hands of the Members of this House.

Sir, I have nothing more to add, and whatever else I have to say I shall say when I move my amendments. I support the motion.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce). Sir, I will only deal with one point raised by my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga which does not seem to be covered by any amendment and that is about the omission of the words "at least seven days". The position is that labour legislation is a subject of both Central and provincial legislation. Really speaking, it is open to the provinces to legislate even with regard to holidays with pay, but when the Central Government deals with this matter in a Bill I presume the object is to lay down a form which would prevail in the absence of any provincial legislation. Even now on the question of principle I do not see anything wrong because in all such matters where statutory burdens are imposed on industries it is desirable that all provinces should more or less run on similar lines; otherwise, as is happening now as a result of income-tax anomalies, the tendency is to drive industries from British India into the Indian States. And if one Provincial Government goes on imposing burden after burden on the industries within the province the tendency will be, as was evident in 1937 and 1938 in Bombay that industrialists would consider whether the time had not come for them to transfer some of their industries from a province like Bombay to another province where Government were not prepared to put the same burdens on industries in their province. Therefore if you have to consider the country as a whole it is desirable, from the national point of view, that as far as possible whenever such burdens are imposed they should be of a uniform character. It has nothing to do with the question of wages or allowances; but such burdens, when they are imposed in the interests of national welfare, should be of a uniform character.

Even now, Sir, as the law stands at present, if a Provincial Government wants to go beyond what is allowed by the Government of India, it is open—as I understand the law; if I am wrong the Law Member will correct me—it is open to a Provincial Government to promote the legislation and to go to the Governor-General for sanction and if the Governor-General accords his sanction, it is open to that Provincial Government to enact it in the province. So the power of a Provincial Government to promote a piece of legislation going beyond the scope of the Central legislation is not taken away. All that will happen is that the Government of India will get an opportunity of considering whether the necessary sanction should be given having regard to the interest of the country as a whole. This is a very necessary and salutary safeguard and therefore I say that what the Select Committee has done is not of a retrograde nature at all but is in the interest of the country as a whole.

Mr. Lachand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural). Sir, I have only a few words to say. I have read the Minutes of Dissent recorded by two Honourable Members—Mr. Joshi and Mr. Inskip. Before I say anything in regard to the Minutes of Dissent, I must admit that this Bill, as it has emerged from the Select Committee, is in an improved form. My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi's point deserves consideration because it is based on his experience. He wants that this Bill should not be restricted to workers in industrial undertakings but it should also be applied to workers in other organised industries. I cannot understand why it is restricted to factories only, and I hope the Honourable Member in charge will throw some light on this point.

[Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.]

The other point raised by him is: "The worker should be given not half but full wages for the period of the holidays before he takes the holiday". That is very reasonable, I think. In the case of Government servants, when casual leave or privilege leave is given, they are given full pay. In the case of workers, they are poor people and if you give them holiday to have a little respite and to enjoy, they should have something in their pockets as well. They cannot go without money. That, I think, is a reasonable demand.

With regard to the Minute of Dissent recorded by Mr. Inskip, it is stated that distinction should be made between 'holiday leave' and 'other leave' and it is suggested that when they go on leave, it should be for a certain purpose—for some ceremonial occasion, or for some other domestic work. It is also suggested that when they go home, they revert to their former agricultural pursuits and in such a cessation of occupation the employer has no obligation to grant him remuneration. Therefore he asks for a distinction to be made in the nature of holiday. I do not agree with that at all. When they go on leave, they have to do something—they cannot go home and sit idle; nobody can sit without work—but they cannot work as hard as they do in factories. They just help their family members by working for a short while. Therefore, I do not think that the suggestion which is made here is reasonable. I hope the Honourable Member in charge will consider these points.

Mr. Hoosainbhoy A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I quite agree with the Report of the Select Committee but I would like to point out—as has been rightly pointed out by my Honourable friend, Sir Vithal Chandavarkar—that in such legislation we have got to take into consideration the position of India as a whole. As you know, Sir, it is open to the Provincial Legislature to pass enactments; and at times they are of such a nature that the industrial business moves from one province to another. Not only that, but the one thing which we have been neglecting is the position of industry in Indian States. There was a time when people did not like to go to Indian States for establishing industries. It is quite the reverse now. People are anxious to go there because they get a lot of benefits. States are anxious to invite people and they offer most favourable terms. Therefore, in fact, the factories in Indian States are placed in a much better position than the factories in British India. You will invariably find that the Indian States give a complete monopoly to the industrial concerns in regard to the goods they manufacture; they go out of their way to stop imports of those goods from other provinces. This is a very serious matter.

The Bill which my Honourable friend, the Labour Member, is now introducing is very very essential and welcome, but my point is that the Honourable Member for Labour and his other Honourable colleagues on the Treasury Benches should see that the Indian States also fall in in such matters in the interest of humanity and in the interest of India as a whole. We do not make any distinctions whatsoever between the Indian State subjects and British Indian subjects. In fact, an Indian State subject can establish a factory wherever he likes—there is no bar to his doing so, there is no question of monopoly whatsoever—but so far as a British Indian subject is concerned, he has to face many difficulties and handicaps if he chooses to establish a factory in an Indian State. For instance, many of the Indian States have started another theory—they give concessions only to such industrialists who are known as *Mulki*, i.e., those who belong to their own State. However favourable the position may be, however intelligent and influential an industrialist

may be, he will not be allowed in certain of the Indian States because he does not happen to be a *mulki*. The Colonial people also want their own people to be there. In many of the premier Indian States the theory has been put forward by those Governments that only *mulkis* will be allowed to establish factories. They are not even bound to carry out the dictates of the legislature for the benefit of humanity. We have to consider the position of industry in British India. It may be said that we have very little power

over the Indian States. I concede that. But we have examples before us that when on the Western Coast of India smuggling, so far as the customs revenue was concerned, was going on, the British Government warned them and ultimately, Sir, put a big cordon on the Viramgam line, not allowing those goods to go without paying tax again in British India. As soon as that was done all that trouble has gone and the Indian ports are paying as they were doing. Likewise is the case with the Kathiawar and other ports. You will also see that where there has been a question of excise duty the Government of India have been using their political influence and they have taken care to see that all the excise on the Indian industries is equally put on the Indian States and it has been equally distributed. Take sugar or matches or any such thing. When the revenue question of the Government of India is concerned, they do take pretty good care. But let me say that it will be in the interests of the Government of India if the Political Department use their influence to make the Indian States, in the interest of humanity, have a uniform mode of treating Indians.

Mr. A. C. Inskip (United Provinces: European): This Bill I think will be considered a progressive one and one which all fair-minded employers of labour will accept. But the clauses assume that labour conditions are the same throughout India whereas they differ very much, as I have endeavoured to point out in my minute of dissent attached to the Select Committee report, particularly in Eastern India. There you have labour who only come to the industrial towns for short periods and it has been an accepted rule that they go back to their villages to carry on their agricultural work and other work. I have endeavoured to make this point quite clear in my minute of dissent to the Select Committee and will not therefore labour the point any more.

But since the Select Committee met, I have made further enquiries in Cawnpore, which as you know, Sir, is a large industrial centre. If the Bill is passed in its present form with the word "consecutive" left in, I contend that this is going to be bad for labour in that they are going to be penalised. During the past fortnight I have endeavoured to take a cross section of labour conditions in Cawnpore. I have taken a cotton mill, I have taken a woollen mill, and I have taken a large leather factory, where over 20,000 men are employed, and I said to myself, in taking this cross section, how many of these people would qualify for leave if the Bill in its present form goes through. It might surprise the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill that based on attendance for 1944, only 60 per cent. of that labour would qualify. Now I contend that you would be penalising the remaining 40 per cent. in that all factories will presumably, if this word 'consecutive' is left, close down for a stated period during the year. 60 per cent. of the labour will therefore be paid under the Bill for "holidays with pay"—and the remaining 40 per cent. will be out of employment without any pay.

Now, Sir, there is another aspect which I would like to bring out and that is if this word "consecutive" is left out of the Explanation under section 49B of the Bill, it would enable employers of labour to give this leave unconditionally. In the conditions which obtain in Eastern India and particularly in the Calcutta area, it has been the practice for a number of years not to give consecutive leave but to give leave up to twelve days during the year for festivals and with pay. And now I contend that if this Bill becomes law employers may have to withdraw the privilege of giving festival holidays with pay when, under the present Bill, they have also to give seven days leave annually with pay. Therefore, before this Bill becomes law I would ask the Member in charge to give these two points his consideration.

There is one other point which I have endeavoured to bring out in my minute of dissent. No mention has been made in the Bill that annual holidays with pay will be given at the discretion of the employer. In a large factory, it will be impossible, however much one would like to do it, to give individual employees the right to say when they are to take the seven days and when they are not. In most factories, I presume the employees will elect possibly

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the most important festival throughout the season—shall we say, Holi, and to that leave period he will no doubt add the seven days leave with pay. But I do feel, to ensure that work in a factory is not disturbed, the Manager of the factory must be given the right to say when annual leave is to be taken.

There is one other point—the question of sickness and accident. As you will note in my minute of dissent I have stated that the words “sickness and accident” as at present shown in the Bill are not clearly defined. Leave for sickness, particularly in the case of big factories is always granted when a genuine medical certificate is produced. But I have heard of many cases in my own town where disreputable medical practitioners are actually selling medical certificates for the sum of Rs. 2 and Rs. 3. A case came to my notice only two or three months ago where a certain employer was receiving a spate of medical certificates printed on a set form and signed certifying that the workman had been sick and that he should be granted leave. The employer concerned made enquiries in this regard and in conjunction with the civil surgeon, sent a representative to ascertain in one case whether the man was sick or not. It was found that the man was joining in a marriage ceremony of a relative and was not sick at all. In this case, had the man applied for leave on the ground that he wanted to attend the marriage ceremony of a relation I feel sure that he would have been granted leave. But, no, he elected to say that he was sick and paid Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 for a doctor's certificate. The medical practitioner in this case was sent for by the civil surgeon and was warned against issuing certificates of that kind. I quote that case because I feel that if the definition of the words “sickness and accident” is left to the rule-making power, then it will not cover all cases. I have entered an amendment to the clause in that respect and I will have more to say about that later on.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not think it is necessary for me to deal with each and every point that has been raised by Honourable Members who have spoken on this motion, particularly because I find that every point which has been made by Honourable Members is covered by an amendment. Consequently there will be a duplication of debate, which I do not propose to undertake. I will say what I have to say on the various points when the appropriate amendments are moved.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

“That the Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Are there any amendments to clause 2?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I have some but I do not propose to move them.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

“That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I have got an amendment on clause 3. My amendment is this:

“That in clause 3 of the Bill, in sub-section (1) of the proposed section 49B after the word ‘factory’ the words ‘or factories’ be inserted.”

The object of my amendment is to enable a worker who has put in continuous service for twelve months to secure a continuous holiday, although during these 12 months he may have changed his employment from one factory to another or even to three factories. I have explained in my previous speeches on this point that it is not in the interests of the workers that there should be any temptation thrown in their way which will influence them to stick to one factory although the conditions in that factory may not be quite satisfactory. Mobility or the power to change from one factory to another is a very useful weapon in the hands of a worker to secure better terms. Therefore I am

proposing that the continuous service may be not only in one factory but in more than one factory.

I am asked who will pay? The various employers will pay. The object of the Bill is to give the worker a continuous holiday and that holiday has to be paid for by the employer or employers. Now, Sir, it is true that if the payment is to be made by one employer, it is easier and if the payment is to be made by more than one employer we shall have to devise some method by which two or three employers can pay for the holiday together. Now, Sir, some people think, though they are big business men, that this is a very very difficult thing to do. Nothing of the kind. There are various devices used when we meet with a difficulty of this kind. For instance, if under an employer a worker has spent six months he will have to pay for the holiday earned during the six months and he will give the worker some certificate putting some stamp which stamp may be used by the ultimate employer who will have to pay for the holiday. These devices are not very difficult and they can be provided for. As a matter of fact I had foreseen these difficulties. It is not that these difficulties were not foreseen by me. Therefore I am making another amendment a little later on in clause 3 of the Bill, sub-section (2) providing for certain rules to be made by the Provincial Government by which payment can be arranged. That amendment is amendment No. 10, “providing how and by whom the payment of wages for the holidays shall be made in the case of a worker who puts in continuous service for twelve months in more than one factory”. So we shall have to provide by rules how a worker who puts in continuous service for 12 months in more than one factory can be paid for his holiday. These rules should be made by Provincial Governments and therefore I hope that my amendment will be accepted by the House and I would suggest to the Members that any difficulty regarding payment can be solved by a proper device.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Amendment moved:

“That in clause 3 of the Bill, in sub-section (1) of the proposed section 49B after the word ‘factory’ the words ‘or factories’ be inserted.”

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Instead of that I have another amendment:

“That in clause 3 of the Bill, in line 2 of sub-section (1) of the proposed section 49B, the following be inserted after the word ‘factory’:

‘or factories belonging to the same management or different managements, provided the interval between the cessation of employment in one factory and the commencement of employment in another does not exceed a week if the new place of employment is in the same town, or, a fortnight if it is in another town.’”

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

If there are any doubts at all about the feasibility of the working of the Act if Mr. Joshi's amendment is accepted.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): On a point of order, may I ask if the amendment, that the Honourable Member has moved, has been circulated?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the minimum notice—48 hours: more than that has been given.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Honourable Member moved the amendment?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I have moved it. If there is any doubt at all as to the workability of the Act if Mr. Joshi's amendment is accepted, that doubt is sought to be removed by this amendment. I think this amendment is self-explanatory. My Honourable friend the Law Member says it needs explanation. I do not know what more explanation is to be given. It is not possible to expect a worker to continue to remain in employment in the same factory even if that factory belongs to the same management which has other factories under it, as the management may find it necessary to shift the worker from one factory to another. What happens then? If the Select Committee's Report and the Bill amended by them were to be accepted, it would mean

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that the worker will not be entitled to this leave, because he is not working in the same factory continuously for over twelve months. This difficulty has to be met. My amendment seeks to meet that difficulty. Then a worker has to work under the same management continuously for twelve months in order to entitle him to this minimum holiday of 7 days, or, as we propose, 10 days. He then very nearly becomes an abject slave of his employer.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: You move that amendment afterwards.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I have moved it. What happens? The employer always manages to keep within the four corners of the law—Payment of Wages Act, etc.—but nevertheless imposes so many restrictions and creates so many difficulties for the poor worker, and if a worker is not satisfied with his conditions of employment and wants to seek employment in another factory, he runs the risk of losing this privilege of enjoying 7 days holidays. And when twelve months come to a close, even then he will be in difficulty, he will not be able to leave that employment as after the holiday he may have to go back to the same employer and be employed under him to become entitled to his leave pay, and then after drawing his pay and then alone, he can put an end to his service under that employer. You should really not subject the worker to these troubles. It is ordinary common humanity that we should give the liberty, if necessary, if conditions are intolerable, to leave his employer and seek employment in another factory.

Then, the question arises what interval should be allowed between the cessation of employment in one factory and the commencement of employment in another factory. Are you to leave it entirely to the discretion of the worker alone? I say no. I have made provision in my amendment for a week's interval if the place of employment is in the same town or a fortnight if it is in another town. It must be possible in normal circumstances to find employment in another factory within a week.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is the second amendment. Has that been moved too?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The first amendment I have moved. Supposing conditions of employment are really very bad, and there is unemployment. The worker runs the risk of not getting any employment and so he will continue in his old job, even though he is subjected to great difficulties, for otherwise he will lose his job completely. But if there is any employer to take him on and is prepared to offer him better terms, you must make it possible for him to leave his former employer and to take up another job, if conditions there are better.

It has been the long-standing complaint of industrialists that there is great absenteeism. Very well, that is a legitimate complaint to some extent; but this is not going to encourage absenteeism at all. He may be passing from one factory to another, but he will be working in another factory. Holiday with leave is in the general interests of industry as a whole, and as long as the interests of industry are safeguarded, it is the duty of Government to see that the interests of the workers are safeguarded by making it possible for a worker to work in more than one factory within the same year provided he puts in continuous service and thus becomes entitled to leave with pay. Sir, I move this amendment, and I hope Government will see their way to accept it.

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

"That in clause 3 of the Bill, in line 2 of sub-section (1) of the proposed section 49B, the following be inserted after the word 'factory':

'or factories belonging to the same management or different managements, provided the interval between the cessation of employment in one factory and the commencement of employment in another does not exceed a week if the new place of employment is in the same town, or, a fortnight if it is in another town.'

Mr. A. C. Inskip: I have an amendment to clause 3.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is the Honourable Member moving an amendment?

Mr. A. C. Inskip: Yes, Sir, I am moving another amendment to clause 3.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Please wait.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Sir, I am sorry I have to oppose both the amendments, the one moved by Mr. Joshi, and the other moved by Prof. Ranga. Apart from the administrative difficulties to which Mr. Joshi referred, and which perhaps could be solved with a great deal of ingenuity, I submit the principle underlying the amendments is wrong. Sir, I want this House to remember one point. We are imposing a statutory—I will not call it a burden—liability on employers. Generally leave is a matter settled by rules and regulations and not by a statute. Even in Government service, as far as I remember the very first rule makes it clear, leave is a matter of concession and is not one of right. You are changing that, you are introducing the principle that leave is a matter of right and not of concession. Having accepted the principle of the Bill I am not going to dispute that principle underlying this Bill. My only submission is this: that in pursuing this legislation this aspect of the question has got to be considered. It is not a purely one-sided affair, that one can look at it from the point of view of the employees or of the employers. Here is a measure which imposes a statutory liability on the employers, that after an employee serves you for a continuous period of twelve months you shall give him seven days leave. Now, even where leave is a matter of private arrangement or rules, it is a well understood practice that when an employee leaves his employer at his sweet will, he does not carry with him to the other establishment where he goes the leave which has accrued to him and which he has not enjoyed. He has got to work for 12 months to enjoy the leave; and I believe it is one of the rules of Government service that unless he comes back and rejoins, he may get into trouble under the Government service rules; but I am not going into that question. Here we have accepted this liability, and I want that the employee should realise his responsibility to the employer. Mr. Joshi says that if you do not do this, you weaken the bargaining power of the employee. I go further and I put the other side of the thing. If you accept the amendments, you will lower the efficiency of the working of the factories. My friend Prof. Ranga said that this will reduce absenteeism. May I point out to him, with my experience of labour matters, that absenteeism is not due to the desire of the worker to work elsewhere when he stays at home but simply due to laziness or to have a little holiday or rest, and that absenteeism has increased during the last two or three years when their earnings have gone up, as they can afford to spend their time at home and spend their earnings. They do not have to go and work in another factory. In Bombay, in order to reduce this absenteeism and to make employees stick to the mill as far as possible, we introduced the principle of what is known as *budli* legislation; Rules were made and we implemented and enforced them. And it has even been acknowledged by labour leaders that the measures taken by us have stabilised labour and have done good to labour, because a man who is known as a *budli* is attached to a particular mill and generally as he goes further and further he gets a long spell of work and finally within three or four years he steps into a permanent vacancy and goes on working till he is old and retires or leaves to go to another place.

Now, take a big city like Bombay where the wages are more or less uniform and we have standardised wages as far as what is known as fixed wage earners are concerned—people who are paid by the day. As regards piece earnings we have also laid down certain standards; and if a complaint is made that any particular mill does not come up to the standard, the association intervenes and tries to pull up the standard to the standard which has been accepted by us as at least the minimum which a worker on piece work should earn. This being so, there is no question of a man trying to better his prospects by going from one mill to another. Apart from that, I submit it is wrong in principle that an employee's leave should run with the employee as covenants run with the land—that wherever he goes, he takes his leave with him. This is an

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unheard of principle. I have never heard of it; and apart from the administrative difficulty, it is from the point of view of this principle that I oppose it. Perhaps my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi may be able to get over the administrative difficulty by devising rules and machinery—I quite admit that it is possible—I have not gone into that question; but I object to the principle underlying this amendment; for 12 months, which is supposed to be everywhere the minimum service which a man has to work for an employer, he has got to be with the employer for that period, and if he wants to go and take up another service at the end of 14 or 15 months, he must run the risk of losing the leave which may have accrued to him as a result of (extra) three months service. According to Mr. Joshi's principle or the principle laid down by Prof. Ranga, the moment I work for a day, leave begins to accrue to me. It is like a Hindu male child—as soon as he is born, if he belongs to a joint Hindu family, he becomes the owner of a particular share of the joint family property. That is the principle which my friend Mr. Joshi wants to introduce in this labour legislation, which I submit is certainly wrong and should not be accepted by this House.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, I am afraid it is not possible for me to accept either of the amendments which have been proposed by Mr. Joshi or Prof. Ranga. I quite understand that a workman who has put in the requisite amount of service should be entitled to get his holidays irrespective of the consideration as to whether he has served one employer or more than one employer. But two facts have to be taken into consideration. The first is the question of administrative feasibility. I am quite satisfied that unless we have a sort of an insurance system where the payments to be made by employers are de-personalised and fastened upon some fund, it would not be possible to work the provisions, if I were to accept the amendments proposed by my Honourable friends. It, for instance, a scheme of health insurance were to come into operation, then we would have the basis of a system of cards, stamps and the other administrative machinery for insurance purposes, and then an amendment of the sort which has been moved would be possible to accept. But for the present, I am sorry to say that I cannot see my way to accept this amendment.

I should also like to submit that it was the desire of the House or of the Select Committee that a date should be fixed for the Bill to come into force. As my Honourable friends will recall, we had in the original Bill left the date for the operation of the Bill to the Provincial Governments. But we have departed from that procedure and we have now accepted the principle that this Bill itself should lay down the date on which it shall come into force; and the date as fixed in the Bill is the first day of January 1946. It is therefore quite clear that all administrative machinery that is necessary for the giving effect to this Bill must be brought into being within or before the 1st January 1946; and I must confess my utter inability to comprehend the possibility either of the Government of India or of the Provincial Governments being in a position to set into operation the machinery that would be necessary to give effect to the provisions contained in the two amendments. As I said, I have sympathy but the administrative difficulties are so great that I must at this stage oppose the amendment.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I make one suggestion, if it is agreeable to the Government—not otherwise? In the first line, suppose we drop the words “or different managements” in the amendment proposed and merely say “or factories belonging to the same management”?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I find difficulty in all that: I have paid attention to that.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I will put Mr. Joshi's amendment first: the question is:

“That in clause 3 of the Bill, in sub-section (1) of the proposed section 49B after the word ‘factory’ the words ‘or factories’ be inserted.”

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Now I will put Prof. Ranga's amendment.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, may I ask the leave of the House to withdraw my amendment?

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I have got an amendment—No. 6:

“That in clause 3 of the Bill, in sub-sections (1) and (2) of the proposed section 49B for the word ‘seven’ the word ‘ten’ be inserted.”

In place of seven days I want ten days to be consecutive holidays. There is another amendment standing in the name of my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi for fourteen days: if he moves that, then both the ‘amendments may’ be discussed together.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But I have an amendment earlier than that—that the words ‘at least’ be inserted before the word ‘seven’.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: That amendment must come first.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I have moved.

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

“That in clause 3 of the Bill, in sub-sections (1) and (2) of the proposed section 49B for the word ‘seven’ the word ‘ten’ be inserted.”

Mr. N. M. Joshi: My amendment must come first, if Prof. Ranga is also moving his amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can formally move his amendment.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I move:

“That in clause 3 of the Bill, in sub-section (1) of the proposed section 49B for the word ‘seven’ the word ‘fourteen’ be substituted.”

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

“That in clause 3 of the Bill, in sub-section (1) of the proposed section 49B for the word ‘seven’ the word ‘fourteen’ be substituted.”

There is no amendment to this effect.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I have already moved my amendment. Mr. Joshi will speak for me.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The object of the amendment is to give a larger holiday to the workers than is provided for in the Bill. Sir, my friend Mr. Inskip stated with some truth that the holiday provided for is too short to meet the needs of a large number of workers. We are providing in the Bill for a holiday of seven days and he is quite right in stating that the holiday in the case of a large number of workers may prove too short to be availed of. Therefore I am proposing that the holiday should be a longer one, to meet one of the objections of Mr. Inskip and also to provide the worker with better amenities. I have no doubt you will all agree that the holiday of six days is really too short to be useful for the purpose for which that holiday is intended. The holiday is intended to give a man a chance of going out of the place where he is working and enjoying better amenities, better climate or meeting friends and spending his time in amusement and recreation. When a holiday is only of six days, that purpose cannot be served. I shall give you the instance of people who are working in the textile industry of Bombay. They come from what are known as the Konkan districts. They will take at least one day to go and one day to come back and what is left is only five days out of 7. Five days are not sufficient to enjoy. After spending a large amount of money, because travelling expenses are high nowadays, if a man can remain only five days in the place to which he goes, he certainly does not get the best value for the money he spends. The Bill is providing that the man should get his wages for six days. Six days' wages may be, say, on an average only Rs. 6 and Rs. 6 are not sufficient. The average wage in Bombay is about Rs. 30.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Not now.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: These people say ‘not now’. I want to know whether they have changed the basic rates of wages. They have not. The dearness

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allowance may have changed but the basic rates are not changed at all. We are thinking of a permanent piece of legislation. The cost of living has gone up. Before the war, the average wage in the textile industry in Bombay was one rupee per day or Rs. 30 a month. If a man goes on a holiday to Konkan Rs. 6 is not sufficient to go and come back. If he gets a longer holiday he will enjoy better and his health will be very much recouped, if not completely. He can get more rest and the efficiency of production will increase. My friend Mr. Ayyangar has moved an amendment for ten days. It does not give me pleasure to move my amendment simply for the sake of moving the amendment. If there is a chance of Mr. Ayyangar's amendment being carried, then I am prepared to accept his amendment for ten days, if I cannot get any support for my amendment. I am prepared to withdraw my amendment if the Congress Party will support Mr. Ayyangar's amendment and there is a chance of it being carried. As a practical man I am prepared to accept Mr. Ayyangar's amendment for ten days and I therefore ask for leave to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I support Mr. Ayyangar's amendment. It does not need very many arguments to establish the case of the workers for a ten days holiday. Let Honourable Members remember what leave with pay is being granted even to the ordinary *daftaris* or *duffedars* that are to be found in our *Taluq* offices and as regards the higher officials of the Government, you know what privileges are showered upon them. The conditions of employment and of life of these industrial workers are not at all enviable. Their housing conditions especially are horrible. Most of them are obliged to live in unspeakable *chawls* with very little housing accommodation and with very little social conveniences. Let us not think that the whole country is like Bombay. May be, there are some employers in Bombay who provide some social amenities, I have no definite information myself so far as the generosity of the Bombay employers is concerned but I know the conditions prevailing in certain of the mills in Madras, Coimbatore, Madurai and in other places of the Madras Presidency. Secondly, no social amenities are provided by many of our Indian management. There are no latrine facilities, no water facilities and then on account of the fear of the Inspector, the workers are allowed the use of latrines on rare occasions. For taking their mid-day meal no shelter is provided. Their conditions are horrible. No wonder there is absenteeism, apart from other reasons. If you want to make factory life a little more attractive than what it is today, then certainly you must be willing to make the life of the worker a little more tolerable. One of the ways of doing this is by extending this privilege of holidays. Seven days are hardly enough. It may be that in Bombay, the Honourable Member for Labour himself will be able to say—because a large percentage of Bombay labour comes from his district of Ratnagiri, the Honourable Member will be able to say whether five days are enough. Let him recall his earlier experience with the workers and let him recall the troubles that they have to undergo, how many things they have got to settle in their homes before they could return back to duty. Surely my Honourable friend though donning a new suit should not forget his past association. He should tell us whether seven days are enough. They are not enough, let me tell him. Most of the workers are not domiciled in towns, they come from the country parts and that is why they have to go back to their villages if they get holidays. They have no real social life in cities. It may be that in places like Bombay, sometimes the worker picks up the cow lung lying in front of his *chawl* and uses it to keep his room clean. These people naturally being fed up with city life do yearn to go back to their village and make contact with the people in the village. Why do you grudge them the few days holidays? If you do not respond to this call of help from the workers, then I can only say that something is radically wrong with this

Government of India. (Interruption.) Yes, my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, soft spoken though he is, is often very strong with his claims. He had his own way as regards our earlier amendment. I want him to be a little malleable, to be a little soft so as to be willing to co-operate with us in pressing on the Government to extend the holiday to ten days. If you do not do this, you will be doing a great injustice to yourself as well as to the industrial workers. No doubt you are going about saying, "we have done everything for the workers, we have appointed a welfare officer, we have created a number of labour bureaus, we have created health insurance, we brought in a special Prof. Adarkar from some University to draft a report, we have recruited a number of labour leaders as special officers, we have done all these things because we are so much in love with your organisations that we have split you into two, we patronise one organisation at one time and another organisation at another time, and yet you come and ask us to extend the holidays. We are not prepared to extend the holidays, because this is war and your co-operation is needed for us and once the war is over, we assure you, we will shower special privileges upon you". Sir, the war is not going to continue for long. Are we going to make ourselves the enemies of the powerful employers? (Interruption.) I am not going to allow myself to be so easily upset. You not only rob me of my holidays, but you also want to rob me of my time for speaking. No, I shall not allow that. If war is over, we want to make friends with industrialists. No doubt the Government seem to think that if they make it ten days, then the industrialists will get angry. The Government want to take advantage of some plea or other and force us to agree for seven days only. After all we are only asking for three days more. We do not want to co-operate with the Government in cutting down our holidays from ten to seven. We are very serious about getting our rights attended to. We do not mind bargaining, if we cannot force you to agree to a reasonable proposal. Therefore I request the Honourable Member for Labour to accept this olive branch and say that he is going to agree to this amendment. If he is prepared to do that, I am prepared to stop speaking just now.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go on with that sort of bargaining. He cannot go on repeating his arguments.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: This is a very small thing which the workers are asking for. The Government seem to be adamant. I have therefore got to warn the Government that industrial labour, though it may appear to be so today, is not going to be docile for ever. Industrial labour has had its hey-day in revolutionary activities in the past and it will certainly come to its own very soon after the war is over. Thanks to the political tempo in the world, the industrial labour will soon make its position felt in the world. You may delude yourself by thinking that by showing small mercies, you will be able to silence the workers for ever and thus prevent them from coming to their own and having their due rights agreed to by Government. Let the war be over, we will all be united again. You have created enough dissensions already on account of the war among the workers. We will unite again and fight on the proletarian front, on the peasant front and on the national front and in such a glorious manner that it will be necessary not only for you but for your successors also to do justice to workers for all time.

Sir, one word to my friends the industrialists. They are making huge profits, they have no risks to run at all since the war began. The Honourable the Finance Member has made so many good provisions for the industrialists. Depreciation costs, wear and tear, double accounting, earned income, average profits, insurance, no competition from England or the rest of the world, prices soaring like anything, no ceiling to be placed and then on the top of that the industrialists have got friends in this House to get up and support them and run down the Finance Member saying that he has not done this help or that help to industrialists and so on. All these the industrialists have enjoyed

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

and on the top of that, they have enjoyed absence of strikes by industrial workers because of their own internal political differences as well as otherwise with the result that the workers have not been able to press their claims. Added to these, the Government also brought forward the Defence of India Rules and under this, they sent a large number of labour leaders, during the first two years of the war, to detention camps. The Government came to some sorts of back door agreements with a view to split the workers' organisation. At one time, the Government prop up one organisation and send its leader to a conference, at another time they patronise another organisation and send its leader to another conference. They give special joy rides in aeroplanes. In all these ways, the Government soften the labour leaders, they try to create dissensions among workers and prevent them from playing their proper role on the revolutionary front, on the proletarian front. With what result? We were told the other day that a particular Labour Federation was paid Rs. 13,000 a month. It is whispered in my ears that the amount was Rs. 25,000. We are not given true facts. We are kept completely in the dark about the doings of the Government. The Government have become *purdanashin* in this way. You have closed all avenues for industrial labour to better itself. This is how they have masqueraded in this country and that is my charge against the industrialists. Therefore I make this appeal to the industrialists themselves. Let them come forward with their olive branch and say, "We do not know what is going to happen in post-war times; quite possible there is going to be trouble for us also; there will be a slump in prices and a slump in demands for our goods; there will be competition from abroad; we will need protection from the State; the House will not be willing to give us protection unless we look after our labour and, therefore we are prepared also to co-operate with you and support your amendment". Are they prepared to do so? I do not know; no response comes from them. It is not as if the industrialists are not represented in this House, there are quite a number of them here. But they are keeping mum. Why? Because they know their own interests.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: We are charmed by your eloquence!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The pity is that in spite of the charm it does not seem to be yielding any results. I only want that from seven days it should be raised to ten days. The industrialists are not prepared to make any response. Therefore I cannot appreciate the point of view of either the Government or the industrialists, and so my duty is to stand by this amendment and insist that Government as well as the industrialists should behave in a more liberal fashion towards industrial workers than they have done.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): Sir, we have a large volume of outstanding business and I must ask you to direct the House to sit for the transaction of official business on Friday the 6th April and daily from Monday the 9th to Thursday the 12th April inclusive. I should add that the possibility of further sittings being found necessary cannot be excluded.

The list of business for Monday and Tuesday next week will be circulated this evening. The first item will be the consideration of the Income-tax Amendment Bill as reported by the Select Committee and the list will include the items outstanding from today's list and motions for the consideration and passing of the Indian Army and Indian Air Force Amendment Bills. There will also be a Resolution to be moved in accordance with the express desire of the House for the amendment of the existing Roads Resolution so as to admit of the increase to eight of the number of Members of the Assembly to be elected to the Standing Committee on Roads, and possibly a supplementary demand arising out of the adoption of the cut motion with reference to co-ordination of road and rail transport.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS

Wednesday and Thursday next week are non-official days.

For Friday the 6th April and the days from Monday the 9th to Thursday the 12th April there will be a combined list of business on which the first item will be a motion for reference of the Banking Bill to a Select Committee. It will depend on the progress made on Monday and Tuesday next whether this motion will be followed immediately by a motion for the consideration of the Insurance Bill as reported by the Select Committee or whether miscellaneous items of business outstanding from Monday and Tuesday next will be interpolated.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I suggest that the Bill at present under discussion should be finished first on Monday. It will not take more than an hour or two.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No, not at this rate. The Income-tax Bill must be finished first.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, I support the request of Mr. Joshi that this Bill should be disposed of first.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, may I know whether any more days will be given for non-official business?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I direct that the House shall sit on 6th April for official business and then daily from Monday the 9th to Thursday the 12th April inclusive.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 2nd April, 1945.

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