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MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

FRIDAY, 16TH AUGUST 1946

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THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, the 16th August 1946.

The House met at the Assembly Chamber at eleven of the clock on Friday, the 16th August 1946, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Irrigation wells sunk in Malabar and South Kanara.

* 88 Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) how many irrigation wells have been sunk this year with the aid of the subsidy given by Government to help 'The Grow More Food' campaign;

(b) how many such wells have been sunk in Malabar and in South Kanara; and

(c) whether Government intend to continue this form of aid and if so, till what period?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“(a) (i) The Government have sanctioned several schemes for subsidizing the sinking and repairing of irrigation wells. The first scheme was introduced in 1944 in the districts of Chingleput, North Arcot, Chittoor, Salem, Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevely and in the Ceded Districts. The second scheme—called the Accelerated Scheme for the sinking of wells—was sanctioned in February-March 1946 for all the districts of the province except the Nilgiris. The third is the modified scheme introduced in June 1946 specially for the Ceded Districts.

“(ii) Under the first scheme, 41 wells were sunk in the quarter ending with 31st March 1946, which subsidies commenced the scheme up to yet available.

65 wells were sunk, out of 403 wells time has been given were granted. Later figures completion of wells. On

“(iii) Under the Accelerated Scheme, wells were completed and up to 30th September 1946, 3,141 wells were in progress. The number 30th June 1946, 3,141 wells was in progress. The number of old wells repaired by that date was 1,797 and the sinking of 41 wells in process of repair was 15,756.

“(iv) As for Districts, came into force only from 24th the 1946, no wells would have yet been sunk under the scheme.

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"(b) The figures of well works completed and in progress, as on 30th June 1946, are given below:—

	New wells.		Old wells.	
	Completed.	In progress.	Completed.	In progress.
Malabar ..	38	150	14	62
South Kanara ..	4	40	3	9

"These wells come under the Accelerated Scheme.

"(c) The first scheme will be in force till the end of March 1947. The Accelerated Scheme, i.e., the second scheme, has practically ended as no fresh subsidies will be sanctioned after 15th June 1946. As regards the third scheme, i.e., the Modified Scheme for the Ceded Districts, it will be in force till 30th June 1947. The Government have under consideration a new and a separate general scheme for the grant of subsidies for sinking and repairing irrigation wells during the next two years. In view of the fact that the Accelerated Scheme was of little value in South Kanara and Malabar owing to the south-west monsoon, provision will be made for those districts in the general or special scheme for giving subsidies not only for irrigation wells but also for irrigation tanks, in the coming year. Details of these schemes have not yet been settled."

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"May I know why Chittoor has been excluded from the Modified Scheme, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Because Chittoor is not in the Ceded Districts."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"May I know, Sir, why the Nilgiris was left out of the scheme?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I made enquiries and I understood that there was no need for wells in the Nilgiris."

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"Does the Hon. Revenue Minister know that the whole of Madanapalle revenue division was moved on to the Chittoor district from Cuddapah, and will he then question of extending the scheme to the Madanapalle the qu

KUMARARAJA K. R. KARANTH:—"I was told, so, Sir, and NAD:—"Will the Government consider."

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I was told, so, Sir, and NAD:—"Will the Government consider."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Yes, Sir, that will be Nilgiris is situated in the plains, will As a third of the need for irrigation facilities to these are Government consider

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"No?"

"I also be

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KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTI-NAD:—"Will the Government also consider the question of sinking tube wells?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"These wells are intended for irrigation purposes and not for rural water-supply. I do not know how far the tube wells will go into this picture."

KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTI-NAD:—"If the Hon. the Minister will make enquiries in other provinces, he will find that tube wells are also resorted to for irrigation purposes."

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I will have that point considered, Sir."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to show me where the provision for the sinking of wells be found in the budget?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"At the appropriate time when that demand comes."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"In view of the rocky nature of the soil of the Ceded districts, will the Hon. Minister consider the question of increasing the amount of subsidy for sinking wells?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The subsidy has already been increased from Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 per well, Sir."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"May I submit, Sir, that this amount is not sufficient and that it should be increased?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I am afraid, I cannot agree to that suggestion. After all, it is only a subsidy and we are not prepared to meet the entire cost of sinking the wells."

SRI KALLUR SUBBA RAO:—"May I know, Sir, from the Hon. Minister whether representations were made by the district for increasing the subsidy?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Yes, Sir, the Government have been made."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Will the Government be prepared to give the technical help that will be necessary for people to sink wells?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"It may not be possible. Sir, because there are more than 1,000 or 50,000 wells being sunk."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that the Collector of Kurnool has estimated that the minimum that is required to sink a well in that district is about Rs. 2,000 and that Rs. 1,000 should be given as subsidy?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I am not aware of that, Sir. A general statement like that may not be correct."

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SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Have the Government considered the question of employing the Military personnel for sinking wells?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Yes, Sir, it is being tried in the Salem district."

MR. F. FERRELLY:—"In view of the statement made by the Hon. Minister on the grant of subsidy for sinking wells, will he give us an assurance that no further funds will be spent in repairing the new wells which are just being sunk?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"That assurance can be readily given."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Is the Government satisfied that most of the wells sunk with the aid of Government subsidy are being used for raising food-crops? Will this question be investigated?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"That is one of the conditions for granting the subsidy. To some extent, it has been a success."

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government have in mind any scheme of intensified sub-soil survey in the deficit districts?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"A separate question should be put for that, Sir."

SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know whether the Government will consider the desirability of providing a special staff for giving technical advice and assistance to people who sink new wells or repair old wells?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I have already answered a similar question, that it may not be possible."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will the Government give an assurance, before proceeding with the scheme, that the wells sunk with the aid of the subsidy will be used for the purpose of raising food-crops?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"No such assurance can be given when there are thousands of wells being sunk."

SRI PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—"Is the Government aware of the number of tubat in Northern India in the Gangetic plains a purposes? Will the Government consider the feasibility of sinking such tube wells in the Cauvery delta and other suitable areas?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"That matter will be considered, Sir. I can say nothing more than that."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Does not the Government consider the advisability of not spending any more money on the scheme unless the assurance is forthcoming that these wells will be used only for raising food-crops?"

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THE HON. MR. SPEAKER:—"Are you making a statement or are you putting a question?"

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"It is only question, Sir. I shall put it this way. Are the Government satisfying themselves before proceeding with the extended scheme, that the wells sunk with the aid of the subsidy will be used for raising food-crops?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I have already said that that is one of the conditions of the grant. I have personally seen a large number of such wells being used for raising food-crops, and there is no reason to suppose that they are not being used for that purpose."

SRI M. S. PATTABHIRAMA AYYAR:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that hundreds of applications for sinking wells under the scheme from Dindigul have been rejected without any explanation?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"A separate question may be put, Sir."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—"As there is a difference of opinion regarding the full utility of the grant under the accelerated scheme of sinking wells, may I request the Government to strengthen the Minor Irrigation department, and make it supervise the scheme and make suggestions for putting the scheme into effective use?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"A separate question is needed, Sir."

DR. R. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"Will the Government extend the Ceded districts scheme to the Ramnad district in view of the peculiar conditions of that district?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Sir, the Ceded districts are far away from Ramnad and it will not be possible to extend that scheme." (Laughter.)

Salaries of village officers and servants.

* 89 Q.—SRI D. DORAIRAJA PANDIAN: Will the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the salaries of the village officers, talayaris and vettians;

(b) whether they propose to abolish the hereditary system?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Certain memorials of village officers and servants for increased remuneration are under the consideration of the Government."

"(b) There is no such proposal at present."

SRI A. KALESWARAO:—"May I know from the Hon. the Minister whether is the hereditary character of these appointments that make these village officers and village servants stick to their jobs, in spite of their low salaries and that these village officials are also efficient on that account?"

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THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I cannot say, Sir."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Do the Government propose to consider the salaries question before these people resort to strike?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"As I said, the matter is under the consideration of Government now."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"May I ask how many months will the Government take to complete the consideration of this question?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Not many months."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Will it be days?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I can give no undertaking, Sir."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Are the Government aware that it is this hereditary system that is responsible for the tyranny under which the villagers suffer, and if so, whether the Government propose to abolish the hereditary system?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I do not agree that the hereditary system has anything to do with the alleged tyranny."

SRI KALLURI SUBBA RAO:—"May I ask whether the question of amalgamating the village offices in the coming 'Rural Republic Legislation' will be considered?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The suggestion is very useful. It will be considered at the proper time."

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"May I ask whether the Hon. the Minister is aware of the fact that the real grievance of the village officers is that in recent times they have been experiencing visitations by several officers which means great inconvenience for them?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I suppose such visits have been there all the time."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"May I ask whether the Communists are dominating the Village Officers' Association?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I cannot say."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I cannot allow that question."

SRI D. DORAIRAJA PANDIAN:—"With reference to clause (a), may I know what scale of salaries is proposed for the village officers?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I submit, Sir, that is anticipating what is going to be done hereafter."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"May I ask, Sir, whether the Government are considering the question of the abolition of the hereditary system?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I have already answered that there is no such proposal under the consideration of Government at present."

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SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"May I know why the hereditary system obtains only in some districts?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"It is difficult to answer that question now."

KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Will the Hon. the Minister consider the undesirability of giving up the hereditary system?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I can give no such assurance. If need arises we may have to change the present policy."

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"May I know whether the Government consider it advisable to fix salaries to village officers in zamindari areas also?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"That is also under consideration."

SRI T. K. T. N. R. TATACHARI:—"Are the Government aware that there are village officers in zamindari areas who do work for the Government but do not receive any pay or allowance?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I am not aware of that."

SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—"Will the Government treat the village officers as Government servants and give them certain scales of pay and introduce religious and moral education as part of the study in centres meant for village officers?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The question may be split up and put separately."

SRI T. K. T. N. R. TATACHARI:—"Will the Government consider the cases of those village officers who do not receive pay now?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"That will be done."

SRI W. S. SRINIVASA RAO:—"Will the Government introduce the system of transfers of these village officers?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"That can be done only when the hereditary system of village officers is scrapped."

SRI V. V. PALANISWAMI GOUNDAR:—"Do the Government propose to place these village officers on a permanent footing or is it their proposal to keep them as part-time officers?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Under the present system if they insist upon keeping them on a fulltime basis and qualifications, they must be willing to give up the hereditary system."

SRI M. S. PATTABHIRAMA AYYAR:—"What is the policy of the present Government in continuing the schools for the education of the village officers by the former bureaucratic Government?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The hon. Member will have an opportunity to raise the question when this demand is under discussion."

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SRI M. S. PATTABHIRAMA AYYAR:—" May I ask whether a uniform policy cannot be followed for all districts by appointing hereditary officers for all village offices? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" The matter will be considered when the system is to be changed."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—" May I enquire whether the Government are aware that if they abolish the hereditary system it will be costlier? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" I do not agree. I believe that if the hereditary system goes we can have less officers, less cost and better efficiency."

II.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR THE YEAR 1946-47.

DEMAND IV—FOREST—cont.

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

* MR. SPEAKER:—" As the Hon. the Minister for Forests is not keeping good health, the Hon. the Minister for Revenue will deputise for him."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" Sir, our Province with 20,793 square miles of forests has the largest forest area in all India, and yet, I am sorry to see we have not derived as much benefit from it as we could especially in the matter of the supply of fuel and food to our people. What we expect the Military to do is to immediately take steps to improve by the exploitation of our forests, the food and fuel position. In this connexion I wish to bring to the notice of the House how some of the zamindars are carrying on disafforestation in their estates. The zamindars of Mutyala and Munagala are felling the forest trees in large number and trading in charcoal. The Hon. the Prime Minister has given a promise that he will bring in a Bill to prevent such things. Unless this legislation is passed very soon, the forests in Munagala estate will be completely mowed down. Forestry is closely linked to agriculture and the existence of forests influences the climatic conditions. That being so we should see to the regeneration of the forests.

" Sir, now I wish to congratulate the Ministry for restarting the Forest College. If our forest wealth is increased economically our position will be better. As a matter of fact our province grows very little teakwood. We are at present getting this valuable timber from other provinces. If we could start teakwood plantations in our forests the income from forests would greatly increase.

" In this connexion I wish to point out that the administrative charges of this department seem to be heavy. This I notice is due to the fact that the officers at the top, just as in other departments, draw huge salaries. Not content with this they take also bribes from the poor people. They fine very heavily the poor peasants if their cattle strays into the forests in search of fodder. I suggest that the peasantry in the neighbourhood of forests should

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be allowed to graze their cattle there without hindrance. Not only that. The peasantry should be allowed to remove from the forests fuel for their personal needs, though not for trade. These facilities must be immediately given to the poor people.

" Regarding the forest panchayats, it seems there is a proposal to abolish them. That will be a very undemocratic step to take. It should not be done. Instead of abolishing the forest panchayats, you should democratise them by having elections held for them. (A voice: They are even now elected bodies.) The forest range officers have extraordinary powers. Their powers must be curtailed and they must be made subordinates to the forest panchayats.

" There are tanks in the forests in a bad state of disrepair. If these are promptly repaired it will be of immense help to the people of the neighbourhood and production of food will also be increased.

" The question of fodder should also engage our attention. In Rayalaseema there is scarcity of fodder. In our forests there are vast tracts which could supply fodder for the needy districts. This may be looked into.

" You now make a revenue of Rs. 2.81 lakhs from forests under the care of the forest panchayats. This revenue should be returned to the respective forest panchayats to be made use of for the benefit of the people of the neighbourhood.

" I desire in this connexion to refer to the question of the salaries of the low-paid staff. The disparity in the salaries paid to the highest officer of the department is very striking.

" The Chief Conservator of Forests is paid from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 2,750 and his Personal Assistant gets more than Rs. 300, whereas these peons are paid from Rs. 12 to Rs. 20. Sir, see the disparity between the pay of people who do little work and the pay of the persons who do much work. I would therefore request the Ministry to take up this problem immediately without hesitation. It is the disparity in these salaries that leads to strikes. It is because of the very low pay that they are getting, these people are resorting to strikes, such as the one we are seeing in the Madras City itself to-day. Sir, they are not able to make a living. The strike wave has spread throughout the Andhradesa. There the municipal workers are going on strike. The Health Officers, the Chairmen and the Commissioners have gone to the extent of engaging the Police and rowdies. I want to bring to the notice of the House an incident which had taken place . . . "

* MR. SPEAKER:—" We are now in the Forest Demand. The hon. Member must confine his remarks to that Demand. I cannot allow him to speak on other subjects, such as the salaries of other workers. He must speak on the Forest Demand alone."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" I am talking about the question of salaries . . . "

* MR. SPEAKER:—" Whose salaries? "

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* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"The salaries of the forest peons and guards, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may continue."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Now, Sir, the salaries of the forest guards are very low and for the same reason the municipal employees also are going on strike. When these incidents take place rowdies are engaged by the Health Officers and Commissioners and they are resorting, for instance, in Bez-wada . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Order, order. I wish to know whether forest peons were beaten by the police."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"It is not the forest peons that I am referring to. The municipal workers . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member cannot refer to municipal workers on this Demand. We are in the Forest Demand and he must confine his remarks to that Demand."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I regret I am not allowed to give a comparative picture, Sir, how because of their low pay the staff are resorting to strikes and how these atrocities are being committed by the rowdies and the police. Anyway I will confine myself to the conditions of the staff, particularly the guards and peons, working in the Forest department I request the Ministry to raise their salaries immediately so that they may not go on strike and so that they may not be treated like this."

* SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"On a point of order, Sir. Can a Member incite public servants to go on strikes?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member is simply giving information to the hon. Minister. He can continue his speech."

SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"It is future information, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I have already given my ruling. The hon. Member may go on."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"So, my suggestion is that the salaries question must be immediately taken up without any delay and hesitation before any such agitation which is taking place before our eyes and before our nose in the City of Madras takes place there also. Their salaries must be raised at least to a minimum living wage. The Ministry must come forward boldly with a statement as to what extent they are going to raise the salaries. Otherwise a repetition of what is happening here may take place in the distant forest villages among the people who have voted for us and who have put this Government in charge."

* SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"I consider there are no Communists in the forests."

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* SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member who moved the cut motion yesterday spoke of the exploitation of forests that has gone on during the war time. It is true that in Government-managed forests there has been advance-felling and over-felling due to war demands and even in the private forests there have been excess fellings during the war time on account of the high prices offered for timber. I think, Sir, the Government have recognized how our forests have suffered on account of this over-felling and they have laid down two matters as the objective of their post-war forest policy. One is the rehabilitation of the existing reserved forests and of other forests and the second is the extension of afforestation. I think, Sir, the officers of the Forest department are already attending to the first task, namely, the restoration of the forests, which have been denuded on account of advance-felling and over-felling. Regarding the second matter, namely, the extension of afforestation, the Government of India have said that in every province we must aim at having 20 to 25 per cent of the area under forests. In this Province, I understand that we have got 18,000 and odd square miles of forests covering about 15 per cent of the area. We would like to know what programme the Government have in view for the extension of forest areas, whether they propose to acquire private forests or to take over control of those forests for their better management."

"Sir, it is considered desirable that village forests should be formed with a view to supply the needs of the agriculturists in the matter of fuel, timber, fodder and manure leaves. We would like also to know what the Government are doing in this matter of creating village forests for the purposes of meeting the needs of the agriculturists."

"Next, Sir, the Government have had a proposal to extend casuarina plantation to about 150,000 acres with a view to increase the supply of fuel and divert cattle dung which is now used as fuel, for the more useful purpose of manure. We would like to know in which all districts this casuarina plantation scheme is being worked or whether they are having it in all the districts."

"There is also a proposal to investigate the possibility of developing industries by utilizing the minor forest produce. I should like to know what investigation is being done in the matter."

"Sir, the forests exist for two purposes, one for protective purposes, such as the prevention of floods and soil erosion. This is a matter which can well be left to the technical men of the department and I believe they are paying due attention to it. The second object is to utilize forests for the purpose of meeting the needs of the village agriculturists in the matter of fuel, timber, manure leaves and fodder, as I have already said. Sir, it seems desirable that a belt of one or two furlongs should be demarcated and set apart in all places where cultivated lands lie close to reserved forests and the ryots belonging to those particular

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villages should be allowed to remove from the belt area the undergrowth and manure leaves for agricultural purposes. I know that this concession is being given in certain areas but it is desirable to extend this concession to all places where it is required. In the matter of grazing, it is necessary that the grazing area which is available should be divided into blocks and the rotational grazing system should be introduced.

“ One great trouble arising from the proximity of forests to the cultivated land is the damage done to crops and the destruction of cattle by wild animals. The number of wild animals has increased of late due to the reduction of gun licences and the difficulty of getting gunpowder, shots and cartridges. It is desirable and necessary to give gun licences on a more liberal scale to villagers for the purpose of protection of crops. The supply of gunpowder, shots and cartridges also should be made on a quota basis for gun licence-holders in villages lying near the reserved forests. At present it so happens that the people in the towns are mostly supplied with these materials. The stringent forest game rules should also be relaxed to encourage people to shoot wild animals in larger numbers in the interests of crop protection and also in the interests of the Grow More Food campaign.

“ Another great trouble that is due to the proximity of forests to cultivated lands is Malaria. Malaria of course we know is a very widespread disease that takes a very heavy toll of life. The adverse effect of Malaria on the health of agricultural labourers is very well recognized and cultivation work in lands near the reserved forests suffers much. The malaria problem has become one of the serious economic problems that we have to face. All possible measures for the control of malaria should be taken. The Forest Department, the Agricultural Department and the Public Health Department must act together in this matter. We know that during war time the Allied Forces who were fighting in malarial tracts were effectively protected by the measures taken for the control of malaria. New discoveries have been made. More effective remedies for malaria have come into use such as mepracrine and paludrine and wonderful insecticides such as the D.D.T. have been also used with good effect in the malaria-infested places during war-time. War-time experience in the control of malaria may very well be used to reduce the ravages of this scourge, particularly in cultivated lands near reserved forests. The control and eradication of malaria in those areas is very necessary in the interests of agriculture and whatever money the Government may spend on this will be very good investment.”

11-45 a.m. * SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting the demand moved by the Hon. Minister in charge of Forests, I should like to offer some suggestions in the interests of the Forest Administration. I find from the budget that the Government expect to get Rs. 117 lakhs from Forests and they expect to spend about Rs. 74 lakhs under the Administration of Forests. As has been explained by my hon. Friend Mr. Shetty, there has been

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an over-exploitation of our forests recently for getting fuel for the cities and also for meeting the needs of the Military and the Railways.

“ Sir, a sum of Rs. 8,66,700 has been earmarked for regeneration. Out of this a sum of Rs. 1,35,400 is intended for casuarina plantations and for all other regeneration they have allotted Rs. 2,08,900 leaving the entire balance for salaries and allowances and so forth. Taking regeneration alone, I do not see any proper proportion between the amount allotted for regeneration proper and the amount they are going to spend on salaries.

“ Some years ago a thorough investigation was made as to the number of District Forest Officers and Conservators of Forests that were required for the department and it was found that there were more than 20 officers in the cadre of District Forest Officers in excess of the requirements. Recommendations were made to retrench these officers. During the war, many officers have been appointed for various purposes such as the cultivation of pyrethrum and the supply of fodder, fuel and timber to the military soil erosion and so many other things. The Government should see whether we are still in need of these officers. Taking the case of pyrethrum cultivation in the Nilgiris, they have got 2,300 odd acres under cultivation, but they have been able to produce only 67 tons of flowers. What I suggest is that pyrethrum cultivation can be converted into a village industry and the ordinary ryot without much of exertion and cost can raise this flower and supply it to the Government if the Government fixes a reasonable rate.

“ Sir, in an agricultural country like ours, it is very necessary that forests must be preserved. After all, our province has only a very small area under forests as compared with the other provinces. It has been stated in the report that we are having only 15 per cent of the area under forests. But this includes the area that comes under village panchayats also. From our experience, we have seen that owing to the war during the last 6 or 7 years there has been a great exploitation of the forests and most of them have been denuded. Whether near the town or in the interior, we find that most of the lands have been set apart for the grow-more-food purposes, and in the course of bringing the lands under cultivation most of the trees have been cut away. The result is the moisture could not be preserved and the villages could not get the fuel they want. It is high time that a big amount is spent on a go-back-to-the-forest campaign so that the forests may be set right and the villages improved.

“ There is one other item in the budget under Post-war schemes. A sum of Rs. 1,34,400 has been provided for the Madras Forest College. Some years back when the old Madras Forest College was closed down, it was found that there was a large number of students in the college from other provinces and that there were only a few students from this province. Taking into account the facilities available at the Imperial Forest College at Dehra Dun, the Government decided to send out students to that college and closed down the Madras College. But during the Advisers' regime we do

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not know what reasons there were to bring back this Forest College once more. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister how many students from this province have been selected to undergo training in this Forest College. If there are enough students from this province there could be no opposition of any sort for running a college of this kind.

“ Sir, I find in the budget that provision has been made for researches in pyrethrum and such things, and for the appointment of special officers for such purposes. When we are having a separate college for this purpose, I do not know why separate officers should be maintained for research work as this could very well be done in the college itself.

“ The Hon. the Leader of the House speaking on this demand yesterday brought home to us the necessity of improving wattle cultivation. I do quite agree with him, Sir. We have been importing into this province wattle bark or essence of wattle bark to the tune of Rs. 25 lakhs. As the country is interested in the tanning industry, it is highly necessary that the improvement of the wattle bark cultivation must be taken up. For this purpose, several experimental plots or nurseries were started and I know as a matter of fact they came up very well. Even the ordinary ryots were allowed land some eight years ago to undertake potato and wattle cultivation. When the wattle plant grows up, after 3 or 4 years, potatoes and other things are lifted and the wattle trees are left on the land. It is therefore highly necessary, Sir, that wattle cultivation should be extended so that our tanneries may be given the necessary bark for tanning purposes.

“ Sir, there is also necessity to produce more lac to meet the demands of the various offices. Experiments were carried on in Madura, South Kanara and some of the Andhra districts and it was found that they yielded good results. I do not know, Sir, what has happened to the lac experiment carried on in 1938–39 in Andhra desa.

“ Sir, another thing is about camphor which we have been importing from Japan and Formosa to the tune of Rs. 20 lakhs every year. Some time back we ordered a camphor nursery in the cinchona plantations, in order to see whether camphor plants can be produced. I know as a matter of fact, it was possible to produce camphor plants. In some parts of the Nilgiris we see traces of camphor trees; we also find them in one or two plantations near Coonoor; in the Hallakara Estate where there are about sixty acres of camphor plantation. It has given very good results and it has been possible to produce camphor and camphor camphorodine oil. As the province is becoming more and more self-sufficient and as camphor is required for all the ceremonial purposes and for worship in the temples and as we should also see that our people should take to camphor cultivation in these hard days, I would request the Government to give subsidies to the people who undertake camphor cultivation, because camphor is not a short crop as it will take at least 9 to 10 years to come to maturity.

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“ The next point, Mr. Speaker, which I want to urge upon the Hon. Minister is with regard to the welfare of the people inhabiting these forests—the aborigines, the hill tribes and so on. These people have helped the Forest department in various ways—in putting out fires, attending to various regeneration operations and so on. But they have no medical aid, no maternity facilities for their women and no veterinary aid even for the small number of cattle they have. No agricultural demonstrators visit these people. I request the Hon. Minister to see that these unfortunate people are given some medical aid, maternity facilities and similar things. The Hon. the Prime Minister knows, Sir, that during 1938 when we traversed the whole of the agency we came across hundreds of Koyas and other hill tribes of the district who were in very bad health due to malaria and some other diseases. At that time efforts were made to give some assistance to these people. Further, Sir, these people have been collecting the minor produce from the forests especially tamarind, but the middlemen have been exploiting them by not giving them what is actually their due. It was then ordered to have a special forest officer who would work out a scheme of collecting the tamarind on a co-operative basis and give the benefit of the same to the people. I do not know, Sir, what is the position to-day.

“ Coming now to the Nilgiris, Sir, the hill tribes, the aborigines, known as the Todas, have been enjoying what is called the Toda patta land for a long time; but of late most of the land has been taken away from these people and given to others on leases. These people who form a pastoral community have been devoid of all facilities, with the result that they are now driven to the towns for eking out their livelihood, leaving the rural areas. Sir, it is highly necessary that such a picturesque community should be encouraged and given necessary facilities. I would also like to impress upon the Government the necessity to look to the welfare of the communities known as Irulars, Kurumbars and Panniers in the Nilgiris and in the various areas of the Coimbatore district, especially the Attapadi valley. These people were given facilities at one time by way of Kumuri cultivation. I feel, Sir, the time has now come when the Government should look after the interests of the aborigines, the hill tribes and the depressed classes. These communities should not be neglected.

“ Again, the forests form the backbone for the grazing of cattle both in towns and in villages. Of late much of the forest land has been utilized for other purposes, with the result that now there is practically no grazing ground at all. I should like that some provision is made to see that we have more grazing areas.

“ Sir, it has been found that the forests in this province can produce many kinds of useful medicinal herbs. On an examination conducted at Dehra Dun, it was found that this province could supply many of the herbs. An investigation was started in the year 1938. I do not know with what result. I should like the Hon. Minister to examine the question, because we have

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been getting extracts of these herbs from foreign countries to the tune of many lakhs of rupees. I would also urge upon the Government to see what arrangements can be made to have more fuel available to the villagers from the forests and to make this one of the primary duties of the District Forest Officers.

"I want to point out, Sir, the paucity of men of the depressed classes in the Forest department. Service in this department does not require much of collegiate education or any high standard of education. The only thing required is a certain amount of intelligence. An examination will show that you can get any number of people from the depressed communities for working in forest areas. I would request the Hon. Minister to consider this question. With these words, I support the Demand."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I wish to inform the House that the hon. the Leader of the Muslim Group told me yesterday that the Muslim members of the Opposition would not be present in the House to-day. So, our interval for lunch to-day will be from 1-30 p.m. to 2-30 p.m. and not from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m."

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"Sir, my object in supporting the cut motion is to bring to the notice of the Hon. the Minister for Forests, who unfortunately is indisposed to-day, the urgent necessity for finding wooden poles for electric purposes. (An hon. Member: 'What about white ants?') We have of course to keep in mind the danger from white ants. There is the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun which has made any amount of research into this matter and has come to the conclusion that creosote and ascu treatment are fairly good protection against white ants. I myself, as a licensee, have used more than a thousand casuarina posts, which according to the Forest department split sometimes, but which after treatment, are found to be quite as satisfactory as any other poles. Every hon. Member in this House has been asking for electricity. 'Sir, when is electricity coming to my place, why has it not come; what is the trouble' and all such questions are put. If you really want to help the rural population by giving them electricity, you will have to make necessary arrangements for felling poles. I cannot understand what the Forest department does here. Of course, many hon. Members have spoken about the way in which forests have to be conserved or improved. I say that with a bit of drive in the Forest department, trees can be felled, I mean trees which can be found to be useful for transmission and distribution line purposes. Here the Department of Electricity also must co-operate; or it may be the other way. The Department of Electricity may be asked to give its programme of work so far as rural distribution is concerned and the Forest department may see that the necessary poles are felled and got ready. Sir, in England, for all purposes for which we use steel poles here, they use wooden poles. The same thing is happening to-day in the United Provinces where more than a thousand miles of transmission lines have been laid with the help of wooden poles. The Government of Mysore have done the same thing; you

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have only to go to Mysore and Bangalore to see the enormous number of wooden poles which carry the transmission lines. Go to Travancore State again and see what the Forest department has done there. They have a regular department there to fell trees year after year, get them treated by the Government department itself and the Forest department issues them to the Electricity department for use as transmission poles. What have we done here? Sir, this is an important matter. I just want to impress on the Cabinet that there must be a policy as to how the Government should help the users of electricity. You must know, Sir, that about 75 per cent of the cost of supply of electricity is on account of the high cost of distribution mains. When they find the capital outlay becoming a little too big, both the Government department and the Electrical licensee think that the scheme is not a paying one. So what happens is that the agriculturists in a certain area are told that the capital cost is too much and it is not possible to bring the line to that particular area. If you only revise your policy and say 'We shall hereafter, in addition to the rails or steel poles that are used, use wooden poles also' and if you can make it a policy, the Forest department can go ahead in this respect and the Electricity department can take advantage of it.

"Then again, Sir, so far as technical advice against white ants is concerned, there is the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun who will be willing to give you any amount of advice. I only want you to follow what is being done elsewhere. In our forests there is any amount of timber available—there is the pali, the irul, the venteak and other varieties. I have no doubt that with the help of the so-called technical people in the Forest department, you must be able to find out exactly what poles would be useful for electrical purposes. I myself have taken the trouble on my own, to use (No. 1) untreated poles, (No. 2) poles treated with ascu; now I am experimenting with cashewnut oil application. If we people take this trouble, why should not the Government take the trouble and do something by way of reducing the capital cost? In pre-war days, I think during the days of the late Yakub Hasan, an attempt was made to introduce wooden poles, but with what result I do not know. In the olden days, 41½ lb. South Indian Railway rails (28 feet) used to cost 8 annas a foot, and that means Rs. 14 a rail, and the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway 50 lb. rails cost 12 annas a foot, i.e., Rs. 21 a rail. Even in those days, we used to go in for wooden poles. To-day these rails are at least four times as costly as they were in pre-war days. Getting steel tubular poles is absolutely out of the question now. In such circumstances, how will electricity progress? Licensees are being asked what about electricity to a particular village? Can they take electricity there and all that? What help are you going to give not only to the licensees but also to the Government departments? In the Chief Engineer for Electricity to-day, you have an excellent man who will give you ideas. I want the Electricity department and the Forest department to make use of him and ask him what exactly is wanted and what should be done. I do not want all that I

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say to be brushed aside, because I am sure that during these budget debates many things are spoken here, they go on record, but nothing happens. If you really want to help the rural population, I would only say that the Forest department must be asked to do its best and the Electricity department also must be asked to take advantage of what the Forest department can do in this respect. I want both the Hon. Ministers to sit together and see how best they can improve the rural electrification schemes that are sponsored by the Hon. the Premier. Of course the Premier is anxious that everybody must get electricity. You are giving so much subsidy for wells; the water in them must be lifted; how are you going to do it? If you depend on electricity, give wooden poles and make special efforts to get them in sufficient quantities. I would be very anxious to know next year what attempt the Government have made during this year in this respect."

* SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to urge on the Government one or two important points. Of course I support the demand and oppose the cut motions. The greatest hardship that the peasants in proprietary villages experience under tyranny of the zamindars, aghaharamdars and mokasadors and other proprietors is with reference to forests. Forests are considered by these proprietors as their own private property. The peasants are not allowed to graze free their cattle therein, to get fuel, brushwood, thatch materials and timbers, etc., for constructing houses. All these are very necessary amenities for rural life, for peasant life. So, the struggle between the proprietors and the peasants has been going on ever since the permanent settlement was introduced by the East India Company in about a third of the area of this province.

12-15 P.M. "Before that, Sir, every inch of land in the village, not only the cultivated land but the forest pastures, hills, tanks, porambokes, the river sources and everything else belonged to the village community and in the words of Justice Fielding, every village was a republic. It is the village community, the village industry and the village panchayat that maintained the prosperity, the Dharma and the civilization of this ancient country for centuries whatever might have been the changes in the dynasties at Delhi. These institutions have been ruthlessly destroyed after the advent of the British East India Company, because these three do not find a place in their mode of administration. So, Sir, ever since that time, the zamindars, who are called proprietors in their Sanads of 1802, began to think that they were the owners of the soil. When they went to Courts in the early days the English judges gave decisions in their favour but later on some changes in the ideas of the judges also have come about, for instance, in 20 Madras and 23 Madras and so on. Then, Sir, some illustrious Indian judges, like Sir Subrahmanya Ayyar, began to say that this proprietorship in the permanent settlement is not the same as that prevailing in England. In England it is the feudal system whereas here it is the village community system. The villagers—the cultivators have their rights, and the permanent settlement has not specifically destroyed them. But the zamindars have

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become too powerful and begun to suppress the rights of the villagers and have taken possession of all the forests, tanks, etc., in the village so much so, the peasants, artisans and others became helpless. After 106 years, the Estates Land Act has come but it has only conferred permanent occupancy right with the existing rates of rent on the cultivating ryot for cultivating land. In regard to the other things under the Estates Land Act, it is extremely doubtful whether the peasants had any rights in regard to grazing and other amenities in the forests. Pastures and forests have been practically given over to the zamindars; mines also were given to the zamindars—zamindars, aghaharamdars and mokhasadors have all been given the same tenures under the permanent settlement. So in all these states or proprietary villages, the condition of the ryots is very miserable; in regard to their amenities, they have to depend upon the mercies of these proprietors; sometimes they take money and give permits; but they are not allowed to use them and that is the precarious condition these ryots live under. Later on, when the ryots became conscious of their political, economic and social values in society, they began to assert themselves and so on. Now, Sir, it is the declared policy of the Congress Government as per the Election Manifesto, to remove all these intermediaries between the peasant and the state—the zamindars, the aghaharamdars, the mokhasadors, jagirdars and all these dars—who are between the State and the peasant. And who the peasant is, should be a matter to be thought of later on—whether he is actually a cultivator or a pattadar. . . . I would urge on the Hon. Revenue Minister . . . "

* MR. F. FERRELLY:—"On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I know whether my hon. Friend is speaking on agriculture, land revenue or forests?"

* SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Forest is the fulcrum round which the whole of our Estates Land Act has to be built up. Forests, tanks and all these things go together. They are the amenities without which lands are useless and cultivation worthless. Therefore, I am speaking on forests and forests alone. That is the reply that I can give to my European Friend.

"Sir, there is the question of absentee ryots, etc., which might be taken up later on. But I would urge upon the Hon. Revenue Minister to take up this question of the peasants in proprietary villages immediately because it is an urgent problem. No doubt, I think he is also in a hurry about it. Now I want to draw his pointed attention to an emergent situation that has arisen in Kistna and in the other neighbouring districts. The position is that in all proprietary villages whether they are zamindaris, or aghaharams, including the zamindari of Mukhtiyal about which my hon. Friend, Pillamarri Venkateswarlu seems to be keen the proprietors are in a hurry and because they know they are going to be removed, they therefore cut down trees and sell them away, and they take the help of new-comers to remove the forests and cultivate the land. As a result of this, there are incessant quarrels between the zamindars and the peasants, resulting in riots and bloodshed. This is the emergent situation to which I want to draw

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the attention of the Government, and I want them to take emergency measures to stop all this."

* SRI M. BAPINEEDU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the demand. Forests are the natural and the national assets of any country and upon forests depend rainfall, control of floods, and pasture. So far as our province is concerned, we never had any policy regarding forest control and forest administration, but we are having only deforestation of the forests and not reforestation. It was more so during war years when petrol had become insufficient and when it was used only for war purposes, the forests were used for supply charcoal to run buses and for fuel. I would therefore urge on the Government to chalk out a definite policy or a plan so that they can get facts and figures to show what varieties of timber are available in our forests and how much of fuel can be made available and for how many years they can supply. Sir, in the United States of America they have a plan according to which they can give you the total number of trees in all their forests and the amount of timber that they can supply. In the same manner, I would like our Government also to chalk out a plan in regard to forests, because they are an important factor and as I pointed out already, on them depend rainfall, prevention of floods and many other things. My friend Mr. Shetty has already pointed out the immediate necessity of introducing rotational grazing and I heartily support it because grazing is at present neglected. In the Ceded districts, Sir, we are not having fodder and I am told by my friends that as a result of this cattle are being sold away to the neighbouring districts. If only we have systematised and scientific pastures for a block of 500 acres with tanks, bulls, etc., and the dry cattle being brought in during the off-season, what amount of food and wealth could they contribute to society? You know, Sir, in a country like China, it is only after the denudation of the forests, floods came in and ruined the country; forests control the flood and the current and it is the forests that supply green manure. As such, we must have a systematic plan for the improvement of the forest wealth to enable greater supply of green manure. In western countries at present, there is a cry for green manures because scientific manures, such as sulphate of ammonia and other artificial manures are not found useful for the land but on the other hand detrimental. It is green manure that gives natural manure to the land. In these circumstances, we must apply our mind to see that green manure is supplied in more quantities to the farmers.

"We must also have what is called the 'tree-planting days' and everyone must plant trees on a particular day each year in the wider interests of the nation and that day should be fixed for the whole Province. This tree-planting will naturally lead to the improvement of other allied materials also.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Muniswami Pillai, has pointed out many other aspects of the forests problem. He drew particular attention to the preparation of camphor. When he was Minister, I remember with what great enthusiasm he brought a piece of camphor prepared from the leaves that were grown in his district. So, there is also a prospect in that direction.

"Another point, Sir, is that in the Agencies they are cutting down a lot of trees but not growing trees again. I suggest that the Government should take up a survey of the whole range of forests and find out what new trees we can introduce into this Province. In the United States, they send their men all over the world to find out what new trees they can import and grow in particular lands and in particular areas. Similarly, we must send our men from the Forest Department to other countries for the introduction of new trees and other new methods that are followed in those countries for the development of forests so that our forests may be improved a great deal.

"Sir, for teak and other important timber; we have at present to depend upon Burma. Burma to-day may be friendly with us. But since we are aiming at self-sufficiency we must try to be self-sufficient in the matter of good timber for our Province.

"In the agencies, we must pay particular attention to the hill tribes in the forests. Attention has been drawn by my hon. Friend, Mr. Muniswami Pillai, to this aspect of the question and I do heartily endorse what he has said in that direction.

"I once more urge on the Government to have a definite policy in regard to the Forest department and also in regard to planting trees because you find almost all the hills in the Province have been denuded of all trees, thus affecting the climate of the country, reducing rainfall and increasing the temperature of the land. With these few words, I once more support the demand."

* SRI PYDAH VENKATANARAYANA:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I find that Government are spending large amounts on milk powder and allied preserved foods. May I request the concerned Minister—I am sorry he is not here, rather the Hon. Revenue Minister is acting for the Hon. Forest Minister—to extend the necessary concessions and facilities to the public to get more grass, green leaves and other foliage to supplement the food for the cattle so that the milk-yielding capacity of the cattle will be greatly enhanced. Further, we need not waste large amounts on these preserved foods as the nutritional value in natural foods is much more than in preserved foods. I am also told that during war time forests were greatly disturbed and unless Government take immediate precautionary measures to preserve the forests and pursue a policy of re-afforestation, I am afraid the present resources may not be able to meet the public demand even for a few years to come. There is one more point, Sir, and that is in regard to certain hill tract areas in the forests of the Vizagapatam district. I mean Chintapalli and Lambasingi should be converted into summer resorts and Government should take necessary action on this matter. In order to give effect to that, they should bring forward anti-malarial operations and other things. Sir, the altitude of these places is between 2,000 and 3,000 feet above sea-level. The need for such health resorts is greatly felt in the northern districts."

* SRI K. T. KOSALARAMA NADAR:—"தலைவர் அவர்களே, இப்போது கொண்டுவரப்பட்டிருக்கும் டிமாண்டை ஆதரித்து நான் பேச விரும்பு 12-30 p.m.
கிறேன். யுத்த நெருக்கடியின் காரணமாகவும், விறகு பஞ்சத்தின் காரணமாகவும்,

[Sri K. T. Kosalarama Nadar] [16th August 1946]

மாகவும், காடுகளில் மரங்கள் வெட்டவேண்டிய நிர்ப்பந்தம் ஏற்பட்டதினால் விவசாயத்திற்கு மழை இல்லாமல் தண்ணீரில்லாமல் கஷ்டம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்பதை நாம் அறிவோம். இந்த நிலைமையில் கரியினால் ஒரு மோட்டார் வண்டிகளுக்கு அதிகமாக பெட்ரோலைச் சேகரித்துக்கொடுத்த கரிக்காகக் காடுகளிலுள்ள மரங்களை வெட்டி நாசஞ் செய்யாமலிருக்கும்படி ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டியது அத்தியாவசியமாகும். எனது நண்பர் ஸ்ரீ ஜி. முனுசாமி பிள்ளையவர்கள் முன்பு பாரஸ்ட் மந்திரியாக இருந்தபோது திருநெல்வேலி ஜில்லாவுக்கு வந்திருந்தார்கள். அங்கே திருச்செந்தூர் தாலுக்காவில் ரிசர்வ் பாரஸ்ட் குதிரை மொழித் தேரியிருக்கிறது. அது ஒரு மணற்பாங்கான பிரதேசம். அந்தப் பிரதேசத்தைச் சுற்றியுள்ள இடத்தில் அரைமைலுக்குள்ளாகவே, பல எரிகளிருக்கின்றன. அங்கே விவசாயத்திலே கேற்ற நிலம் இருக்கிறது. அதை ஸ்ரீ முனுசாமி பிள்ளையவர்கள் முன்பு பார்த்தார்கள். அந்த நிலத்தை அந்தப் பிரதேசத்திலுள்ள ஏழை ஜனங்களுக்கு எலத்தின் பேரிலோ, அல்லது நீண்டகால குத்தகையின் பேரிலோ கொடுத்தால், விவசாயத்தை அதிகரிக்கமுடியுமென்று அப்போது அவர்கள் உணர்ந்தார்கள். அப்போதே அவ்விதம் கொடுக்கப் படவேண்டுமென்று உத்தரவு போடப்பட்டது. ஆனால், துரப்பாக்கியவர்களாக அட்வைசர் அரசாங்கத்திலே அந்த உத்தரவு காற்றில் பறந்து விட்டது. இன்று அங்குள்ள ஜனங்கள் விவசாயம் செய்வதற்கு எவ்வளவு வேரோ முன்னுக்கு வருகிறார்கள். ஆனால், சர்க்கார் அதற்கு இணங்கவில்லை. இப்போதும் அந்த ஜனங்கள் மனுக்கள் போட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். “நாங்கள் அங்கு விவசாயம் செய்யச் சித்தமாக இருக்கிறோம். எங்களுக்கு நீண்டகால குத்தகைக்கு அந்த நிலத்தைக் கொடுங்கள்; அல்லது அதை எலத்திலே விடுங்கள்” என்று அவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். இவ்விதம் செய்வதினால், சர்க்காருக்கு எவ்வித நஷ்டமுமில்லை. இன்னும், அந்தப் பக்கத்திலே சவுக்கு மரத்தைப் பயிர் செய்ய ஜனங்கள் சித்தமாக இருக்கிறார்கள். முன்னால், கொடுக்கப்பட்ட ஒரு இடத்திலே வெகு அழகாக சவுக்கு மரத்தை ஜனங்கள் பயிர் செய்திருக்கின்றனர். ஆகவே, நீண்டகால குத்தகைக்கு அல்லது எலத்தின்மூலம் அந்த இடத்தைக் கொடுத்துவிடுவதன் விஷயமாக சர்க்கார் அதன் பாலிசியை உடனடியாகப் பிரகடனம் செய்யவேண்டும்.

“அடுத்தாற்போல், மலைகளிலேயுள்ள மரங்களை யுத்தத்தின் காரணமாக வெட்டி நாசஞ் செய்ததினால் இன்று குற்றாலத்திலே season எவ்வளவு மோசமாகப் போய்க்கொண்டு வருகிறது என்பது எல்லோருக்கும் தெரியும். இன்று விறகு பஞ்சம் காரணமாக மலைகளிலே யுள்ள மரங்களை யெல்லாம் வெட்டுகிறார்கள். இதனால், அந்த இடங்களில் மழையின்றி விவசாயம் பாதிக்கப்படுகிறது. ஆகவே, மலைகளின் மீதிருக்கும் மரங்கள் எந்தக்காரணத்தினாலும் வெட்டப்படக்கூடா தென்று சர்க்கார் உத்திரவு போடவேண்டும். விறகு, கரி பஞ்சத்தை நாம் எலெக்டிரிசிட்டி மூலமாகவோ, அல்லது வேறு வழிகளிலோ சரிப்படுத்திக் கொள்ளலாம்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக, பல அதிகாரிகள் அநேக வருஷங்கள் ஒரே ஜில்லா விலே வேலை பாக்கிறார்கள். அவ்விதம் அவர்கள் தொடர்ச்சியாக அதிக காலம் இருப்பதால், பொதுஜனங்களுடைய நன்மைக்கு எந்தக் காரியத்தையும் செய்வதாக எனக்கு தோன்றவில்லை.

“மற்றொரு விஷயம், எங்கள் ஜில்லாவில் குற்றாலத்திற்குப் பக்கத்தில் பாரெஸ்ட் எலம் 1943-ம் வருஷத்திலே விடப்பட்டது. 300 ரூபாய்க்கு அதிகமாக எலம்கேட்ட ஒரு நபருக்கு அந்த எலத்தைவிடாமல், 134 ரூபாய்க்கு எலம் கேட்ட ஹார்வி மில் ஏஜெண்டுக்கு அது விடப்பட்டது. எலம் அதிகமான தொகையைக் கொடுக்கிறவர்களுக்குத்தான் கொடுக்கப்படவேண்டும். ஆனால் இவ்விஷயத்தில் அவ்விதம் செய்யப்படவில்லை. அவ்விதம் குறைந்த தொகைக்கு எலத்திற்கு விட்டவர்தான் இன்னும் அங்கே பாரெஸ்ட் ஆபீஸராக இருக்கிறார். ஆகையால், ஆங்காங்குள்ள ஒன்று, இரண்டு வருஷங்களுக்குமேல் ஒரே இடத்திலுள்ள எல்லா அதிகாரிகளையும் மாற்றிவிடவேண்டுமென்று நான் சர்க்காரைக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டு என்னுடைய பேச்சை முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

[5th August 1946]

[Sri A. Rayappa]

* SRI A. RAYAPPA:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the demand brought forward by the Hon. Minister for Forests. Sir, we should not forget the fact that forests stand as the backbone for several industries in India. In Southern India, tanning industry is one of the most important industries. For tanning skins, we require raila bark and tangedu bark. We have been tanning skins by means of these barks. In the meantime, there came the wattle bark from South Africa and thousands of bales of this bark are being imported every year into India; because the essence of this bark is proved to be practically stronger than the essence of the tangedu and the raila barks put together. The price of wattle bark to-day is considerably cheaper because the Government have controlled its price. Though it has been controlled at Rs. 225 per ton—I am telling you from yesterday's report—it was sold in the black-market at Rs. 600 odd in Periamet, Madras. In order to help the tanning industry, Government should arrange for the plantation of these wattle trees in forests wherever possible in India and particularly in this Province, and if we do not take to it in time, I am afraid we have to fall back upon the indigenous tangedu and raila bark and we have to depend upon foreign material. Therefore, I suggest to the Government to plant wattle bark trees and thus enable the tanneries to improve in Southern India.

“In the Anantapur district, Sir, there are two forests, one is at Nagasamudram, in the Gooty taluk, and the other at Bukkapatnam in the Penukonda taluk. Originally, they were decorated with all sorts of plants and trees but now you see mere stones and earth in the hills and the forests. The Forest department should plant all sorts of trees, so that when they grow up, they will be of immense help to the ryots. They may also attract clouds which will bring more rainfall. Sir, the banks of the river Pennar in our district are being washed away year after year and the lands on either side of the river there become unfit for cultivation due to deposit of sand drifts. I therefore suggest to Government that big trees may be arranged to be planted on either side of the river bank so that the lands may be destroyed but brought always under cultivation.”

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—“Sir, I wish to make a few observations with this request to you, Sir, that we should be helped in our debates on the demands in the following days if Ministers will come forward with positive statements of policy. I want them to state, for instance, what are the targets they have fixed for themselves for achievement, so that we might, in the coming year, measure the achievement against the effort. Let them now give us on this demand the information as to what amount of work they are going to put on teak or wattle plantations and I would even say, on small things like tamarind, which are as important as teak and which are likely to be forgotten. Sir, I want also to draw the attention of the House to the fact that it is far more easy to assess and judge the result of the work only if a constructive policy is placed before us.

[Sri N. S. Varadachari]

[16th August 1946]

“ Regarding forests, generally, I have only a few words to say. War has come upon the forests as a big scourge and it has helped to bring about a tremendous denudation of forests, which has taken place during the last four or five years; immature teak has had ruthlessly to be cut down in areas which were not easily traversed even on elephant's back; areas have been exploited in a manner that would have been impossible to think of before the war. It is therefore our duty to put back all the wealth that we have stolen from these forests for the sake of carrying on the war. I want Government to show the same zeal and industry which they have shown in denuding these forests in the matter of re-planting and re-afforestation of these areas. The problem to-day does not merely affect timber but affects also fuel. There are very many fuel forests in our country which can supply big cities like Madras, Madurai and Coimbatore, for instance. We must therefore pay immediate attention to this aspect of the problem. The expedition with which coupes are cut and the rapidity with which supplies are rushed to the cities make it impossible to keep pace with afforestation. In this matter we have to acquire new areas. Forests in panchayat areas should be immediately taken over by the Forest department for this very purpose of improving our fuel position. They may not perhaps be suitable for being converted into timber forests but they may be eminently suitable for purposes of fuel forests. I would suggest vast areas of casuarina plantations being undertaken along our coastal belt beginning in the area round about Madras and extending up to Vedaranyam in the Tanjore district. Let casuarina be planted on a large scale so as to help the fuel supply of this Province. That is a very important need.

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p.m.

“ There is the second thing to be attended to, namely, the collection of hay and fodder for the use of cattle. It is more important than fuel supply but it is likely to be forgotten. The policy of the Government concerning fodder and hay must be stated in this House here and now. I would like to know what the Forest department is doing to collect hay and fodder and keep them in reserve for use during scarcity seasons and that is a question which demands our immediate attention.

“ The only thing that has to be done to rehabilitate our forest wealth is first to extend the areas under forests. With that end in view, I suggest to the Hon. the Premier that he takes over to the State all the zamindari forests in this country and particularly those which are easily available, namely those in the hands of public institutions. The Tirupati Devasthanam's forests, for example, would be valuable for the fuel supply for the City of Madras, in the future and these must be forthwith taken over. We should not allow in these areas a single tree to be cut; and people must not be allowed to get away saying that the trees are in the area in which they live and that they might cut them for making ploughs with or for making rafters for their houses. Forests have suffered dreadfully during the past because of our utter neglect. I made a suggestion years ago that areas suitable

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[Sri N. S. Varadachari]

for teak plantation in the Tinnevely and Malabar districts under the zamindaris there might be immediately taken over. Mr. Speaker, the area under forests differ considerably. Those who know forestry will tell you that areas in the south are far more fitted for being developed into timber forests than, say, the areas in the Ceded districts or in Chittoor district which are eminently fit for raising fuel coupes. We must put back into the forests what we have taken from them and no purpose will be served by saying that people's rights are there and nothing could be done. If each man in a zamindari area begins to cut a tree for his use, the result will be dreadful. Unless the State takes over all the forests and works them on a systematic and scientific plan, there will never be any hope of adding more areas under forests.

“ I wish to say a few words upon expenditure on forests. I notice, Sir, that all the forest divisions that we had cut down have been restored; I do not know if all the Conservators' divisions have been restored. I understand the importance of retaining certain divisions, for instance, the Working Plans Division and I, for one, would maintain it. There are several items of expenditure which are being added from year to year and I am asked in this House to vote 74 lakhs of rupees for Forests. I want a thorough scrutiny of this expenditure and I wish to know if the staff employed is commensurate with the work set before them. I do not mind one crore of rupees being spent upon Forests, but I wish to know if it is all for enriching our forests; I wish to know your programme; how much fuel you are going to raise; how many timber plantations you are going to maintain and how much bamboo you are going to raise in the forests. Bamboo has been much in requisition in the war years for it was required for war purposes. My hon. Friend Mr. Natesan complained that he has not been able to get wooden poles. At one time he did not take so much interest in wooden poles; he is now unable to obtain metal poles and that is why he comes to the forest for wooden poles. I want him and other people to take a pledge from now that hereafter they will largely use wooden poles for electricity transmission lines. If the programmes, I have briefly outlined were put into effect, forest would be a source of inexhaustible source of national wealth. You can take something out of it year after year. Look after this hen laying eggs with care and it will give you eggs; but if you kill it, the eggs too will disappear; and the whole country will suffer.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ Mr. Ponnuswami Goundar.”

* SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOWNDER:—“ Mr. Speaker, looking at this Forest Budget, under the major head, I find there are a number of minor items (a) to (d). I cannot understand why more details have not been given.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ I called upon Mr. Ponnuswami Gounder to speak.”

[16th August 1946]

* **SRI V. PONNUSWAMI GOUNDER** :—“தலைவரவர்களே, இப்பொழுது யுத்தம் முடிந்த இந்தக் காலத்திலும்கூட காடுகளிலிருந்து சர்க்காருக்கு திருப்திகரமான வருமானமோ விவசாயிகளுக்கு உபயோகமோ கிடைக்காமலிருக்கின்றது. காரணம் என்னவெனில் முன்பு ஸ்ரீமான் கோஸ்லராம் அவர்களுக்கூட தெரிவித்தார்கள்; யுத்தம் காரணமாக மரங்களை வெட்டிக்கரியை உற்பத்தி செய்து காட்டை அழித்துவிட்டார்களென்றும்; அது மட்டுமில்லை இப்பொழுதும் கூட அதே மாதிரிதான் நடந்துவருகிறது. அதனால் காடு அநியாயமாக அழிந்தேபோய்விடுகிறது. நம் காட்டிலுள்ள உபயோகமான விருகங்கள் அதாவது புங்கைமரம், புளியமரம், விளாமரம், பூவாங்காய்மரம், சாய மரங்கள், இவைகளெல்லாம் வெட்டப்படுகின்றன. அந்த மரங்களை வெட்டி நஷ்டத்தை ஏற்படுத்திக்கொள்வதுடன் காடும் அழிந்துவிடுகின்றது, ஆகவே அந்தப் பிரயோசனமான மரங்களை வெட்டக் கூடாதென ஏற்பாடு செய்ய சர்க்கார் முன்வரவேண்டும்.

“இன்னொரு விசேஷம், எங்கள் தாலாகாவில், அதாவது திருப்பத்தூர் தாலாகாவில் கங்குந்தி சமஸ்தானத்தைச் சேர்ந்த காடு பரவி இருக்கிறது. அந்தக் காடு அநேகமாக இப்பொழுது அழிந்தேபோய்விடுகிறது. எங்கும் அழிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அது அழிந்ததிலிருந்து அநேக நஷ்டம் என்பதை சர்க்காருடைய கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டு வருகிறேன். முன்பு சர்க்கார் உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் பாலாற்றுத்தண்ணீர் குறைந்திருப்பதற்குக் காரணம் என்னவென்று விசாரணைக் கமிட்டி ஏற்படுத்திச் செய்த காலத்தில் மைசூர் சமஸ்தானத்தில் தடைப்பட்டிருக்கும் தண்ணீர் தடை மட்டுமல்ல கங்குந்தி ஜமீன் காட்டில் காடு அழிக்கப்பட்டதிலிருந்தும் அந்தத் தடை ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதுதான் தண்ணீர்ப்பஞ்சத்திற்கு முக்கியமான காரணமாயுள்ளது. அதனால் அந்தக் காட்டை ஸ்ரீமான் செய்யவேண்டுமென்றும் தெரிவித்திருக்கிறார்கள். காட்டு அடிபாகங்களில், அதாவது காடு ஓரங்களில் சாகுபடிக்கு நிலங்களைப்பட்டாக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் என்ன செய்துகொண்டிருக்கிறார்களென்றால் காடு ஓரங்களிலிருக்கும் கால் நடைகள் மேச்சலுக்குப் போய்க்கொண்டிருந்த வழிகளில் லாம் அடைப்பட்டுப்போய்க்கொண்டிருக்கின்றன. அது எல்லாவற்றையும் அந்தப் பட்டாதார்கள் ஆக்கிரமித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவைகளை அவர்கள் சுவாதீனம் செய்துகொள்ளாதவாறு ஏற்பாடு செய்துகொள்ள வேண்டும். இல்லையெல் அந்தக் காட்டு அடிவாரங்களிலிருக்கும் பட்டாதார்கள் ஜனங்கள் பிரவேசிக்க முடியாமல் வழியை அடைத்துவைத்து விடுவார்கள். திருப்பத்தூர் தாலாகாவில் சில கிராமங்களில் காடுகளெல்லாம் தரிசாகக் கிடைக்கின்றன. எப்படித் தரிசாய்க்கக்கூடுமென்றால் காட்டிலிருந்து எந்தவிதமான வருமானமும் இல்லாமல் எந்தவிதமான ஒரு மேய்ச்சலுக்கும் புல்லுக்கூட இல்லாமல் லாயக்கற்றிருக்கும் இடங்களைச் சொல்லுகின்றேன். சர்க்காருக்குச் சொந்தமான காடுகளை சர்க்கார் பார்வையிடும் ஜமீன்தார், மிட்டாதார் இவர்களுக்குச் சொந்தமான காடுகளைச் சொல்லுகிறேன். மிட்டாதார் என்றால் மிராசுதார் அல்ல, சின்ன ஜமீன்தாரர்களென்று அர்த்தம். தலைவரவர்களே, அந்த இடங்களை பக்கத்து கிராமங்களில் நிலமே இல்லாத விவசாயிகளுக்கும், குறிப்பாக ஹரி ஜனங்களுக்கும், பட்டாக் கொடுத்தால் நிலவரியாவது கிடைக்கும். நிலவரி கிடைப்பது மட்டுமல்ல, உணவுப் பஞ்சமும் ஒரு வகையில் நிவர்த்தியாகும். ஆகவே அந்தக்காடு விஷயத்தைப்பற்றி சர்க்கார் இவை எல்லாவற்றையும் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொண்டு இதை நான் நிறுத்துக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன்.”

* **SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER** :—“Sir, I began with the suggestion to the Hon. the Minister for Forests that some more details might be given, so that the revenue derived from fuel and coupe may be separately shown and the public may be in a position to understand where they stand in the matter of the sale of fuel and the revenue derived therefrom and so also from grazing, etc. Timber supply is an important matter but I feel that the supply of fuel is equally, if not more, important.

[16th August 1946]

[Sri V. C. Palaniswami Gounder]

We know the acute position about fuel; we can live without timber but we cannot live without fuel. Grazing is equally important for it is connected with cattle and manure. Manure is a great problem nowadays. Of course, the Government are making arrangements for the supply of groundnut cakes and sulphate of ammonia and such other chemical manures. But the Department of Agriculture does not minimize the importance of farmyard manure as it is also very suitable for agriculture. In order to improve the manure position, an agriculturist has to maintain several heads of cattle and for grazing them, he must have vast areas of grazing lands. He cannot afford to feed all his cattle on fodder. There are certain areas where to a limited extent fodder can be grown for maintaining the cattle with; but there are other areas where he cannot command all the facilities, namely grazing lands. For maintaining the cattle in such cases, grazing lands are absolutely necessary. In these days of increased population and diminishing supply of food crops, we look upon the forest to help the ryot in the matter of grazing lands. Government must make special arrangements for grazing facilities for cattle without detriment to fuel coupes and timber plantations. Now, Sir, graziers are put to a lot of inconvenience and trouble at the hands of forest subordinates. I request the Hon. Minister in charge of Forest to levy only a small grazing or fuel fee. I also plead for improving grazing areas by allotting special areas for the purpose of rotational grazing and for water-supply to the cattle. I know in Coimbatore district, in Satyamangalam forest area, there are plenty of dry lands, where during summer, graziers are not able to find water for their cattle. The Forest Department must make it a point, wherever possible, to dig wells or tanks and thus afford water supply for cattle.

“Now, Sir, the Forest Department is following a policy of regeneration. Of course, regeneration is absolutely necessary. There are vast tracts of hills and plains, where you can do away with shrubs and jungles and carry on afforestation, planting with such forest species which will serve both as fuel as well as green-leaf-manure. At present, the Forest Department lease out these areas on a contract system for cutting leaves for green-leaf-manure to contractors. Sir, the period of contract should be so adjusted as to be helpful to the ryot in the matter of utilizing green leaves as manure in the proper cultivation season. This is my own humble suggestion, Sir, and I hope it will receive sympathetic consideration. (At this stage the Speaker rang the bell.) Another point, Sir, as regards manure, of course compost manure can be very easily made in forest areas, where lot of green and dry leaves go to waste and where they could be easily collected and converted into compost manure. At present collection of leaves, both green and dry, is not freely allowed in forest areas. I understand, Sir, in South Kanara, from what my friend Sri A. B. Shetty said, that ryots have been given concessions there. From the forest point of view, I do not know whether the Forest Department will generally approve of that.”

[16th August 1946]

* **SRI V. PONNUSWAMI GOUNDER** :—“ தலைவரவர்களே, இப்பொழுது யுத்தம் முடிந்த இந்தக் காலத்திலும்கூட காடுகளிலிருந்து சர்க்காருக்கு திருப்திகரமான வருமானமோ விவசாயிகளுக்கு உபயோகமோ கிடைக்காமலிருக்கின்றது. காரணம் என்னவெனில் முன்பு ஸ்ரீமான் கோசல்ராம் அவர்களுக்கூட தெரிவித்தார்கள்; யுத்தம் காரணமாக மரங்களை வெட்டிக்களியை உற்பத்தி செய்து காட்டை அழித்துவிட்டார்களென்று; அது மட்டுமில்லை இப்பொழுதும் கூட அதே மாதிரிதான் நடந்துவருகிறது. அதனால் காடு அநியாயமாக அழிந்தேபோய்விடுகிறது. நம் காட்டிலுள்ள உபயோகமான விருகங்கள் அதாவது புங்கைமரம், புளியமரம், விளாமரம், பூவாங்காய்மரம், சாய மரங்கள், இவைகளெல்லாம் வெட்டப்படுகின்றன. அந்த மரங்களை வெட்டி நஷ்டத்தை ஏற்படுத்திக்கொள்வதுடன் காடும் அழிந்துவிடுகின்றது, ஆகவே அந்தப் பிரயோசனமான மரங்களை வெட்டக் கூடாதென ஏற்பாடு செய்ய சர்க்கார் முன்வரவேண்டும்.

“இன்னொரு விசேஷம், எங்கள் தாலுகாவில், அதாவது திருப்பத்தூர் தாலுகாவில் கங்குந்தி சமஸ்தானத்தைச் சேர்ந்த காடு பரவி இருக்கிறது. அந்தக் காடு அநேகமாக இப்பொழுது அழிந்தேபோயிருக்கிறது. எங்கும் அழிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அது அழிந்ததிலிருந்து அநேக நஷ்டம் என்பதை சர்க்காருடைய கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவருகிறேன். முன்பு சர்க்கார் உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் பாலாற்றுத்தண்ணீர் குறைந்திருப்பதற்குக் காரணம் என்னவென்று விசாரணைக் கமிட்டி ஏற்படுத்திச் செய்த காலத்தில் மைசூர் சமஸ்தானத்தில் தடைப்பட்டிருக்கும் தண்ணீர் தடை மட்டுமல்ல கங்குந்தி ஜமீன் காட்டில் காடு அழிக்கப்பட்டதிலிருந்தும் அந்தத் தடை ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதுதான் தண்ணீர்ப்பஞ்சத்திற்கு முக்கியமான காரணமாயுள்ளது. அதனால் அந்தக் காட்டை ஸ்மரகூளை செய்யவேண்டுமென்றும் தெரிவித்திருக்கிறார்கள். காட்டு அடி பாகங்களில், அதாவது காடு ஓரங்களில் சாகுபடிக்கு நிலங்களைப்பட்டாக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் என்ன செய்துகொண்டிருக்கிறார்களென்றால் காடு ஓரங்களிலிருக்கும் கால் நடைகள் மேச்சலுக்குப் போய்க்கொண்டிருந்த வழிகளெல்லாம் அடைப்பட்டுப்போய்க்கொண்டிருக்கின்றன. அது எல்லாவற்றையும் அந்தப் பட்டாதார்கள் ஆக்கிரமித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவைகளை அவர்கள் சவாதீனம் செய்துகொள்ளாதவாறு ஏற்பாடு செய்துகொள்ள வேண்டும். இல்லையெல் அந்தக் காட்டு அடிவாரங்களிலிருக்கும் பட்டாதார்கள் ஜனங்கள் பிரவேசிக்க முடியாமல் வழியை அடைத்துவைத்து விடுவார்கள். திருப்பத்தூர் தாலுகாவில் சில கிராமங்களில் காடு களெல்லாம் தரிசாகக் கிடைக்கின்றன. எப்படித் தரிசாய்க்கிடக்கிறதென்றால் காட்டிலிருந்து எந்தவிதமான வருமானமும் இல்லாமல் எந்த விதமான ஒரு மேய்ச்சலுக்கும் புல்லுகூட இல்லாமல் லாயக்கற்றிருக்கும் இடங்களைச் சொல்லுகின்றேன். சர்க்காருக்குச் சொந்தமான காடுகளை சர்க்கார் பார்வையிடும் ஜமீன்தார், மிட்டாதார் இவர்களுக்குச் சொந்தமான காடுகளைச் சொல்லுகிறேன். மிட்டாதார் என்றால் மிராசுதார் அல்ல, சின்ன ஜமீன்தாரர்களென்று அர்த்தம். தலைவரவர்களே, அந்த இடங்களை பக்கத்து கிராமங்களில் நிலமே இல்லாத விவசாயிகளுக்கும், குறிப்பாக ஹரி ஜனங்களுக்கும், பட்டாக் கொடுத்தால் நிலவரியாவது கிடைக்கும். நிலவரி கிடைப்பது மட்டுமல்ல, உணவுப் பஞ்சமும் ஒரு வகையில் நிவர்த்தியாகும். ஆகவே அந்தக்காடு விஷயத்தைப்பற்றி சர்க்கார் இவை எல்லாவற்றையும் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொண்டு இதை நான் நிறுத்துக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன்.”

* **SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOWNDER** :—“ Sir, I began with the suggestion to the Hon. the Minister for Forests that some more details might be given, so that the revenue derived from fuel and coupe may be separately shown and the public may be in a position to understand where they stand in the matter of the sale of fuel and the revenue derived therefrom and so also from grazing, etc. Timber supply is an important matter but I feel that the supply of fuel is equally, if not more, important.

[16th August 1946]

[Sri V. C. Palaniswami Gounder]

We know the acute position about fuel; we can live without timber but we cannot live without fuel. Grazing is equally important for it is connected with cattle and manure. Manure is a great problem nowadays. Of course, the Government are making arrangements for the supply of groundnut cakes and sulphate of ammonia and such other chemical manures. But the Department of Agriculture does not minimize the importance of farm-yard manure as it is also very suitable for agriculture. In order to improve the manure position, an agriculturist has to maintain several heads of cattle and for grazing them, he must have vast areas of grazing lands. He cannot afford to feed all his cattle on fodder. There are certain areas where to a limited extent fodder can be grown for maintaining the cattle with; but there are other areas where he cannot command all the facilities, namely grazing lands. For maintaining the cattle in such cases, grazing lands are absolutely necessary. In these days of increased population and diminishing supply of food crops, we look upon the forest to help the ryot in the matter of grazing lands. Government must make special arrangements for grazing facilities for cattle without detriment to fuel coupes and timber plantations. Now, Sir, graziers are put to a lot of inconvenience and trouble at the hands of forest subordinates. I request the Hon. Minister in charge of Forest to levy only a small grazing or fuel fee. I also plead for improving grazing areas by allotting special areas ^{1 p.m.} for the purpose of rotational grazing and for water-supply to the cattle. I know in Coimbatore district, in Satyamangalam forest area, there are plenty of dry lands, where during summer, graziers are not able to find water for their cattle. The Forest Department must make it a point, wherever possible, to dig wells or tanks and thus afford water supply for cattle.

“ Now, Sir, the Forest Department is following a policy of regeneration. Of course, regeneration is absolutely necessary. There are vast tracts of hills and plains, where you can do away with shrubs and jungles and carry on afforestation, planting with such forest species which will serve both as fuel as well as green-leaf-manure. At present, the Forest Department lease out these areas on a contract system for cutting leaves for green-leaf-manure to contractors. Sir, the period of contract should be so adjusted as to be helpful to the ryot in the matter of utilizing green leaves as manure in the proper cultivation season. This is my own humble suggestion, Sir, and I hope it will receive sympathetic consideration. (At this stage the Speaker rang the bell.) Another point, Sir, as regards manure, of course compost manure can be very easily made in forest areas, where lot of green and dry leaves go to waste and where they could be easily collected and converted into compost manure. At present collection of leaves, both green and dry, is not freely allowed in forest areas. I understand, Sir, in South Kanara, from what my friend Sri A. B. Shetty said, that ryots have been given concessions there. From the forest point of view, I do not know whether the Forest Department will generally approve of that.”

[Mr. V. C. Palaniswami Gounder.] [16th August 1946]

* MR. SPEAKER:—"You have taken more than the allotted time. Please resume your seat."

* SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOWNDER:—"With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat."

* SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to make a few observations on the administration of Forest Department. Of course I support the demand under this head. However, with the meagre information that is placed before us, it is difficult to assess the work of the department. The Forest Department, as it is constituted to-day, is one of the most idle and corrupt departments that I can specify. I think the Forest Act was framed in 1882, and the antediluvian character of that Act has to be closely scrutinized, and a new orientation of our forest policy has to be urgently enunciated. Unless this is speedily done, I am afraid, we cannot get any useful and efficient work done by that department. As it is, the Forest Department consists of officials who are not only idle, but more tyrannical than zamindars, against whom some of my friends complained the other day on the floor of this house. Without the enunciation of a clear cut policy and programme, it is very difficult to say whether the sums that have been allotted under this demand will be usefully spent for the good of the people. It is for this reason, Sir, I said that the antediluvian character of the Forest Act, under which this department now works, should be scrutinized."

"Sir, I come from the unfortunate Ceded districts, which have been experiencing, for the last century and more, continuous famine on account of dis-afforestation of forests. I think it was in 1902-03 that the Indian Irrigation Commission visited Madras and conducted an enquiry into the irrigation conditions in this Province. As a result, they remarked that the continual failure of rainfall in the Deccan, was partly due to the dis-afforestation of forests in the Ceded districts. Sandur State and large areas in Bellary district had vast forests, but on account of indiscriminate dis-afforestation Bellary district is subject to frequent famines. Fortunately, in Kurnool district we are still left with very good forest and that is the reason why we see portions of Kurnool district free from famine now, whereas Anantapur and Bellary districts are experiencing famine. The fact that we are continually subject to famines must be an eye-opener to Government, to see the urgent need for a reform in forest administration. So, I submit Government must take up an active programme of afforestation immediately and thereby promote increased rainfall. Unless this is done, I am afraid, the Ceded districts cannot be protected from famine. There is another method of protecting those districts from famine, and that is by irrigation. Increased rainfall and irrigation constitute the two ways by which these districts can be protected from famine. Without sufficient rainfall we cannot have any useful irrigation schemes. So the two aspects of the problem are intertwined and must be carefully borne in mind."

16th August 1946]

[Sri N. Venkatasubbayya.]

"Having said that, I cannot omit certain other aspects of the problem also that need immediate attention. Forests form the backbone of our existence, economic as well as agricultural, and therefore the wealth of the forests must be closely and carefully protected. Supply of fuel and green-leaf-manure and such other articles as are of help to the ryots in their day-to-day agricultural operations must be ensured so that we can get from forests the maximum benefit possible . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has exceeded his time limit. He will please resume his seat."

* SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat."

SRI MATHI LAKSHMI AMMAL:—"அக்கிராசனாதிபதியவர்களே, காட்டிலாகா விஷயத்தில் நான் அதிகம் பேசவேண்டுமென்று நினைக்கவில்லை. இருந்தாலும் ஒன்றிரண்டு விஷயங்களைமாதிரம் சொல்லிவிட்டு நிறுத்திக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். எனது நண்பர் ஸ்ரீமான் கோசல்ராம் அவர்கள் பேசும்போது, விறகுக்காகக் காட்டிலே அநேக மரங்கள் வெட்டப்படுகின்றன என்று சொன்னார்கள் அதோடு அம்மாதிரி அனுமதிக்கக் கூடாதென்பதையும் எடுத்துச் சொன்னார்கள். இப்போது எப்படி உணவுப் பஞ்சம் இருக்கிறதோ, உணவுக்காக நாம் எவ்வளவு கஷ்டப்படுகின்றோமோ, அவ்வளவு கஷ்டம் விறகு விஷயத்திலும் இன்று இருக்கிறதென்பதை சர்க்கார் தெரிந்துகொள்ளவேண்டும். இன்று விறகு கள்ளமாரக்கெட்டிலே அதிகமாக விற்கப்படுகிறதென்பதையும் சர்க்கார் தெரிந்துகொள்ள வேண்டும். நம்முடைய மாகாணத்திலே அதிலும் முக்கியமாக திருநெல்வேலி ஜில்லாவிலே மலைகள் அதிகம் இருக்கின்றன. அப்படிப்பட்ட ஜில்லாவில் டன் ஒன்றுக்கு ரூ. 40, ரூ. 45 என்று விறகு விற்கப்படுகிறது. 'கவான் மெண்டார் நிர்ணயித்துள்ள விலை ரூ. 26 ஆக இருக்கும்போது ஏன் அதிக விலைக்கு விற்கிறார்கள்,' என்று கேட்டால், 'நாங்கள் அதிக தொகைக்கு ஏலம் எடுத்திருக்கிறோம். அதிக விலைக்கு விற்காவிட்டால் நஷ்டமாகிவிடுகிறது,' என்று அவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். அங்கேயுள்ள பாரஸ்டு ஆபீஸர் யார் அதிகமான தொகையைக் கொடுக்கிறார்களோ அவர்களுக்கு ஏலத்தை விடுவதாகச் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. ஆனால், இதே சமயத்தில் என்னுடைய நண்பர் கோசல்ராம் அவர்கள் சொன்னபடி ரூ. 300-க்கு ஏலம் கேட்டவருக்கு விடாமல் ரூ. 134-க்கு ஹார்வி மில்லுக்கு விட்டிருப்பது வாஸ்தவம். அம்மாதிரி அனுமதித்தது தப்பென்று நான் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ஆகையால் ஹார்வி மில்லுக்கு விட்ட மாதிரியே குறைந்த தொகைக்கு ஏலத்தைப் பொது ஜனங்களுக்கு விட்டிருந்தால், விறகை அதிக விலைக்கு கள்ள மாரக்கெட்டில் விற்காதபடி சர்க்கார் நிர்ணயித்துள்ள ரூ. 26-க்கே விற்கும்படியாகச் செய்திருக்கலாம். இதைக் காட்டிலாகா மந்திரி அவர்கள் முக்கியமாகக் கவனிக்கவேண்டுமென்று நான் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். எனது நண்பர் ஸ்ரீமான் பழனிசாமி கவுண்டர் அவர்களும் இந்த விறகு விஷயத்தைப் பற்றிக் கூறியுள்ளார். இன்றைக்கு எங்கும் விறகு பஞ்சம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. எங்களுடைய ஜில்லாவில் சென்ற வாரத்திலே 400 ஏக்கர ஏலத்திற்கு விட்டார்கள். அதை இப்போது கவான்மென்ட் மதிப்பு போட்டிருப்பதுபடி ஏலத்திற்கு விட்டால் 'Contractor'-கள் ஜனங்களுக்கு செளகரியமாக விறகை வெட்டிக்கொடுக்க முடியும் என்று நான் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறேன்."

"அதோடு கால் நடைகளுக்கு மேய்ச்சலைப்பற்றி நாம் கவனிக்க வேண்டியது மிகவும் அவசியம். இதைப்பற்றி அநேக நண்பர்கள் இங்கே தெரிவித்துவிட்டார்கள். கால் நடைகள் விவசாயத்திற்கு அত্যாவசியம். ஆகவே மேய்ச்சலுக்கென்று தனியாக நிலம் ஒதுக்கப்படவேண்டும். இது விஷயத்தை காட்டிலாகா பஞ்சாயத்து போர்டின் அதிகாரத்திற்கு விட்டால், அவர்கள் காடுகளில் மேயும் மாடுகளை பவுண்டில் (pound) அடைத்து விடுகிறார்கள். மாடுகள் மேய்வதற்கு வேண்டிய செளகரியம் செய்து கொடுக்கவேண்டியது அரசாங்கத்தின் கடமையாகும்."

[Mr. V. C. Palaniswami Gounder] [16th August 1946]

* MR. SPEAKER:—"You have taken more than the allotted time. Please resume your seat."

* SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—"With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat."

* SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to make a few observations on the administration of Forest Department. Of course I support the demand under this head. However, with the meagre information that is placed before us, it is difficult to assess the work of the department. The Forest Department, as it is constituted to-day, is one of the most idle and corrupt departments that I can specify. I think the Forest Act was framed in 1882, and the antediluvian character of that Act has to be closely scrutinized, and a new orientation of our forest policy has to be urgently enunciated. Unless this is speedily done, I am afraid, we cannot get any useful and efficient work done by that department. As it is, the Forest Department consists of officials who are not only idle, but more tyrannical than zamindars, against whom some of my friends complained the other day on the floor of this house. Without the enunciation of a clear cut policy and programme, it is very difficult to say whether the sums that have been allotted under this demand will be usefully spent for the good of the people. It is for this reason, Sir, I said that the antediluvian character of the Forest Act, under which this department now works, should be scrutinized."

"Sir, I come from the unfortunate Ceded districts, which have been experiencing, for the last century and more, continuous famine on account of dis-afforestation of forests. I think it was in 1902-03 that the Indian Irrigation Commission visited Madras and conducted an enquiry into the irrigation conditions in this Province. As a result, they remarked that the continual failure of rainfall in the Deccan, was partly due to the dis-afforestation of forests in the Ceded districts. Sandur State and large areas in Bellary district had vast forests, but on account of indiscriminate dis-afforestation Bellary district is subject to frequent famines. Fortunately, in Kurnool district we are still left with very good forest and that is the reason why we see portions of Kurnool district free from famine now, whereas Anantapur and Bellary districts are experiencing famine. The fact that we are continually subject to famines must be an eye-opener to Government, to see the urgent need for a reform in forest administration. So, I, submit Government must take up an active programme of afforestation immediately and thereby promote increased rainfall. Unless this is done, I am afraid, the Ceded districts cannot be protected from famine. There is another method of protecting those districts from famine, and that is by irrigation. Increased rainfall and irrigation constitute the two ways by which these districts can be protected from famine. Without sufficient rainfall we cannot have any useful irrigation schemes. So the two aspects of the problem are intertwined and must be carefully borne in mind."

[Sri N. Venkatasubbayya] [16th August 1946]

"Having said that, I cannot omit certain other aspects of the problem also that need immediate attention. Forests form the backbone of our existence, economic as well as agricultural, and therefore the wealth of the forests must be closely and carefully protected. Supply of fuel and green-leaf-manure and such other articles as are of help to the ryots in their day-to-day agricultural operations must be ensured so that we can get from forests the maximum benefit possible . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has exceeded his time limit. He will please resume his seat."

* SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat."

SRI MATHI LAKSHMI AMMAL:—"அக்கிராசனாதிபதியவர்களே, காட்டிலாகா விஷயத்தில் நான் அதிகம் பேசவேண்டுமென்று நினைக்கவில்லை. இருந்தாலும் ஒன்றிரண்டு விஷயங்களை மாதிரும் சொல்லிவிட்டு நிறுத்திக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். எனது நண்பர் ஸ்ரீமான் கோசல்ராம் அவர்கள் பேசும்போது, விறகுக்காகக் காட்டிலே அநேக மரங்கள் வெட்டப்படுகின்றன என்று சொன்னார்கள் அதோடு அம்மாதிரி அனுமதிக்கக் கூடாதென்பதையும் எடுத்துச் சொன்னார்கள். இப்போது எப்படி உணவுப் பஞ்சம் இருக்கிறதோ, உணவுக்காக நாம் எவ்வளவு கஷ்டப்படுகிறோமோ, அவ்வளவு கஷ்டம் விறகு விஷயத்திலும் இன்று இருக்கிறதென்பதை சர்க்கார் தெரிந்துகொள்ளவேண்டும். இன்று விறகு கள்ளமாரக்கெட்டிலே அதிகமாக விற்கப்படுகிறதென்பதையும் சர்க்கார் தெரிந்துகொள்ள வேண்டும். நம்முடைய மாகாணத்திலே அதிகம் முக்கியமாக திருநெல்வேலி ஜில்லாவிலே மலைகள் அதிகம் இருக்கின்றன. அப்படிப்பட்ட ஜில்லாவில் டன் ஒன்றுக்கு ரூ. 40, ரூ. 45 என்று விறகு விற்கப்படுகிறது. 'கவர்ன்மென்டார் நிர்ணயித்துள்ள விலை ரூ. 26 ஆக இருக்கும்போது ஏன் அதிக விலைக்கு விற்கிறீர்கள்,' என்று கேட்டால், 'நாங்கள் அதிக தொகைக்கு எலம் எடுத்திருக்கிறோம். அதிக விலைக்கு விற்காவிட்டால் நஷ்டமாகிவிடுகிறது,' என்று அவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். அங்கேயுள்ள பாரஸ்டு ஆபீஸர் யார் அதிகமான தொகையைக் கொடுக்கிறார்களோ அவர்களுக்கு எலத்தை விடுவதாகச் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. ஆனால், இதே சமயத்தில் என்னுடைய நண்பர் கோசல்ராம் அவர்கள் சொன்னபடி ரூ. 300-க்கு எலம் கேட்டவருக்கு விடாமல் ரூ. 134-க்கு ஹார்வி மில்லுக்கு விட்டிருப்பது வாஸ்தவம். அம்மாதிரி அனுமதித்து தப்பென்று நான் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ஆகையால் ஹார்வி மில்லுக்கு விட்ட மாதிரியே குறைந்த தொகைக்கு எலத்தைப் பொது ஜனங்களுக்கு விட்டிருந்தால், விறகை அதிக விலைக்கு கள்ள மாரக்கெட்டில் விற்காதபடி சர்க்கார் நிர்ணயித்துள்ள ரூ. 26-க்கே விற்கும்படியாகச் செய்திருக்கலாம். இதைக் காட்டிலாகா மந்திரி அவர்கள் முக்கியமாகக் கவனிக்கவேண்டுமென்று நான் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். எனது நண்பர் ஸ்ரீமான் பழனிசாமி கவுண்டர் அவர்களும் இந்த விறகு விஷயத்தைப் பற்றிக் கூறியுள்ளார். இன்றைக்கு எங்கும் விறகு பஞ்சம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. எங்களுடைய ஜில்லாவில் சென்ற வாரத்திலே 400 ஏக்கர் எலத்திற்கு விட்டார்கள். அதை இப்போது கவர்ன்மென்ட் மதிப்பு போட்டிருப்பதுபடி எலத்திற்கு விட்டால் 'Contractor'-கள் ஜனங்களுக்கு சௌகரியமாக விறகை வெட்டிக்கொடுக்க முடியும் என்று நான் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறேன்."

"அதோடு கால் நடைகளுக்கு மேய்ச்சலைப்பற்றி நாம் கவனிக்க வேண்டியது மிகவும் அவசியம். இதைப்பற்றி அநேக நண்பர்கள் இங்கே தெரிவித்துவிட்டார்கள். கால் நடைகள் விவசாயத்திற்கு அத்யாவசியம். ஆகவே மேய்ச்சலுக்கென்று தனியாக நிலம் ஒதுக்கப்படவேண்டும். இது விஷயத்தை காட்டிலாகா பஞ்சாயத்து போர்டின் அதிகாரத்திற்கு விட்டால், அவர்கள் காடுகளில் மேயும் மாடுகளை பவுண்டில் (pound) அடைத்து விடுகிறார்கள். மாடுகள் மேய்வதற்கு வேண்டிய சௌகரியம் செய்து கொடுக்கவேண்டியது அரசாங்கத்தின் கடமையாகும்."

[Srimathi Lakshmi Ammal]

[16th August 1946]

“யுத்த காலத்தில் மரங்களை வெட்டி எவ்வளவோ காடுகளை அழித்திருக்கிறார்கள். அவசியம் நேரும்போது, காடுகளிலே மரங்களை வெட்ட வேண்டியதுதான். ஆனால், அவைகள் வெட்டப்பட்ட இடங்களில் புதிதாக நடவேண்டும். ‘விறகுக்காக எந்தமாதிரியான மரத்தை வெட்டவேண்டும், இந்த மரத்தை வெட்டு, அந்த மரத்தை வெட்டக்கூடாது,’ என்று சொல்லுவது கூடாது. எந்த மரத்தை வெட்டினாலும், புது மரங்களை நடவேண்டும். ஏராளமான காடுகளிலுக்கும் நம் நாட்டில், விறகுப் பஞ்சம் ஏற்படவேண்டிய அவசியமே இல்லை. இதைக் காட்டிலாகா மந்திரி முக்கியமாகக் கவனிக்க வேண்டுமென்று தெரிவித்துக்கொண்டு நான் முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* **SRI P. S. VELUSWAMI GOUNDAR** :—“ஸ்பாநாயகரவர்களே, பாரஸ்ட் மான்யத்தை ஆதரிக்கும் முறையில் பேசுகிறேன். இந்த தேசம் 5 விதமான இயற்கைச் செல்வங்களைக்கொண்டது, மலைபடு திரவியம், கடல்படு திரவியம், காடுபடு திரவியம், நாடுபடு திரவியம், நகர்படு திரவியம், இவை களைக் கொண்டது. காடு, பாரஸ்டிலே மலையும் அடங்கியிருக்கிறது. அந்த மலையைப்பற்றி நம் பெரியவர்கள் நூல்களிலே சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்கள்

‘அளக்கலாகா அளவும் பொருளும்
துளக்கலாகா நிலையும் தோற்றமும்
வறப்பிலும் வளந்தரு உம் வண்மையு மலைக்கே’

(நன்னூல்)
என்று சொல்லியுள்ள அப்பேர்ப்பட்ட மலைகள் இன்றைக்கு எப்படி இருக்கின்றனவென்றால், இந்த பிரிட்டிஷ் ஏகாதிபத்திய காலத்திலே குடுமி களையெல்லாம் மொட்டையடித்துக்கொண்டு நாம் கிராப்பு வைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறமாதிரி அந்த மலைகள் இருக்கின்றன. அதற்கும் மேலாக பசு மாடுகள் எங்கள் பாகத்திலே வீடுதவராமல் 100, 150 மாடுகள் இருந்தன. தற்சமயம் கொஞ்சம் பணக்காரர்களிடத்தில்தான் இருக்கின்றனவே தவிர பாக்கியையெல்லாம் மாட்டுத் தீர்வைக்காக விற்றுவிற்று குறைத்து விட்டார்கள். பசுக்களெல்லாம் ஸர்க்கார் கொடுக்கக்கூடிய பொலிகளை களின் பலத்தைத் தாங்கக்கூடிய நிலைமையிலில்லை, அவைகள் வத்தலும் தொத்தலுமாக இருக்கின்றன. நம் மலைகளிலே உள்ள குழை, நார், கலப்பை, தடி, புல், இவைகளை எடுக்க மக்களுக்கு உரிமையிலில்லை. தவிரவும் மரங்களை வெட்டும் விஷயமாக லெக்ஷியம்மாள் சொன்னார்கள், பச்சை மரத்தை வெட்டுவது பச்சைக் குழந்தையை வெட்டுவதற்கொப்பாகும் பச்சை மரங்களை வெட்டக்கூடாது. பட்ட மரங்களை வெட்டி எடுத்து விறகுக்கு உபயோகிக்கவேண்டும். பட்ட மரங்களை ஸர்க்காரில் சேகரித்து அதை விற்பனைக்குக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். தலைச்சமையில் எடுத்துச் செல்லு கிறவர்களுக்கு இனம் உரிமை கொடுக்கவேண்டும். யுத்த காலத்திலே அங்கே வீடுகளுக்கு கம்பங்களுக்காக மரங்களை வெட்டியும் காஸ் பிளான்ட் மோட்டாருக்காக மரங்களை வெட்டிக்கறியாக்கியதனாலும் மரங்கள் குறைந்து அதனால் மழை குறைந்து இப்பொழுது நாம் பஞ்சத்தினால் வாடக்கூடிய நிலைமையில் இருந்துகொண்டிருக்கிறோம். இந்த மலைகள் இருக்கக்கூடிய இடங்களிலெல்லாம் மெலியா இருக்கிறது. எங்கள் பக்கத்திலே கம்பம் ரேஞ்சிலே பாரஸ்ட் இலாகாவிலே சம்பந்தப்பட்டவர்கள் உத்யோகஸ்தர் கள் முதல் குடியானவர்கள் வரை வீட்டிலே பெண்கள், குழந்தைகள் முதல் கொண்டு இந்த வியாதியில் அடிக்கடி படுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இவைகளை யெல்லாம் சீர்திருத்தம் செய்யவேண்டும். அந்த மலைகளிலிருந்து எங்கள் பக்கத்தில் யானை கூட்டமாகவந்து விவசாயத்தை அழிக்கிறது. மராமத்து இலாகா மந்திரி கனம் பக்தவத்சலம் அவர்களும், ஸ்ரீ ராஜாராம் அவர்களும் நானும் ஒரு வாரத்துக்கு முன் பெரியார் அனைக் கட்டுக்குப் போனோம் யானைக்கூட்டங்கள், எருமைக்கூட்டங்கள், மான் கூட்டங்கள் வந்ததை அவர்களும் நானும் நேரில் பார்த்தோம் அந்த விவசாயிகளுக்கு துப்பாக்கி லைசென்ஸ் இருக்கவேண்டும், இருந்தால்தான் யானைகளை அடித்துத் தூரத்தலாம். எங்கள் பக்கத்திலே வண்ணத்திப் பாதை ஓரத்தில் கப்பலா மடை பிளாக் வேலாந் துண்டு புலத்தில் 900 ஏக்கர் காடு இருக்கிறது அதிலே 300 ஏக்கர் பட்டாளத்தில் சேர்ந்தவர் களுக்கு ஜாரி செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறது, பாக்கி 600 ஏக்கரை ஜாதி, மத பேதமின்றி

[16th August 1946] [Sri P. S. Veluswami Goundar]

நிலயில்லாத ஏழை விவசாயிகளுக்குக் கொடுத்தால் அவர்கள் விவசாயம் பண்ணி அதிக உணவு உற்பத்தி செய்வார்கள். பாரஸ்ட் இலாகாவில் சில்லரை மகசூல் என்று இருக்கிறது. அரப்பு, பழரகங்கள், தேன், சீயக்காய் இவைகளைச் சில்லரை மகசூல் குத்தகையாக விடுவதினால் ஸர்க்காருக்கு வரக்கூடிய லாபம் கொஞ்சம். ஆகையால் ஏழைக் குடிகள் மலைக்குச் சென்று இவைகளை எடுத்துவந்து விற்று வயிற்றுப் பிழைப்பு ஜீவனம் பண்ண இலவச சலுகைவேண்டும். ஒரு சமயம் அவர்கள் ராத்திரியிலே மலையிலே ஏறிச் சென்றார்கள் ஒரு பாரஸ்ட் ஆபீசர் அவர்களைக்கண்டு பிடித்துச் சென்றபோது ராத்திரி வேளை அவருடைய கைகளைப் பின் கட்டா கக் கட்டி நீ என்ன சொல்லுகிறாய் கேஸ் போடுகிறதில்லையென்று சொல்லு என்று சொன்னதாகவும் சொல்லப்பட்டது. அந்த கேஸ் நடந்தது, என்னுடைய தொகுதி நாலு பக்கமும் மலைகள் சூழ்ந்தது தெற்குப்புறம் ஒன்று மேற்குப் புறம் ஒன்று புலம் தெற்கேபோனால் 6 அணு மேற்கே போனால் 6 அணு தீர்வை மாட்டுக்கு மாசி, பங்குனியில் திருவாங் கூர் ராஜ்யத்தில் மேயப்போகும்போது 8 அணு. ஆகவே விவசாயிகளுக்கு மாடு 1-க்கு ரூ. 1-4-0 தீர்வை அதிகம் ஆகையால் மாட்டுத் தீர்வையை ரத்து செய்து விவசாயிகளுக்கு ஷே விஷயங்களிலும் ஒத்தாசை புரியும்படி கேட்டுக் கொண்டு முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* **SRI P. KAKKAN** :—“கனம் தலைவரவர்களே, பாரெஸ்ட் டிபார்ட்மென்டார் ஹரிஜன முன்னேற்ற விஷயத்தில் இன்னும் அதிக சிரத்தையெடுத்துக்கொள்ளவில்லையென்றே சொல்லவேண்டும். Forest பஞ்சாயத்துக்களில் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு ஸ்தானம் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். அவர்களுக்குத்தான் ஹரிஜனங்களுடைய குறைகள் நன்கு தெரியும். ஹரி ஜனங்கள் பெண்கள் பகல் முழுவதும் நட்போ, அல்லது வேறு வேலை செய்து விட்டோ பட்ட சள்ளிகளை எடுத்தால் அங்கேயுள்ள watchman லஞ்சம் கேட்கிறான். அப்படி கொடுக்காவிட்டால், பச்சை மரத்தை வெட்டியதாகச் சொல்லி Forest பஞ்சாயத்துகளின் முன்பு கொண்டுவந்து விடுவான். இந்தப் பஞ்சாயத்துக்களில் watchmen சொல்லுவதைக் கேட்பார்களே தவிர விறகு வெட்டும் ஏழை பெண் பிள்ளை சொல்லுவதைக் கேட்கமாட்டார்கள். உடனே மேஜிஸ்திரேட் கோர்ட்டுக்கு அனுப்பிவிடுகிறார்கள். மேஜிஸ்திரேட் 10 ரூபாய் fine அல்லது ஒரு வாரம் ஜெயில் தண்டனை என்று சொல்லி விடுகிறார்கள். ஆகவே, ஒவ்வொரு Forest panchayat-லும் ஒரு ஹரிஜனைப் பிரதிநிதி இருந்தால்தான், பட்ட சள்ளியை எடுத்தார்களா, அல்லது பச்சை மரத்தை வெட்டினார்களா வென்று உண்மை தெரிந்துகொள்ள முடியும். கையினால் செய்யப் படும் காகிதத்திற்குவேண்டிய புல், மூங்கில் இவைகள் சலபமாகக் கிடைக்கும்படி செய்யவணைண்டும். இதற்காக காகிதம் செய்யும் ஸ்தாபனங்களுக்கு Free licence கொடுத்தாகிலும் காகித உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்க ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும். 1937-ம் வருஷத்திலே காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபை இருந்த காலத்தில், மலை அடிவாரங்களில் உள்ள விவசாயிகளும் அவர்களின் ஆடுமாடுகளும் செழிப்பாக இருந்தன. ஆனால், இப்போது மலை அடிவாரங்களில் மாடுகளை மேய விடுவதில்லை. இது விஷயத்தில் அரசாங்கம் செளகரியம் செய்யக்கொடுக்கவேண்டும். அப்போதுதான் சமுசாரிகள் சுமமாக வாழமுடியும்.”

“இன்றைக்குக் கிராமங்களிலெல்லாம் உணவு கமிட்டிகளை ஏற்படுத்தி யிருக்கிறோம். இந்த Forest panchayat-களில் இந்த உணவுக் கமிட்டி மெம்பர்களில் ஒருவரை நியமித்தால் நன்றாகவிருக்கும். அவருக்குத் தான் விவசாயிகளுடைய கஷ்டம் நன்கு தெரியும் அவர்களுடைய தேவை கள் என்னவென்பதும் தெரியும்.

SRI KANKIPATI VEERANNA PADAL :—“అధ్యక్షా, మన రాజ థానా 7,46,000 హెక్టార్లు ఫారెస్ట్ డిపార్టుమెంటువారికి ఆలాలు మెంటు యిచ్చినారు. ఇందులో విశాఖకుం జిల్లా మన్యూ ఐండ్లసాంక్షము లంబినో, చింతలె గ్రామములలో టేకు స్టాంబీషనులు డిమాండ్లను లెసు క్వియరింగు నిమిత్తం ఆయాన లేదు కాల్ ఇన్వెస్టు ప్రజలవద్దను వనలు చేయింపకుంటున్నట్లు చాలామంది ప్రజలవేదనైనను.

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“ప్రస్తుతము కొండప్రాంతములలో పుట్టిన విలువగల అడవిని పోడు కట్టివేయను క్రింద కొట్టింది లేకు తోటలు వేయించుచున్నాడు. ప్రభుత్వంవారికి అందువలన 60, 70 సంవత్సరములకు లాభసాకు కాగలదు. గాని ప్రస్తుతం పున్న అడవిని పాడుచేసి రెండవది ప్రజలకు లేబరు ఇవ్వకుండా పనిచేయించుటవలన ప్రజలకు చాలా ఇబ్బందిగా పున్నది.

“కొండ ప్రాంతములలో ఉన్నటువంటి గ్రామాదుల చుట్టు డిమాండ్లను తైనులు వేసినందువలన పంట పండవలసిన మెట్ట పల్లము, భూములు రిజర్వులో కలిసి ఉన్నందు వలన ప్రజలకు వ్యవసాయము చేసుకుందికి ఇబ్బందిగా ఉంది. కావున రిజర్వులో కలిసిపోయి భూములు ఆ రిజర్వులోకి మార్చి ప్రజలకు భూములు ఇచ్చిన వ్యవహారము అభివృద్ధి పొందగలదు అని ప్రభుత్వంవారికి విన్నవిస్తున్నాను.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The House will now adjourn for lunch. As soon as it reassembles after lunch the Hon. Minister for Revenue will reply.”

(After Lunch.)

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government are thankful to the hon. Members for having offered so many suggestions on the working of the Forest Department. It was asked, or rather doubted, by my hon. Friend Mr. Bapineedu whether we have any forest policy at all, and another hon. Friend on this side—I find that he is not in his place; I am referring to Mr. N. S. Varadachari—said that we must not merely state the policy, but also all the details as to what we are going to do *here and now*. I may tell him, Sir, that when he and I accepted office as members of Government in 1937, we took a little time to consider things. Therefore, what he is now asking is a little too much, for we have been in office only for a short period and we are asked to give all the details of all that we are going to do. I can assure him, Sir, that in the next budget all the details of our programme will be laid before the House. Now, so far as the main policies are concerned, I can say what they are going to be.

“The forest area in this Province is only 13.2 per cent, not even 15 per cent as was stated by some hon. Members. It has been recognized all over that at least 20 per cent of the area in a country should be under forests in order to meet the demands of its people. The Government accept this figure as the minimum required. It is quite a fact that there has been a great denudation of forests in this Province. It is largely due to the last war in which timber had been exploited for various purposes. This denudation has been going on in all districts, and if one were to see some of the areas, one has to feel very sorry about the denudation that has taken place. It was said by an hon. Member that the constant famine in the Ceded districts, particularly in Bellary and Anantapur, is due to the destruction of forests. Having personally seen some of those areas, I believe that is so. The same process is going on in the district of Chittoor which I toured recently. The forest in the Kangundi zamindari near Kuppam was referred to particularly by one hon. Member. I was told that for about ten years past the cutting of this forest has been

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going on. I myself went about ten miles into the forest. Shortly after my return, the zamindar, of his own accord, was pleased to write to me that the cutting now going on is without his notice and against his wishes, though, I am told, Sir, that there is an agreement regarding the sale of fuel entered into by him. Again, I went to another forest in the Punganoor zamindari in the same district about 22 miles from Chittoor town, where similar cutting of forest was going on. The position in regard to the cutting of forests is everywhere the same and more particularly in the zamindaris where probably due to a feeling that some legislation might be passed and that they must make the utmost during this hour, forests are being cut with great harm and danger to the future of this Province. As was announced by the Hon. Premier two days back, I can assure the House that before hon. Members go home at the end of this session, legislation will be introduced which will contain stringent provisions to prevent the further denudation of these forests.

“With regard to reafforestation policy, the matter is under the immediate consideration of Government. Mr. Sathe, who was a Conservator of Forests, was appointed as a special officer. He has produced an exhaustive report in which various suggestions have been made regarding the future policy and reafforestation in this Province. One of them is to acquire forests. That, however, may not be possible in all cases, because acquisition of all private forests means a lot of money. But on easier and more effective way will be to control all forests including those in private lands. Already there are provisions in Chapter IV of the Madras Forest Act, 1882, which enables the Government to control the cutting of forests even in private lands. But there are no penal provisions therein under which an owner who disobeys can be punished or proceeded against. In this matter also, it has been suggested in the report that the control of forests should be made more stringent.

“Then there is the other matter which also is being investigated into as to what all extra lands should be brought under forest management. This is receiving the immediate attention of the Government.

“A fourth point upon which there was criticism by my hon. Friend Mr. Venkateswarlu relates to the panchayat forests which are under the immediate control of the Revenue Department. In 1912, it was suggested by a forest committee appointed at that time that certain of the village forests should be transferred to the villagers, and so this transfer of management took place. Though a final decision has not yet been taken, the matter is being reviewed because it has been the experience that these forests are not being managed properly. There also a great deal of cutting is going on and no attempts to check this are being made by those in charge of the forests. So, whether, in the interests of the forests themselves and the needs of the people as a whole, the panchayat forests should be taken over by the Forest Department is one of the points that is being considered by the Government.

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"I may also say one thing, Sir. While a great deal has to be done by the Government themselves, I wish to say that the people themselves have to change their outlook on forests. It was quite rightly said here by an hon. Member that they should not cut forests and that tree-planting should also be undertaken. After travelling through some of the Ceded districts, I found that the people were most apathetic and were themselves cutting trees recklessly. When I went along the road from Bellary towards Hospet for a distance of 5 or 6 miles, I found that the avenue trees reared and maintained by the Local Boards Department are being cut wholesale one after another by peeling off the bark at night so that the trees may die and be available for cutting for fuel. It almost breaks one's heart to see that these avenue trees should be so cut. Everywhere else I was conscious of a feeling that the people who clamour that there should be no famine do not realize that famine is the direct result of their own action in cutting the tree growth. The sooner they realize this, the better for all those not merely in that area, but also everywhere else. I myself come from a district, which is the heaviest district of the Province from the forest point of view barring perhaps the Agency Tracts of the Andhra country. By reason of a large afforestation policy there extending over a period of 40 or 50 years, there has been so much of rainfall that sometimes we feel there had been less of afforestation. I may tell hon. Members that the rainfall in my district ranges from 120 inches in Mangalore in the sea coast to about 250 to 280 inches in the Ghat section which is only 50 miles away. There is so much of surplus rain water which we can easily transfer to other areas if only our scientists can find out some way for it. The poor Ceded Districts hardly have 6 or 8 inches of rainfall a year, whereas elsewhere, as in my own district, we have more rain than we need and the waters of which we cannot ever fully utilize and which result in reducing the fertility of the soil. So with regard to the policy of afforestation, I can assure hon. Members that very early steps will be taken for the adoption of a systematic reafforestation on an examination of all the aspects in the report of Mr. Sathe.

"Then with regard to the question of casuarina plantation which was raised by my hon. Friend Mr. A. B. Shetty and others. Something is being done here also. Whether this is enough or something more could be done in order to supply fuel from the forests to towns and cities is also engaging the earnest consideration of Government. The target for casuarina plantation in this Province has been fixed in the past at 150,000 acres, and the area under cultivation up to January 1946 was only 5,244 acres. Proposals are under immediate consideration for adding another 79,934 acres. It will be examined whether more cannot be done.

"Then with regard to exploitation of the forests and the timber supply, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, who spoke yesterday, gave certain figures and said that our forests were yielding much less than what they did in the past. Though he is not here to-day, I may state that the figures which he seems to have got are not

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quite accurate. He said that in 1914-15 the yield of timber was 132,000 and odd tons, in 1943-44 104,000 and odd tons and in 1944-45 87,840 tons. The figures which we have got show that the figures are not declining as was stated, but are increasing. In 1941-42, the total was 125,780 tons and in 1942-43 it was 195,320. (A voice: Overworked.) The hon. Member was not here when I said that every step will be taken to see that they will not be overworked so that there need be no apprehension on that score.

"Then with regard to the supply of certain essentials required. We do feel that the policy has to be changed and made more progressive than in the past. I can assure this House that this Government have a different and a newer policy than what was followed for years past. I have known a little of this department having myself been agitating all along against its activities in not supplying many of our requirements, and I can say that a good 'shake-up' is required in this department as in so many other departments as well. We are here for that. We have our own ideas and we shall try to carry them out.

"One point was raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition yesterday and also by Mr. Rayappa to-day. That is with regard to the supply of wattle bark for tanning. This, I understand, Sir, was being planted formerly in pursuance of the previous Congress Government's policy. But it had to be stopped during the war, as all labour was diverted to planting pyrethrum. The question of immediately undertaking the production of so essential an ingredient for the tanning industry will be considered, especially when it is found that crores of rupees are going out of the country for its purchase now.

"About the cultivation of pyrethrum itself, I understand that this was undertaken at the instance of the Government of India for the war which was going on in Burma at that time, as they could not get other insecticides. My hon. Friend Mr. Ferrelly told me this morning that pyrethrum was now no longer considered good for use as an insecticide. Probably D.D.T. is considered more efficacious. Anyway the matter will be considered.

"With regard to the question raised as to why our own department is simply content with selling sandalwood, whereas neighbouring states like Travancore and Mysore are having so many sandalwood industries and are making profit, I may tell the House that this matter also will be looked into very carefully in the interests of the Province.

"Regarding the useful suggestions made by my hon. Friends the production of more lac, minor produces including camphor and medicinal herbs, they also will be considered.

"Then with regard to the question of fodder supply. It is quite a good thing, Sir, that this should be looked into from the point of view of the needs of agriculturists. Suggestions have been made in regard to this. A special feature of this year has been the lack of fodder supply to the famine or semi-famine areas of the Ceded Districts (interruption by Sri K. Varadachariar). My

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hon. Friend from Chittoor is always trying to bring in Chittoor into the Ceded Districts though only two or three taluks of that district formerly were in them. The Government have been trying to do their best in the matter, and I may explain the position clearly. Even recently orders were passed for engaging special trains at our own cost without charging the ryots for transshipping fodder because it was realized that the position in those areas was serious, as I myself saw. But the difficulty has been that the Railway Administration have not been able to supply the wagons as we wanted. So that a lot of fodder which has been cut from the forests is awaiting to be put into trains in Bezvada and the Nallamalai hills in the Kurnool district. By reason of this, an official was recently appointed to take special charge of this fodder business. If we run special trains, the food requirements of the Province will be very seriously interfered with so that we are between two dangers. It is a question also of getting the necessary wagons.

"The general question of grazing will also be looked into. One of the suggestions is rotational grazing. So far as this is concerned, orders have been passed in the past to enforce it. Another thing asked was that whilst during the war the Forest Department sold hay and made money out of it to the tune of several lakhs of rupees from the War Department, why should not people be supplied in the same manner? That is also a matter which will be looked into to see if the supply cannot be made as during the war.

"The next question is one of fuel. Government are aware of the great scarcity with regard to fuel. One matter which was mentioned was regarding high cost of fuel in the Tinnevely district as mentioned by the hon. Member from that area. She said that a hundred acres were sold at the low rate Rs. 134 per acre to a certain company, whilst other areas were auctioned for excessive amounts. We have not got any information about this. The information will be got and the matter will be scrutinized as to why it was that when high rates prevailed preferential treatment was given to a particular company.

"Another matter with regard to which the hon. Mr. P. Natesan spoke was about wood poles. On this, Sir, I must confess that all that could have been done has not been done. In 1938-39 during the time of the last Congress Ministry, orders were passed that as far as possible the Forest Department should supply wood poles treated by either Ascu or Creosite. In 1939-40, the number of poles supplied was 931, in 1940-41 it was 987 and in 1941-42 it was 1,453. Later on, nothing has been done. I quite realize that it is insufficient for a department with about 20,000 square miles of forests under its management in this Province when it is found that in the neighbouring state of Mysore wooden poles are being used almost everywhere and the clamour for extension of electricity is being made in every district. Whether this department will be able to supply the requirements of the local industrialists in this behalf is a point which will be considered.

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"Then another matter that was made by hon. Friend Mr. Muniswami Pillai is the top-heavy nature of the department. Here also, Sir, we shall see what can be done. He made reference also to the question of research. These are matters that require further thought and consideration.

"Then as regards the inadequacy of the Harijans and the Muslims in the services (the latter point was raised by the Leader of the Opposition yesterday and as regards Harijans to-day), I must say that as regards Harijans the numbers are very few. In the low-paid menial establishments, certainly they could be taken in as it does not require much training as was stressed by the hon. Member. Government will look into this matter. As regards the higher posts, there is the communal representation fixed and the only reason could be that sufficient numbers are not forthcoming. With regard to Muslims, I will give a few figures for the information of the Members of the Muslim Party though they are not here to-day. In the permanent gazetted appointments, out of 49 only three are held by Muslims, the percentage being six. The figures are all for old appointments and not for recent ones. Recently in the Madras Forest Service from 1943-46, 14 candidates were taken and out of these four were Muhammadans. That is more than the usual rate of 2 out of 12. So that the figure must be encouraging to my hon. Friends of the Muslim community.

"Then with regard to points which were raised by the hon. Member Mr. Shetty as to whether people should be allowed to remove the undergrowth, etc., he is aware that this is allowed in the district of South Kanara. Whether this may be adopted in other places also without detriment to the forests will be looked into. With regard to the question of Malaria in the forest areas of our Province raised by him the matter will engage the attention of the Health Department.

"Another point raised by another Member was the welfare of the aborigines who are working in the Forest Department and the way in which the forest areas and lands of the Todas in the Nilgiris are being taken away by others. These, Sir, will also be considered by the Government and the necessary steps taken. I think, Sir, I have dealt with most of the points raised and considering, Sir, that Government have not had much time to look into all matters in the short time at their disposal, I hope hon. Members will show their indulgence and not press the cut motion, so that before we come with the next budget our plans will be as full as possible."

As the hon. the Leader of the Opposition was not in his seat, the motion was deemed to have been withdrawn.

Demand IV was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND V—REGISTRATION.

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

[Hon. Sri K. Bhashyam]

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'that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1947, will amount to Rs. 41,17,600 in respect of the head Registration. The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 3,41,974.'

"Particulars relating to this demand will be found on page 61 of the Budget Memorandum."

"SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move my cut motion and in doing so, I want to speak only from the common man's point of view. Here also I feel generally for the poor people of the country and what I want to suggest is that the registration fees must be reduced on documents relating to transactions below Rs. 1,000.

“ Another point I want to refer to is the corruption prevailing in the Registration department. This is more prevalent in this department than in others. Poor people come to the registration offices from distant villages and they have to wait for long hours before they could get their documents registered. Unless they give some bribes to these officers, they cannot easily or quickly get their work done. I think the Government must take serious action in this matter and put a stop to such corrupt practices without any delay.

“ As regards registration fees, what I want to suggest is that there must be a graded scale of registration fees and that the fees for documents involving transactions below Rs. 1,000 should be considerably reduced and for those above Rs. 1,000 the scale of fees should be on the increase in proportion to the amount involved. Thus the department will be able to derive its revenue on a graded scale, in accordance with the value of documents involved.

“ Another point I want to refer to is the frequent transfers of lands. These transfers are taking place because of the present system of land-ownership. If the Government introduce such reforms as the nationalization of lands, then there will be no transactions in land and the Registration Department can easily be dispensed with, at least so far as that portion of the work is concerned. Not only that, the peasantry is now forced to sell its little bits of land to the merchants and richer landlords, because it is involved in debts under the present cheap debt facilities afforded by the latter class of people. These will be saved from debts and their properties will be safe, if lands are nationalized.

“ I may bring to the notice of this House that in this department too there is a great disparity between the pay of the highest official and that of the lowest-paid one. I may be a bit hard, but being a representative of labour and the poorer classes of the population, it is my duty at every stage of the debate and in every cut motion to bring this aspect of the matter to the notice of the Government, until such disparity is remedied. The lower-paid staff, as will be seen from the budget, is getting only Rs. 12, 13 and 15 whereas

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the higher officials are getting Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 per month. The highest official in this Province, that is, the Governor is getting Rs. 12,000 per month. I am ashamed to see these figures in the pages of the Budget prepared by the Congress Ministry. The Congressmen made very huge promises to the lower-paid staff before they came to office, but what do we find in the budget that is presented? Only the same Rs. 10 and Rs. 12 for the under-dogs! I do not know when the Congress Ministry is going to rectify these hardships. We are seeing before our very eyes in this very building clerks and peons wearing badges and carrying placards, saying how ill-paid, ill-clothed and over-worked they are. It is high time that the Congress Ministry comes forward and raises the salaries of these poor people and imposes necessary cuts on the salaries of those who draw Rs. 500 and more so as to meet the demands of the budget.

“ While on this question of salaries, I should like to refer to the unrest everywhere. In every department including the Registration Department, there is this unrest. We may not be able to see it here before our very eyes. But when I go to my constituency, the first question that people put to me is this:—‘ What have you done about our salaries? You have raised your salary from Rs. 75 to Rs. 150; what have you done for us? We are ashamed to show our faces to them. Even the Ministers, if they go to the public will be put the same kind of question. We see before our eyes how the strikes are developing, and how the Government is meeting them. In Vizagapatam, all the public meetings and demonstration parties have been banned and the Secretary of the Union has been arrested. This is how things are going on even under the present Congress regime. I expected a change in their policy, but to my surprise and disappointment I see none. I have waited and waited in vain to see any change. I remember how under the previous Congress Ministry these things were happening.

“ And now, so far as the Registration department is concerned, I once again request the Hon. Minister to come forward at once and let us know what reply he is going to give to these starving and poor people. I request the Government with all respect—I have the greatest respect for the Members of the Treasury Bench; I admire them and I love them as I love my co-workers—I request them with all respect to come forward and do something for these suffering people. At the same time, I would sound a note of warning that these poorly paid people and these workers cannot wait for long. They have waited for this budget and these figures can give no satisfaction to them.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ Mr. Venkateswarlu, please do not repeat the same thing again and again.”

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“ Well Sir, these figures have been printed and when we go back, we have to say to our constituents with shame that we have done nothing and could do nothing. Now at least I hope that the Hon. Minister will see that something is done either by legislation or by other

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means to satisfy these poor people and the working classes of this country. With these words, Sir, I move my cut motion, namely,
(*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 41,17,600 for Registration by Rs. 100.*)

"SRI A. B. SHETTY:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, some years ago during the budget debate, I had occasion to draw the attention of the Government to the need for giving some training to document writers. The then Minister promised to look into the matter, but though several years have elapsed since then nothing seems to have been done. I believe, Sir, that there are nearly 600 sub-registry offices in this Presidency. There must therefore be at least 10,000 to 12,000 document writers attached to these offices. Most of these men have little or no education. They are not properly qualified. They have no sort of training given for doing this responsible work. In fact, many of them do not know enough of the Stamp Act or the Registration Act or any of the rules. The result is that documents are not properly written. This often gives rise to law suits and the poor people who engage the services of these incompetent document writers are made to suffer in various ways. I understand that recently the Travancore Government have introduced licence rule for document writers. They give licences only to qualified people to set up practice as document writers. They have prescribed certain tests which a candidate should pass before he is given the licence. I think it is high time that this Government should copy the example of the Travancore Government and introduce a similar system in this Province also. They may also prescribe a suitable test for these people. It would be a wise and desirable thing to do. It is very necessary in the interests of the poor and illiterate people who go to the registration offices frequently that they should have the services of competent and properly qualified document writers. It will help these poor people and at the same time facilitate the work of the registration officers.

“ Then, Sir, I find in the Budget that there is a proposal to create six new registration districts. I should like to know where these registration offices are proposed to be opened. There has been a complaint for a considerably long time from South Kanara that there are not sufficient number of registration offices there. There are villages from which people have to walk 15 to 30 miles to go to registration offices. A demand has been made that one office should be opened at Mangalore, two offices in Udipi and two more offices in the Kasaragod taluk. I hope that the Hon. Minister will give his attention to this very legitimate demand of the people of South Kanara.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ Those who have already given notice of cut motions have spoken. Now, any other hon. Members who want to speak on the motion may address the House.”

* SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not a communist, but, if things are allowed to go on as they are there is every likelihood that some time or other most of us

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would find ourselves in the camp of Mr. Venkateswarlu. (Hear, hear.) We have been, for a long time, led to believe that public service is one that is intended to be done in the interests of the community and that remuneration therefor is to be expected as a subsidiary thing, that what really counts is service, even in the Government. That, at any rate, is the kind of thing which we, the Congress people, have been asked to propagate and we have been doing propaganda likewise, and I suppose it necessarily follows that we ourselves should only plan on that basis. You find that again and again; from Wardha comes the mandate ‘ You must really try to eliminate the wide distinctions between the highest officials and those who work down below.’ Now we are in office, and once we are in, we must necessarily take courage in our hands. ‘ We must kill the cat on the wedding day,’ otherwise we may never have the chance at all to do it. Once you are in, and put in a budget, you will find it difficult to change and you will be only following it year after year. What do we find now? The Inspector-General gets Rs. 1,200 to 1,400 and his personal assistant gets Rs. 250—400. Down below on the same page of the Budget, you have three attenders each getting Rs. 19—30 and one peon on Rs. 12—17—a magnificent sum. Similarly in every department the disparity in pay is very noticeable. All the pages of this bulky volume reveal the same state of affairs, viz., the pay of the top man is in four digits while the pay of the man at the bottom in the official ladder is only in one digit, Rs. 6 and so on. I am putting it to you whether it is not time for you to lay down your policy in regard to this matter. Perhaps three months time is not enough to give effect to your policy. But should not these three months be sufficient time for you to enunciate your policy? The Ministry may now give an assurance that in times to come the disparity will be removed and things will be adjusted properly by raising the pay of the lower man and lowering the pay of the higher man. It should be the aim of the Ministry not to leave a big gap between the scales of pay of these services. The Ministry could have given in this Budget a general indication of the lines on which it is going to adjust the salaries of its officials. People have for long been accustomed to having three grades in the official ranks, those at the top living in the land of luxury, those at the centre having a fair amount of conveniences and those at the bottom having to serve everybody above them. Sir, this division is fast giving way. In the cities and even in the countryside the people have awakened. Unless therefore we give them an assurance that their status will be raised and that the status of those higher up will be correspondingly lowered, it will be very difficult to satisfy the people. I wish to invite the attention of the Ministry to this need.

“ I wish next to refer to the assurance if not promise made that at the earliest possible opportunity this sinful revenue from excise will be wiped out. The Hon. Minister almost gave an assurance that, if possible, it will be done in the next budget. That is the impression I gathered from the speech of the Hon. the Premier on the excise debate. That would cut off 16 crores. You

3-15
p.m.

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would not have a budget with a reserve fund from which you can replenish your resources in the years to come. Further you have schemes on hand. Therefore if you are going to take up the examination of the pay of the services it is time you think of it and calculate from now and plan accordingly. We ought not to go on spending on the lines and to the extent laid down by the previous administration. Here we are supposed to work according to popular notions. If in your attempt at carrying out your policy you have got to be unpopular with this or that class, you should not mind it. This is my request to you."

* MR. SPEAKER :—" I have fixed 5 minutes for each speaker."

* SRI M. P. PERIASWAMI :—" கனம் தலைவரவர்களே. எந்த சர்க்கார் டிபார்ட்மென்டை எடுத்துக்கொண்டாலும் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு 12-ல் ஒன்று உத்தியோகம் சாதாரணமாகக் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. ஆனால் இந்த ரெஜிஸ்ட்ரேஷன் டிபார்ட்மென்டில் ஹரிஜனங்களை அதிகமாக வேலைக்கு எடுத்துக்கொள்ளுவதில்லை. 12-ல் 2 கொடுப்பதாகச் சொல்லப்பட்டுக்கூட ஹரிஜனங்களில் ஒருவர்தான் ஜில்லா ரெஜிஸ்ட்ராராகவிருக்கிறார். ஆனால், அவரை மேலே போகாமற்படி தடுத்து அவர்பேரில் ஏதோ பொய் சாக்ஷியத்தைக் கொண்டு வந்து, அவரை மாற்றி விடுகிறார்கள். ராமநாதபுரம் ஜில்லாவில் ரெஜிஸ்ட்ராராக விருந்த ஸ்ரீ செல்லசாமி அவர்களைக் குறிப்பிடுகிறேன். அவரை அங்கிருந்து ஒரு ஆந்திர ஜில்லாவுக்கு மாற்றிவிட்டார்கள். மந்திரி கனம் கூர்ஸையா அவர்களுக்கும் ராமநாதபுரம் ஜில்லா ஹரிஜனங்களின் தீண்டாமை விஷயம் நன்றாய்த் தெரிந்திருக்கிறார் அவரும் இன்னும் பல M.L.A.-க்களும் செல்லசாமி அவர்களை ஆந்திர ஜில்லாவுக்கு மாற்றக்கூடாது. தமிழ் நாட்டிலேயே வைத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னார்கள். அப்படியிருந்தும் அவரை ஆந்திர மாகாணத்திற்கு மாற்றிவிட்டார்கள். ஒவ்வொரு டிபார்ட்மென்டிலும் இப்போது இருப்பதைக் காட்டிலும் அதிக சலுகை எங்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். முக்கியமாக ரெஜிஸ்ட்ரேஷன் டிபார்ட்மென்டிலே ஹரிஜனங்களுக்குத் தகுந்த பிரதிநிதித்வம் கொடுக்கப்படவேண்டும். அப்போதுதான் ரெஜிஸ்ட்ரேஷனுக்கு வரும் ஹரிஜனங்களுடைய நன்மையைக் கவனித்துச் சரியாகக் காரியங்களைச் செய்வார்கள். எங்களுக்கு உத்தியோகத்திலே 12-ல் ஒன்று என்ற விகிதாசாரம் போதாது. 12-யிலே 3-வது கொடுக்கப்படவேண்டும். அப்போதுதான் எங்களுடைய சமூகம் முன்னேற்றமடைய முடியும். அப்போதுதான் காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபை எங்களுடைய சமூகத்திற்கு அதிக நன்மை செய்தவர்களாவர்கள். காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபை ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு உத்தியோகத்தில் அதிக பிரதிநிதித்வம் கொடுத்து ஆதரித்தால் நலமாயிருக்குமென்று சொல்லிமுடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

* SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAIYA :—" Sir, I have only one point to refer to on this demand and that is about the prevalence of corruption in this department. It is very regrettable to make reference to the existence of corruption every time a demand is moved. Sir, corruption spoils the fair name of the administration. It is well known that the Registration Department is the most corrupt one. I have visited some of the Registration offices. During the off-season when the ryots are free from work they attend to the business connected with registration. As they cannot attend to this work during the agricultural season, hundreds of them go there for registration of their documents during the off-season. Seeing such big crowds the Registration staff take full advantage and get from the poor villagers double or treble the Government fees by way of bribes. This could be put an end to by asking the Sub-Registrars like Revenue Inspectors to

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tour in the villages for receiving applications for registry. If this is done the ten or fifteen witnesses and others who usually go with the persons who want to get documents registered would be saved the need to travel long distances to the sub-registry office spending Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 on hotels and the like there. I request the Government to consider this suggestion. It will be a great improvement upon the existing arrangement and put an end to corruption. If the Government could pay travelling allowance to the Sub-Registrar when he tours in the villages the problem won't be solved. I hope the Government will consider this suggestion, of making Sub-Registrars, touring officers."

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as this demand is concerned, the point made against the department is mainly about corruption. All that I can say in respect of that matter is that if any case of corruption is brought to the notice to the head of the department or the Government it will receive immediate attention. I wish to say, however, that if any general charge of corruption is made it will not be possible for the Government to take any action. Therefore I ask the public and the persons who have business at the registration offices to come forward with specific cases and with proof to enable the Government to take action."

"The question of providing conveniences and amenities for persons who visit the sub-registry offices on business will be certainly looked into. As may be noticed, the Government have already sanctioned about six more districts and 7 or 8 new offices have already been opened. Proposals to open 9 more sub-registry offices are on hand and some 17 proposals are under examination in addition. Therefore wherever necessary more sub-registry offices will be opened. In this way we hope to meet the demand of the public and obviate the need for waiting at the offices to get their registration work done promptly."

"The suggestion to get the Sub-Registrars' tour in the villages is an interesting one and perhaps somewhat attractive. But there are immense difficulties in the way of accepting the suggestion. The carrying of various registers and other books of the office to the villages is a difficult problem."

"I come next to the demand made for raising the salaries of officers in the department. It was pointed out that there is great disparity between the salaries of the Inspector-General and of his subordinates. We are aware of this. The Congress has committed itself to see that the salaries are not pitched high in view of the poverty in the country. So far as this matter is concerned it is a question of policy affecting not only this department but every department of the administration. That being the case this suggestion will be considered when chalking out a policy for all departments."

"So far as the question of raising the pay of the lower officers is concerned, there is already a proposal before the Government for raising the salary of the low-paid staff. I think there is a proposal to raise it from Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 and for the Sub-Registrar from

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Rs. 60 to Rs. 90. So far as this is concerned it is being looked into and a sub-committee of the Cabinet has been formed for the purpose of looking into the question of salaries of the staff. They are dealing with cases of officers below Rs. 200 and will do justice to the low-paid officers of Government. But I should like to mention one thing in this connexion. If all the demands of the subordinate and other officers are to be met perhaps the revenue we derive will not be enough to meet the demands in full.

3-30 P.m. "The leaders must have some responsibility in the matter. It is not enough if they put forward the demand, but they must show how the demand can be met with the resources that we have. It should not be merely for the purpose of demonstrating in the streets and before the Secretariat as if the Government can be coerced to do something which they do not consider reasonable. It is not just not only to the persons concerned but to the other sections of the population. Therefore I would like the leaders of the movements and the men who are at the bottom of these demonstrations to take note that if they really want to represent anything, they should do so in a constitutional and peaceful manner so that the matter may be gone into. We as Congressmen are sympathetic and in favour of raising the salaries of the lower-paid staff and equalizing to the greatest possible extent the salaries of the higher-paid staff to those of the lower-paid staff. I am therefore appealing to these leaders not only to be more reasonable in their demand but also to be reasonable in the way of demonstrating their demand for higher salaries."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"As regards the question . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Is it on a point of information that the hon. Member is rising? If it is on a point of information, he can go on."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"On a point of information, Sir. Does the Hon. Minister think the demands are not reasonable?"

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"So far as the Registration department is concerned proposals have already been made and I cannot say anything till the Cabinet Committee meets. So far as other departments are concerned I should like the leaders of these movements to be more reasonable. Whether they are reasonable or not in a particular case is a matter for the Cabinet Committee to decide."

"So far as the question of high salaries is concerned, it is a matter of policy which as I said will have to be dealt with separately in its proper place."

"As regards the question of training document-writers, Sir, there has been a demand about this. But I should certainly advise persons who want their documents written to give them to trained lawyers instead of these untrained, ill-equipped . . ."

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—"Trade unionism!"

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* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I am accused of being partial to my own profession. But they had served a very useful purpose and if they are employed in these matters, there will be less trouble and litigation that arise out of documents prepared by ill-equipped persons. On the suggestion of some Members, some years past, there was a proposal for licensing these document-writers. There is a big report on that which had been shelved during the period of the war and so far as this matter is concerned, I shall take it up and if anything can be done, I shall do it."

"Then comes the Harijan problem, just like the Muslim problem, in the case of Government jobs. This is of course a matter to be considered very sympathetically, no doubt. But what I would like to point out is this. So far as the Harijans are concerned, I have got the figures here. Out of 25 permanent appointments, there are three Harijans. Of course, more than the proportion they are entitled to . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister has not told the House to which appointments he is referring."

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I am referring to District Registrars, Sir. I am thankful to you for reminding me about it. Out of 25 District Registrars now filled up there are 3 Harijans. As regards the First-grade Sub-Registrars, there is nobody yet in that department. As regards Second-grade Sub-Registrars there are 492 posts of which 24 are occupied by Harijans, permanent and acting. Of course, this figure is not much. But, Sir, I have to point out that so far as initial recruitment is concerned there are not enough Harijan candidates coming forward for the purpose of being recruited, in spite of the fact that the minimum qualification prescribed for the Harijan community to be entertained in this department is S.S.L.C., while for the other communities it is B.A. and B.Sc. In spite of this there are not enough candidates coming from the Harijan community. That is why their percentage in the Registration department is somewhat low. Perhaps the Harijan thinks that the prospects are not very bright in this department and therefore Harijans with S.S.L.C. qualification go elsewhere for getting employed. Indeed his value in other departments is certainly much higher than it is in this department. Therefore, if the leaders of the Harijan community will induce a greater number of people belonging to the community to offer themselves for being recruited into the Registration department, nobody will be more happy than myself. The question of Harijans being properly represented in this department certainly depends upon the community itself and the candidates coming forward for recruitment."

"As regards the treatment of Harijans in the service a case has been brought to the notice of the House by my hon. Friend, namely, the question of Mr. Chellaswami, a District Registrar in Ramnad who has been transferred to Bellary. It was complained to me by this friend that a Tamilian should not be transferred to Bellary and that there was some difficulty about his going there."

[Hon. Sri K. Bhashyam] [16th August 1946]

Being a Harijan, a privileged class, I thought I could interfere and if I could manage, see that the transfer was stopped. But on fully looking into the papers, the question of stopping that transfer involved so many complicated further transfers which made the position very difficult and this fact was communicated to the friends who interceded with me on behalf of Mr. Chella-swami and I thought they were satisfied. I have to make mention of these, Sir, as the matter has been brought specially before the House and for special mention.

"Then, precedence to Harijans in the matter of registration. No complaint has come to me so far about this matter and I do not know if there should be precedence for Harijans over other classes in the matter of registration. That may not be the proper procedure to adopt. The documents must be taken in the order in which they are presented for registration. The Harijan must take their turn along with other classes and they cannot be treated as superior to others.

"I think, Sir, I have answered all the points raised so far as this demand is concerned. In view of what I have said, Sir, I ask the hon. Member who moved the cut motion to withdraw it."

The motion moved by Sri Pillalamarri Venkateswarlu was by leave of the House withdrawn.

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND VI—MOTOR VEHICLES ACTS.

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—
'that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 3,54,300 in respect of the head Motor Vehicles Acts. The expenditure incurred in April 1946, is believed to be Rs. 38,646.'"

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move—

'that the allotment of Rs. 3,54,300 for Motor Vehicles Acts be reduced by Rs. 100.'

"First of all, Sir, I must refer to the fact that this Motor Transport is in the hands of private and individual owners. I propose to suggest that this Motor Transport including the Tramways must be given to the local bodies and they must be run by the local bodies. Just now we heard from the Hon. Minister for Revenue and the Hon. Minister for Law that there are not enough funds to meet all the demands. If these transport systems, namely, the Motor Transport as well as the Tramways, were taken away by the Corporation and other local bodies I think the municipalities and the Corporation will have enough funds. They can also run the transports efficiently and in the interests of the public and not for private profit. That is why I suggest that the Government must immediately recommend to the local bodies that the motor

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and other transports must be immediately taken up by them and run only by them. Only recently in Bezwada, wherefrom I am coming, and where motor transport is being started, it was given to a private individual. Sir, if the municipality were to take up this motor transport and run it in the interests of the public, it will have enough funds and individual profiteers will not have the opportunity of exploiting the people as they had done. I would request the Government in the interests of both the people as well as their revenue—of which they are so fond and of which they make so much and say that their revenue is exhausted—they should hand over the motor transport and the tramway transport to the Corporation as well as the local bodies and then the question of raising funds for the local bodies will be solved in a way.

"Then, Sir, what is happening in the districts? How is the motor transport run? They are run in a most awkward manner and it is very difficult to get a seat there. Bribery is going on. The drivers and conductors are the worst paid. They are not getting even a minimum living wage. The Hon. Minister for Industries said that the motor transport workers will be included in the Wages Act. Until then this condition will continue.

"In certain places there is the Police control. How is it working? Everybody knows the Police, including the Hon. Prime Minister and how bribery and other things are going on, how they are behaving, everybody knows that. Passengers have been hit and everybody has been hit, by this Police. In this connexion I have to bring to the notice of the House an incident that took place at Gannavaram. It was because the police refused to pay the fare. Everything has been spoiled there by this police, special police, who are stationed there. So much havoc has been done. This is how this motor transport system is being controlled by the police zoolum and how people are being hit.

"In Nellore the workers are on strike and adjudication is going on. I do not know for how long it is going to be like that. It is therefore we say that under private management workers are suffering and people are suffering for lack of seats and other things.

"Then there is another point. Till now vehicles supplied were 1937 models. In spite of the fact that the war is over none of these new vehicles has been brought on our district. Old vehicles are being supplied and therefore transport difficulty is growing from bad to worse.

"Another thing is about the lorries. Even just now we heard the Hon. Minister for Revenue saying that because there were no waggons they could not transport fodder to the famine districts. I suggest that if these lorries were to be taken over by the Government on requisition there will be no hardship in taking fodder to those areas. This lorry trade is also under private management. There again blackmarketing is going in broad daylight and during night. All these things can be prevented if this trade in lorry traffic is controlled and taken over by the Government or by the local bodies.

[Sri Pillalamarri Venkateswarlu] [16th August 1946]

“One more point and that is with regard to the Motor Vehicles Act. Sir, quite often the drivers and the conductors are put to lot of difficulties by policemen and they are even charged unnecessarily for the mistakes committed by the owners or somebody else. They are even beaten sometimes. The Government must rectify all these things at once. We are said to have a people's government with a people's leader at the head and with so much popular backing. I agree that the Government has much popular backing. Therefore we expect the popular demands to be met and any impediments which come in the way of meeting the popular demands should be removed. It is no use merely saying that the Government revenue cannot meet the expenditure. If the industries are taxed or taken over by the Government, if the high salaries are reduced, is it difficult to get revenues? If really the imperialistic framework is broken, it is not difficult to get revenues. There are revenues and we can get them. It is not the Governor that stands in the way. I can remember pretty well the Hon. Prime Minister saying that the Secretary of State may not give permission for the abolition of the zamindari system. If the Secretary of State will not give permission, the Prime Minister with the backing of the people behind him will not have anything to do with him. But of late it has been said that the Secretary of State has given independence to this country. I cannot reconcile both points of view. If the British have given independence, then how can the Secretary of State or the Viceroy or the Governor stand in the way of fulfilling our people's demands? What is there to prevent this Government from nationalizing the lands, taking over the industries and so on? There is no question of revenue at all and I cannot understand any question of revenue standing in the way of meeting the just demands of the workers and the peasants. I request him not to raise any questions of revenue but meet the just demands of the people. The people's leader should not stand before the people who are asking him to fulfil certain just demands and say that somebody is provoking trouble and somebody is promoting strikes. Sir, everybody is behind him and everybody wants that he should fulfil the just demands of the people.”

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, while supporting this demand I should like to say one or two points in connexion with motor vehicles. The motor transport is the poor man's facility for going from place to place in addition to the train which is always over-crowded. With regard to the composition of the Road Traffic Boards . . . (Interruption.) I hear from my hon. Friend that the Boards have been abolished. With regard to the Regional Road Traffic Board, I urge that some people from the country-side who know the difficulties in motor transport, and the passengers could be usefully added to the Board so that what is actually happening in the district parts may be brought before the Board. Wherever we travel in the interior, as has already been pointed out by the mover of the cut motion, there is great difficulty. People have to stand in queues for hours together and even the very vehicle in which they have

16th August 1946] [Sri V. I. Muniswami Pillai]

to travel is in a very bad state. It is not at all comfortable even though the maximum fares fixed by the Government are collected. Further, Sir, the way in which permits for the motor transport is granted; they mostly go to a few rich people who monopolise this traffic. The time has come for Government themselves or Government through the agency of the local boards to undertake the motor transport business. Sir, during the war many motor vehicles could not be imported and what were available in the country were used and these people who owned these motor transports have made enough and more money over this business. At the same time, I must here join my hon. Friend who said that the motor drivers, the conductors and the cleaners are not well paid. When the owners make huge profits, it is but reasonable that they must see to the comforts of the poor people.

“Moreover, Sir, in the case of getting G permits for the lorries undue inconvenience is caused to those who go in for these permits. I think a simpler method must be found so that there may not be much of inconvenience for these people who apply for permits for their motor lorries either for hire or for their own purposes. In some places, Sir, the route through which motor buses go is fixed with the object of giving facilities for certain privileged communities. I may cite a case, Sir, where the children of the District Superintendent of Police had to go to school and so the motor bus had to go through a particular route and the motor bus used to be stopped on Saturdays and Sundays when there is no school for the children. I think, Sir, that this invidious distinction must disappear even now. With these few words, Sir, I support the Demand.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“Those who have given notice of cut motions have already spoken. If there are other hon. Members who wish to speak, I am prepared to allow five minutes for each.”

* SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, the previous speakers have already spoken about the necessity of these motor services being taken over by the local bodies. There is every justification for the local bodies taking over this responsibility. It is high time that the public interest should be considered before any private interest. The present system is only one of giving monopolies to certain individuals in every district. It should be done away with at once. The local bodies are making the roads and maintaining them in the interests of the public. They spend the money and here are the vested interests and monopolists who reap the benefits of the services rendered to the public by the local bodies. Among the local bodies the Coimbatore District Board was the pioneer in taking over the motor transport services during the last Congress Ministry. They had a very good case for taking over the services under that management. The Coimbatore District Board had then a railway running from Coimbatore to Pollachi and the former motor service owners were competitors to this railway and they were running their service to the detriment of the railway. Therefore the then Coimbatore District Board moved the Government and succeeded in

[Sri A. Subrahmanyam] [16th August 1946]

யோகஸ்தர் அந்த பஸ்வில வருகிறேனென்று சொல்லிவிடுவாரானால் அதில் யாருமே உட்கார முடியாது. அவர் வருவதாயிருந்தாலும் சரி வராவிட்டாலும் சரி நாம் டிக்கட்டு வாங்கிக்கொண்டு உட்காருகிறோமென்றால் அது ரிஸர்வ் செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறதென்றும், யாருக்கு என்றால் சொல்லமுடியாதென்றும் சொல்லுகிறான் கண்டக்டர். எங்களுக்கு போலீஸ் என்றால் பயமென்று அந்த மோட்டார் டிரைவரும் கண்டக்டரும் சொந்தக்காரர்கள் உள்பட சொல்லுகிறார்கள். மற்றொரு விஷயம் மோட்டார் டிரைவர் ஒரு வழியை விட்டு மற்றொரு வழியில் திடீரென்று ஓட்டிக் கொண்டே போகிறான். ஒரு தெருவிலே புகுந்து ஒரு வீட்டை பஸ்ஸை நிறுத்திவிடுகிறான், என்ன அப்பா நான் அவசரமாகப் போக வேண்டியிருக்கிறது இங்கு நிறுத்தி வைத்திருக்கிறாயென்றால் ஸப் இனிஸ்பெக்டர் வருகிறார் சம்மா இருங்கள் என்கிறான். நான் அவசரமாகப் போக வேண்டுமென்று சொன்னால், முடியாது நீ வேண்டுமானால் இறங்கிப் போ என்கிறான். ஆகவே, இவ்விதமான ஒரு காரியம் இனி நடைபெறுவதாறு மந்திரிகள் கவனித்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். செய்பவர்கள் காரர்கள் பிராயாணம் செய்யும்போது ஜனங்களுக்குச் சேவை என்பதை அவர்களுக்கு உணர்த்தி உடனடியாக உத்தரவு போடவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக இந்த டிரைவர் கண்டக்டர்கள் போலீஸ் காரர்களிடத்தில் பயப்படுகிறார்கள். பஸ்ஸை விட்டுக்கொண்டு போய்க்கொண்டே இருக்கிறார்கள் திடீரென்று நிறுத்துகிறார்கள், என்னென்றால் ஸப் இனிஸ்பெக்டர் வருகிறாரென்கிறார்கள். அவசரமாகப் போகவேண்டுமென்று ஒரு வழிப்போக்கர் நிறுத்தச் சொன்னால் stopping place கிடையாது நிறுத்த முடியாதென்கிறார்கள். ஆனால், ஒரு போலீஸ் உத்தியோகஸ்தர் அல்லது ஒரு Head Constableயை இருப்பவர் நிறுத்திவிடுவார்கள். பஸ்களிலே ‘standing’ - - - நின்று கொண்டுபோக வேண்டியதாயிருக்கிறதே, அதில் ரொம்ப சிரமம் இருக்கிறது. உடனடியாக அதை நிறுத்திவிடவேண்டும். அதற்கு பதில் அதிக பஸ்களை விடுவதற்கு பர்மிட் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். இந்தக் காரியங்களைச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொண்டு நான் முடித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish only to say that it is high time that the Government should take up public transport under its own management. In the election manifesto, we have told the people that we shall nationalize the railways, shipping, public transport, mines, mineral resources, forests, waterways and all things which help the moral and material development of the people. There are two reasons, very important, for doing all this; firstly, to prevent the growth of a capitalistic class in this country. Capitalism is growing; we must put a check to it as soon as possible. If we allow capitalism to grow, communism is bound to come. In order to prevent communism also, we must adopt this policy of socialism which will nationalize the key industries, the important industries of the country and the means of production and distribution, banks, currency and insurance, and all these things. The second reason is that this Provincial Government should augment its revenues considerably. Hereafter, the Provincial Governments will have all the departments under them except a few departments that are allotted to the Central Government. We are at the threshold of getting complete independence. We must begin administration with that vision. All departments are coming to us and more or less they have come. Therefore the Ministry must not go in the old rut, on the old lines of the bureaucratic budgets. It is time that all these things are nationalized.

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“There is only one point I wish to refer to. If the Government wants to augment its revenues by taking up industries, by trading, by nationalizing means of production, transport and such things, then it will not on every occasion when new schemes like prohibition are introduced, create a scare that it is going to tax the people. Why should we tax the people? As far as possible, new taxation must be avoided and augmentation of revenues must be made by these means, from now onwards.

“With these words, Sir, I am not supporting the cut motion, but I am supporting the ideas given by my friends, Messrs. Muniswami Pillai and Gopal Reddi.”

* SRI K. VARADACHARI:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir . . . (An hon. Member: ‘Mike, please.’) Sir, why I am afraid to speak in the mike is that I may injure my good self. The space between the mike and the seat is so small that I have to stand at great inconvenience.

“I rise to speak on this Demand and in supporting the motion made by the Hon. Minister for Motor Transport, I am simply rising to support the suggestions made by several members, members with experience, with regard to the need for nationalizing motor transport. It is an urgent necessity. The Government makes the road, some other man uses it for remunerative purposes. It is the most uneconomic and improper use we can allow to be made by monopolists or capitalists or by middlemen. This venture will have to be considered in all its bearings by reason of the fact that in this matter we are not completely masters of the situation. The Provincial Government, I presume, has its powers limited by the control which the Government of India exercises in the matter of motor vehicles, taxation, and all such things.

“My friend does not know there is a control. Mr. N. S. Varadachari will bear with me and I shall develop the subject later on. (Interruption.) I am addressing the Speaker, Sir. (Laughter.) There is a principle enunciated by the Central Government with regard to the co-ordination between rail and road transport. The Provincial Government has to bear this in mind because railways also are a national asset. We cannot ruin the railways for the purpose of encouraging motor transport; one acts and reacts on the other and a policy has to be evolved to see that this principle of co-ordination between motor transport and rail transport is observed and the maximum benefit is derived from both and public conveniences secured to the maximum extent possible. The way in which the motor transport administration in this Province is being run is on the lines of co-ordination. Licences and permits are being granted with a view to see that the railways will not suffer from other transport by means of motors on the roads either for passengers or for goods. I am therefore convinced that my Friend Mr. N. S. Varadachari will now see the point that I was making with regard to the control by the Government of India and that he will not disturb me any further.”

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"He will not disturb you. I will not allow disturbance; I am here to give you protection."

* SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"Therefore, Sir, while there is need for urgent nationalization of this motor transport business, I also wish to warn the Government against accepting the suggestion made by some of our friends on the other side that this nationalization may be utilized for the purpose of conferring the privilege of running this business on the local bodies. It is my firm conviction that such a thing should not be entrusted to the local bodies or municipalities except perhaps in the City of Madras where the need for enhancing the revenues of the Corporation should be the major consideration for handing over the transport completely to the Corporation of Madras. (Mr. H. S. Town: 'Including trams.') Including trams or even aeroplane service if we require it. I strongly object to the nationalization for the purpose of diverting to local bodies or municipalities. It must be national enterprise and the provincial administration should have complete control and should be the sole recipient of all the revenue derived from motor transport business. The second thing is this. While my friend Mr. Subrahmanyam on the other side was expatiating on the grievances of passengers, I felt that he was anticipating me and that I was prevented from making a point out of that class of grievances but any way the grievance that has been mentioned is a real grievance. Unless this department is taken over by the Government, this grievance will never vanish. We find that in spite of representations made to the district officials in the Police department—Circle Inspector, Sub-Inspector and others—a lot of overloading is going on. Sometimes, buses which have a capacity of 20 to 30 are loaded up to 60 or 70. I have seen this with my own eyes. In my own constituency, there is a small route between Pallipat and Nagari. Between these two places two buses are running from morning till evening, every hour or every two hours and the two buses are said to be part of a fleet. In that small route of ten miles, we have got heavy traffic which is resulting in the overloading of buses to a very dangerous extent, people on the top, people on the mudguards, people on the side-boards and so on—and this large number of people are put into the buses like cotton being stuffed into pillow cases. Any amount of representation to the Police department never has any avail or any result, the simple reason being, as my friend Subrahmanyam said, that even a constable gets a lift whenever he wants it at his sweet will and pleasure; the bus has to be stopped anywhere he wants to get down and he therefore shuts his eyes to whatever is being done. These two or three buses which I have mentioned are said to be affiliated to a fleet company but it is so only in name. The proprietors of these buses are still running them by themselves collecting money and controlling them, though in name they are called part of a fleet. Such anomalies are taking place. Therefore I submit that with regard to the question of redressing these grievances, the only remedy is nationalization. No departmental checks or any other contrivances within the present system will

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be of any use. I therefore request the Government to take up this question as soon as possible and take away motor services from the middlemen."

* SRI K. A. NACHIAPPA GOUNDER:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my hon. Friend the Minister for Motor Transport and in doing so, I would like to make a few observations with regard to the management of motor transport. During the time of the last Congress Ministry, there was an attempt made to take over the motor transport to the district boards and as a matter of fact some of the presidents of district boards and the representatives of other interests connected with it met at a conference and discussed the matter but unfortunately, it had been left at that stage of discussion and I do not know what became of it further. Previously local bodies were realising the fees from the motor vehicles direct and the same is now being collected by the Government and only a certain amount of it is paid to local bodies. The district boards and municipalities which are the beneficiaries of this tax have no scrutiny to make in the collection and expenditure and so much so the income derived from this source was not up to the expectations and so they were obliged to find more funds from other sources. As soon as the Congress first came into power, the Ministry originally adopted a policy of allowing the district boards to undertake running of motor vehicles. At that time, the Coimbatore District Board took up one route as an experimental measure and they got a very good profit. They got more than Rs. 15,000 per year by allowing the bus route for running on a contract basis to some company. In that way, it was expected that more money could be got from this source, but unfortunately the system of allowing the routes to be run by the district boards was put an end to on some plea or other. If the motor transport is taken over by the local bodies, I am sure, it will go a long way to help their revenues and relieve the financial difficulties from which they are suffering now. Even supposing these local bodies are not able to run the service by owning the vehicles for themselves they can auction the runnings in each route and get good money as they do in the case of markets, ferries, etc. If this is done, it is possible to solve the financial problem of the local bodies to a great extent. Even if the Government think that the local bodies cannot manage it well, it is up to them to take this under their own management and control and realize good money out of it besides affording facilities and convenience to the travelling public. In the matter of management of motor transport by private individuals, I would say that they are not run on efficient lines but if they are managed by local bodies or by Government, this sort of inefficiency also can be put an end to and much of public good and convenience can be brought about. Now under the present rules and instructions, the buses in a route are obliged to be run on a monopoly basis and if additional buses are to be introduced in that route the same persons will have to be given preference.

[Sri K. A. Nachiappa Gounder] [16th August 1944]

Thus there is only one bus service in each route. It is resulting in a lot of inefficiency. Originally this rule was brought into force since each bus owner was having one or two buses and they did not have any steadiness due to unhealthy competition. Now under the present arrangement only owners of twenty buses and more are recognized to run a bus service and allowed licence to run on specified routes. Such being the case, two or more services having convenient headquarters may be allowed to run to timings one after another on each route, and it will certainly create a healthy competition and it will also achieve good results, and the public will be greatly benefited by this course. Hence I urge upon the Government that they must pursue a policy of breaking this monopoly in the good interest and welfare of the public. With regard to lorry transport, Sir, on the instructions of the Central Road Traffic Board as they exist at present, the lorry owners also should have a number of lorries to continue in that profession and the owners of one or two lorries and those who have a little capital and want to run a lorry for their livelihood are not given permits to run their lorries as public carriers. This makes the individuals with a small capital suffer a great deal. If these people are allowed to run under public carrier permits given to them, it will enable the running of lorries at a cheaper rate and afford greater transport facilities. A number of lorries will also come into existence and be of much use to the public to transport their goods easily. So, I urge on the Minister to see to this aspect of the question also."

* **SRI M. KANNIYAPPAN** :—"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே. போக்குவரத்து சாதனங்களைப் பற்றி இப்போது பலர் பேசினார்கள். இது விஷயத்தில் அவைகளை ஒட்டக் கூடிய தொழிலாளர்களைப் பற்றித்தான் நீங்கள் முதலில் சிந்திக்கவேண்டும். ஒரு பஸ் டிரைவர் ஒரு நாளைக்கு 100 மைல் அல்லது 200 மைல் போகின்றான். அவர்கள் இத்தனை மணி நேரத்தான் வேலை செய்வது என்ற ஒரு நிர்ணயமில்லாமல் கஷ்டப்படும் நிலைமையை உடனடி நோக்கினால், உடனடியாக அவர்களுக்கு வேலை நேரம் நிர்ணயம் செய்யப்பட வேண்டிய முடிவுக்கு எல்லோரும் வரவேண்டியதாகவிருக்கும். ஒரு மோட்டார் டிரைவர் 200 மைல் 300 மைல் வண்டியை ஒட்டினால், அவனுடைய உடல் நிலைகுன்றி விடுவதால் அவன் அதிகநாள் ஜீவித்திருக்கமுடியுமாவென்று பாருங்கள். ஆகவே அவனுடைய நிலைமையை நீங்கள் முக்கியமாகக் கவனிக்கவேண்டும்."

"இன்று பஸ்களில் பிரயாணம் செய்கிறவர்களுக்கு அதிகுள்ள கஷ்டங்கள் நன்றாய் தெரியும். ஜனங்களை ஒருவர்மேல் ஒருவரை புனி மூட்டைகள் போல அடுக்கிக்கொண்டு போகப்படும் நிலைமையைப் பார்க்கிறோம். பஸ்களில் இத்தனை பேர்கள் தான் ஏற்றவேண்டுமென்ற சட்டம் இருந்த போதிலும், பல சமயங்களிலே அதை மீறி, மோசமான நிலைமையிலே பஸ்கள் ஒட்டப்படுவதை நாம் பார்க்கிறோம். இங்கே மந்திரிகள் இருக்கின்றனர். அவர்களும் இந்தக் கஷ்டங்களை அனுபவித்தவர்கள்தான். ஆகவே, பஸ் தொழிலாளர்களுடைய கஷ்டங்களை உணர்ந்து அவைகளை உடனடியாகப் போக்கவேண்டுமென்பதற்காகத் தான் நான் அவைகளைப் பற்றி இங்கே பேசுகிறேன்."

"இரண்டாவதாக, பஸ் முதலிய போக்குவரத்து சாதனங்கள் அனைத்தையும் இந்த அரசாங்கமே எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நடத்தவேண்டுமென்பது என்னுடைய அபிப்பிராயம். இன்று தனிப்பட்டவர்கள் அவைகளை நடத்தி வருவதால், ஜனங்களுடைய நன்மையைக் கவனிக்காமல், அதிக

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மான லாபத்தை அடைவதையே நோக்கமாகக் கொண்டிருக்கின்றனர். இந்த நிலைமையை உடனடியாக நீக்கிவிட்டு, இப்போதைய மக்களுடைய அரசாங்கம் போக்குவரத்து சாதனங்களைத் தாங்களே எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நடத்தினால், அதிலிருந்து கிடைக்கும் வருமானத்தைக் கொண்டு ஜனங்களுக்கு வேண்டிய நன்மைகளைச் செய்யலாம். மற்றும், பஸ்ஸிலே இவ்வளவு பேர்களைத்தான் ஏற்றவேண்டுமென்று அப்போது கட்டியிட்டால், தொழிலாளர்களும் அதன்படி நடப்பார்கள். அவ்விதமில்லாமல், இன்று முதலாளிகளே போக்குவரத்து சாதனங்களை நடத்துவதால், மக்கள் அதிகம் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். இது விஷயத்தை அரசாங்கத்தார் உடனடியாகக் கவனிக்கவேண்டும்."

"அடுத்தபடியாக, பஸ்களிலே முன் சீட்டிலே போஸ்டல் சப் இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்களுக்கோ, அல்லது வேறு அதிகாரிகளுக்கோ இடம் கொடுக்கப் படுவதாக தோழர் சுப்பிரமணியம் அவர்கள் இப்போது சொன்னார்கள். அது வாஸ்தவம். இல்லையென்று யாரும் மறுக்கமுடியாது. சாதாரணமாக ஜனங்கள் வண்டியில் ஏறியவுடன் சப் இன்ஸ்பெக்டர் லீட்டுக்கு டிரைவர் பஸ்ஸை ஒட்டிக்கொண்டு போகிறான்."

* **MR. SPEAKER** :—"அந்த விஷயத்தையே திருப்பித்திருப்பிச் சொல்லக்கூடாது."

* **SRI M. KANNIYAPPAN** :—"என் இதை நான் சொல்லுகிறேனென்றால், இந்த நிலைமையை நாம் இன்று எங்கும் பார்த்து வருகிறோம்."

"உண்மையாக தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு நன்மை செய்யக்கூடிய முறையிலே போக்குவரத்துச் சாதனங்களைத் திருத்தியமைக்க வேண்டுமென்று நான் அரசாங்கத்தைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். அந்தத் தொழிலாளர்களுடைய வேலை நேரத்தை நிர்ணயம் செய்யவேண்டும். அத்துடன் போக்குவரத்துச் சாதனங்களை அரசாங்கமே நடத்துவதென்ற உன்னதக் கருவியையும் கைக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டு, என்னுடைய வார்த்தையை முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

* **SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR** :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in opposing the cut motion, I have got to add one or two observations. First is, I not only appeal but I urge that the motor transport should, as a matter of fact, be taken over by the Government. As I said, the one subject which will ever and ever be dropped upon this House is prohibition and this will form a very important accessory and help with a view to introducing total prohibition. Secondly, in so taking over, I heartily agree with the hon. Member, Mr. Varadachari, that it is the Provincial Government that must take it up and that this should not be allowed to be handed over to local bodies. Of recent years, as on all other departments in this country, the war has had its repercussions mainly on transport. Owing to the exigencies of the war and the difficulty of obtaining petrol it was found necessary, as far as possible, to reduce the overhead cost, by having companies owning more than twenty buses each while all the other small individual owners were asked to go. Now, Sir, that necessity has ceased. On the other hand, we find from Tuticorin to Nellore the motor transport is centred round three companies and they are like whales which have swallowed all the other smaller fish. This sort of thing should not be allowed and you must take them over and run them under Government management. Then, you also find that so far as motor transport is concerned, at present, it is the one machinery which is doing and aiding the greatest evil. In several cases,

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I know, where there has been black-marketing of yarn in Coimbatore and Madura, these motor lorries were helping yarn to be taken out of the mills direct. As a matter of fact, these mills themselves are causing a considerable amount of trouble about distribution. Recently some black-marketing where lorries were used had been discovered but we do not know what the Ministers are going to do in regard to them and what is to become of these motor transport services which serve as an effective instrument in aiding black-marketing? In my own district, Madura, much trouble has been caused by lorries which were used to transport yarn for black-marketing. When this was taken to the notice of the District Supply Officer, he said it was too late and the lorries went beyond the border of the district thus defying control and he could not do anything in the matter. In these circumstances, it is much better that the lorry transport are brought under the management of the Government itself. There were also cases of motor lorries having been used for transporting palm-jaggery from Tinnevely to be sold in black-market and the result was, the prices of palm-jaggery at once rose from Rs. 2 to Rs. 10 in the course of ten days and that is the situation, so far as this is concerned.

Then again, Sir, in spite of all our pious wish to the contrary, there is a tendency to see that as a matter of fact, monopoly is formed. When the matter is brought to the notice of the Government, they say, 'we are against monopoly.' Take the instance of Kodai Union Motor Service. The said motor transport company alone can go near them because it is again a monopoly, by whatever name they may be called. You will find that the rates quoted by them are actually much higher than the rates permitted by the rules. Nobody is able to enquire into the matter; people are suffering and there is no alternative.

"Another matter in this connexion is, on account of want of a sufficient number of buses you find black-marketing has started in motor tickets also. People take a number of tickets at each mufassal station, as in the case of railways. Now, Sir, people are supposed to have purchased the tickets but they have to pay one or two rupees extra in order to get accommodation in the buses. The best way to remedy this evil is to see that more buses are immediately put on the road.

"Sir, there is one other danger which the Government should guard against in taking over the transport services. The transport companies are demanding a much higher price for their vehicles. There was also an article about this recently in the papers. Government tried to take over some vehicles from some company, but found that the purchase price put up by the company for buses which had been running for several years was nearly three times the original cost price. If therefore Government propose to take over these vehicles, there should be no question of applying the present black-marketing condition in regard to prices, but in so taking them over, you will have to fix

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the price after taking into consideration the depreciation value also. That is how it will at all be possible to do justice to the Government itself.

"There is one other matter, Sir and I have done. You will find that out of the many difficult pieces of ordinances under which rules have been issued, there are certain complicated rules put in there and the people who administer them seem to think that they should merely deal with the rules without due care and not look to the conveniences or facilities for the people at large. There is a rule that in cases where Government want to put buses to be run elsewhere in the interests of the public, orders should be given for the purpose, but if these orders are disobeyed by the transport companies, Government may stop the service. While so in the case of a company without any such direction, the authorities immediately pass orders stopping the service. What happens is, the motor owners are really dependent upon the police for the supervision of the permits and licences and also on the other authorities concerned. There is therefore a likelihood of difficulties since they have to submit to the authorities without being able to get justice. I hope that Government will take note of all these things and see that this department is administered in the interests of the country at large."

* SRIMATHI V. LAKSHMI AMMAL :—"அக்கிராசனாதிபதி அவர்களே, மோட்டார் சாதனங்கள் விஷயமாக இரண்டொரு வார்த்தை நான் சொல்லிவிட்டு நிறுத்திக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். எல்லா ஊர்களிலும் பஸ்களைப் பற்றித் தான் இப்பொழுது பேசப்பட்டது. பஸ்களில் ஏராளமாக overload போடுகிறார்களென்றும் பஸ்களை நல்ல நிலைமையில் நடத்துவதில்லை யென்றும் கவர்ன்மெண்டார் பஸ்களை எடுத்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டும் அல்லது ஸ்தலஸ்தாபனங்கள் எடுத்துக்கொண்டேமென்று சொல்லப்பட்டது. அதை நானும் ஆதரிக்கின்றேன். ஆனால் ஸ்தலஸ்தாபனங்கள் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நடத்துவதை விட இப்பொழுது திருவாங்கூரில் கவர்ன்மெண்டாரே எடுத்து நடத்துகிறார்கள். அது மாதிரி கவர்ன்மெண்டாரே அதை ஒரு தனி டிபார்ட்மெண்டாக வைத்து நடத்தினால் ஒரே மாதிரியான நிலைமையில் அதில் வேலை செய்யக்கூடியவர்களுக்குச் சம்பளம் கொடுக்கவும் எல்லா ஊர்களிலும் ஒரே மாதிரியாக overload போடாமல் பாஸஞ்சர்களை ஏற்றிக்கொள்வதற்கும் சாதகமாக இருக்கும்.

"இதைத் தவிர பிளெஷர்கார் வைத்திருப்பவர்களால் அநேக தவறுகள் இருக்கின்றன. ஒருவர் இரண்டு, மூன்று, அல்லது ஒரு பிளெஷர்காருக்கு லைசென்ஸ் வாங்கி விட்டு லைசென்ஸில்லாமல் 7, 8, 10 கார்களைச் சேர்ந்தார்ப் போல் வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இப்பொழுது என்னுடைய ஜில்லாவை எடுத்துக்கொண்டால் நூற்றுக் கணக்கான பிளெஷர்கார்கள் லைசென்ஸில்லாமல் ஓடிக்கொண்டிருக்கின்றன, அது போலீஸ் அதிகாரிகளுக்கு நன்றாகத் தெரியும். அவசர சந்தர்ப்பம் ஏற்பட்டால் அதே காரில் போலீஸ் அதிகாரிகளும் ஓடுகிறார்கள். இவை மந்திரியவர்களுடைய கவனத்திற்கு நான் கொண்டு வருகிறேன்.

"இரண்டாவதாக இந்த பஸ்களிலெல்லாம் ஓடிப்போய் ஏறவேண்டியதாயிருக்கிறது. ஸ்திரீகளால் அம்மாதிரி புருஷர்களுடன் சண்டை போட்டுக்கொண்டு ஏறி உட்கார் முடியவில்லை. நம்முடைய ஊரிலே chivalry என்பது கொஞ்சங்கூட அனுஷ்டிப்பதாகத் தெரியவில்லை. ஆனதால் கண்டக்டர்கள் ஸ்திரீகள் இருந்தால் அவர்களுக்கு முதலில்

[Sri A. Vaidyanatha Ayyar] [16th August 1946]

I know, where there has been black-marketing of yarn in Coimbatore and Madura, these motor lorries were helping yarn to be taken out of the mills direct. As a matter of fact, these mills themselves are causing a considerable amount of trouble about distribution. Recently some black-marketing where lorries were used had been discovered but we do not know what the Ministers are going to do in regard to them and what is to become of these motor transport services which serve as an effective instrument in aiding black-marketing? In my own district, Madura, much trouble has been caused by lorries which were used to transport yarn for black-marketing. When this was taken to the notice of the District Supply Officer, he said it was too late and the lorries went beyond the border of the district thus defying control and he could not do anything in the matter. In these circumstances, it is much better that the lorry transport are brought under the management of the Government itself. There were also cases of motor lorries having been used for transporting palm-jaggery from Tinnevely to be sold in black-market and the result was, the prices of palm-jaggery at once rose from Rs. 2 to Rs. 10 in the course of ten days and that is the situation, so far as this is concerned.

“Then again, Sir, in spite of all our pious wish to the contrary, there is a tendency to see that as a matter of fact, monopoly is formed. When the matter is brought to the notice of the Government, they say, ‘we are against monopoly.’ Take the instance of Kodai Union Motor Service. The said motor transport company alone can go near them because it is again a monopoly, by whatever name they may be called. You will find that the rates quoted by them are actually much higher than the rates permitted by the rules. Nobody is able to enquire into the matter; people are suffering and there is no alternative.

“Another matter in this connexion is, on account of want of a sufficient number of buses you find black-marketing has started in motor tickets also. People take a number of tickets at each mufassal station, as in the case of railways. Now, Sir, people are supposed to have purchased the tickets but they have to pay one or two rupees extra in order to get accommodation in the buses. The best way to remedy this evil is to see that more buses are immediately put on the road.

“Sir, there is one other danger which the Government should guard against in taking over the transport services. The transport companies are demanding a much higher price for their vehicles. There was also an article about this recently in the papers. Government tried to take over some vehicles from some company, but found that the purchase price put up by the company for buses which had been running for several years was nearly three times the original cost price. If therefore Government propose to take over these vehicles, there should be no question of applying the present black-marketing condition in regard to prices, but in so taking them over, you will have to fix

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the price after taking into consideration the depreciation value also. That is how it will at all be possible to do justice to the Government itself.

“There is one other matter, Sir and I have done. You will find that out of the many difficult pieces of ordinances under which rules have been issued, there are certain complicated rules put in there and the people who administer them seem to think that they should merely deal with the rules without due care and not look to the conveniences or facilities for the people at large. There is a rule that in cases where Government want to put buses to be run elsewhere in the interests of the public, orders should be given for the purpose, but if these orders are disobeyed by the transport companies, Government may stop the service. While so in the case of a company without any such direction, the authorities immediately pass orders stopping the service. What happens is, the motor owners are really dependent upon the police for the supervision of the permits and licences and also on the other authorities concerned. There is therefore a likelihood of difficulties since they have to submit to the authorities without being able to get justice. I hope that Government will take note of all these things and see that this department is administered in the interests of the country at large.”

* SRIMATHI V. LAKSHMI AMMAL :—“அக்கிராசனாதிபதி அவர்களே, மோட்டார் சாதனங்கள் விஷயமாக இரண்டொரு வார்த்தை நான் சொல்லிவிட்டு நிறுத்திக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். எல்லா ஊர்களிலும் பஸ்களைப் பற்றித் தான் இப்பொழுது பேசப்பட்டது. பஸ்களில் ஏராளமாக overload போடுகிறார்களென்றும் பஸ்களை நல்ல நிலைமையில் நடத்துவதில்லை யென்றும் கவர்ன்மெண்டார் பஸ்களை எடுத்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டும் அல்லது ஸ்தலஸ்தாபனங்கள் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லப்பட்டது. அதை நானும் ஆதரிக்கின்றேன். ஆனால் ஸ்தலஸ்தாபனங்கள் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நடத்துவதை விட இப்பொழுது திருவாங்கூரில் கவர்ன்மெண்டாரே எடுத்து நடத்துகிறார்கள். அது மாதிரி கவர்ன்மெண்டாரே அதை ஒரு தனி டிபார்ட்மெண்டாக வைத்து நடத்தினால் ஒரே மாதிரியான நிலைமையில் அதில் வேலை செய்யக்கூடியவர்களுக்குச் சம்பளம் கொடுக்கவும் எல்லா ஊர்களிலும் ஒரே மாதிரியாக overload போடாமல் பாஸஞ்சர்களை ஏற்றிக்கொள்வதற்கும் சாதகமாக இருக்கும்.

“இதைத் தவிர பிளெஷ்கார் வைத்திருப்பவர்கள் பால் அநேக தவறுகள் இருக்கின்றன. ஒருவர் இரண்டு, மூன்று, அல்லது ஒரு பிளெஷ்காருக்கு லைசென்ஸ் வாங்கி விட்டு லைசென்ஸில்லாமல் 7, 8, 10 கார்களைச் சேர்த்தார்ப் போல் வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இப்பொழுது என்னுடைய ஜில்லாவை எடுத்துக்கொண்டால் நூற்றுக் கணக்கான பிளெஷ்கார்கள் லைசென்ஸில்லாமல் ஓடிக்கொண்டிருக்கின்றன, அது போலீஸ் அதிகாரிகளுக்கு நன்றாகத் தெரியும். அவசர சந்தர்ப்பம் ஏற்பட்டால் அதே காரில் போலீஸ் அதிகாரிகளும் ஓடுகிறார்கள். இவை மந்திரியவர்களுடைய கவனத்திற்கு நான் கொண்டு வருகிறேன்.

“இரண்டாவதாக இந்த பஸ்களிலெல்லாம் ஓடிப்போய் ஏறவேண்டியதாயிருக்கிறது. ஸ்திரீகள் அம்மாதிரி புருஷர்களுடன் சண்டை போட்டுக்கொண்டு ஏறி உட்கார் முடியவில்லை. நம்முடைய ஊரிலே chivalry என்பது கொஞ்சங்கூட அனுஷ்டிப்பதாகத் தெரியவில்லை. ஆனதால் கண்டக்டர்கள் ஸ்திரீகள் இருந்தால் அவர்களுக்கு முதலில்

[Srimathi V. Lakshmi Ammal] [16th August 1946]

இடம் கொடுத்து ஏறவிட்டு பிறகு புருஷர்களை ஏற விடவேண்டுமென்று ஒரு திட்டம் வேண்டுமென்பதாகக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டு நிறுத்திக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that I am the last speaker on this subject . . .”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ You are not the last speaker; there are also others who want to speak on this demand.”

* SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—“ Sir, the hon. the Speaker can of course allow any number of speakers and allow any amount of time. I was thinking that I was the last speaker in view of the opinions already expressed by several members on this demand.

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p.m. “ Coming to the question of motor transport, Sir, I wish to say what all members have said about overloading of buses, is true; cent per cent it is correct. Motor owners do not deserve any sympathy. When a police officer wants to travel in a bus or his servant, the police officer can command much more control over the buses and lorries than the owners themselves. If the servant of a police officer comes and tells the driver of a bus that it is wanted by a particular sub-inspector in a particular street, he will first go there and ask all the passengers to keep quiet and wait for hours together. Once in my own district, Salem, I had to complain about this to the Superintendent of Police and there the passengers were asked to wait for more than an hour and when the Superintendent of Police was asked why they were made to wait for such a long time, he excused himself by saying ‘ I am very sorry ’. ‘ Please take your bus ’ he said to the driver. The bus man thanked me very much, saying that they wanted to put a heavy box on the top of the bus, which would have crushed the top and that on account of me his bus was saved. Not that the trouble arises only on account of the police. There is too much congestion of traffic and the bus people are not slow to take advantage of it. If the bus rate is one rupee, they will demand two rupees as soon as the bus has passed the municipal limit. There is no use merely saying that these things are there. Some remedies should be found. So far as I am concerned, I would suggest that powers should be given to important public workers at district and taluk centres to take cognizance of bus offences. At present passengers have to prefer their complaint to the Regional Inspector and he seldom takes note of the complaints. Bus owners are generally rich people and in case any complaint is made, they are able to employ lawyers to argue their case and manage to get away scot free. So I suggest that in district and taluk centres, powers should be vested in public men for dealing with bus complaints and in the villages the members of food committees may be entrusted with such powers. It is no use the Superintendent of Police or his subordinates or the Collector and his subordinates dealing with bus complaints. Cases enquired into by them will always end in nothing. Whenever any complaint is received from a member of

[16th August 1946] [Sri P. Kandaswami Pillai]

the public with or without evidence, they must straightway enquire and try to find out themselves whether there is any foundation for the complaint. You are aware that in the Excise Department if a complaint is made, they do not wait to ask for evidence in support of the complaint. They employ their own special staff to find out whether a forbidden article is sold or not. In a like manner all bus complaints should be enquired into and on the basis of the investigation the magistrate must take immediate action, so that the trouble might be immediately put down.

“ I have to utter a word of caution regarding the suggestion made by some hon. Members that buses should be taken over by the Government and run, so that it might yield some profit. My fear is that whenever an institution is taken over by the Government, that is the time that the employees think of striking and they do strike. You know, Sir, what the Railway men did. Though well paid and well looked after, as soon as the Government took over the Railways, they said that they had been under-paid and wanted better conditions on pain of strike. Similarly also, the bus men are likely to strike and paralyse passenger traffic and our people will be at their mercy. I would, therefore, ask the Government to think a hundred times before they decide upon taking over bus transport or for that matter any institution conducted by private individuals. Instead, for the better comforts of the passengers and for their safety as also for regulating the pay of the staff, rules and regulations might be made. One line in which Government might intervene is with regard to auctioning of timings. If this is done with reference to the trips performed by a bus from morning to evening, I assure you, Sir, you will be able to clear as large sums of money as you are getting by way of commercial taxes. I suggest that Government take up this question immediately.

“ There is another thing I have to say with reference to the emoluments of the drivers, conductors and other employees of bus companies. They are working all the twenty-four hours and they are giving their life to their work. I would suggest a scheme of insurance for them and the system of provident fund should be instituted and by that means they must be made to take more interest in their work. Otherwise, it is likely they lose interest in their work and do their work in a haphazard manner. I would request the Government to make necessary arrangements to provide safeguards for the workers in the bus services of the Province.”

* SRI KALLURI SUBBA RAO:—“ Mr. Speaker, in supporting the Demand, I wish to say a few words about the grievances of the motor transport trade. The motor transport administration is run by the Regional Traffic Board which is a new organization and you do not know the difficulty that is experienced by motor owners. I wish to bring to your notice and through you to the notice of the Hon. Minister in charge of the subject that the whole of the Andhra area is divided into two regions and you can just

[Sri Kalluri Subba Rao] [16th August 1946]

imagine the difficulty in going to Rajahmundry or Cuddapah as the case may be even for getting a permit. Though the Regional Transport Authority is functioning for all the districts, it so happens that only such of the members as belong to the particular districts attend when it is held at a particular district headquarters and they have to decide questions for all the districts of the region. The other difficulty is that in case the consideration of the subjects is postponed from one meeting to the other, though it is the same authority, a different set of members attend and the result is that the voice of the Regional Transport Officer is the deciding factor. members have already requested that the Board must be reconstituted, one for each district and that on the recommendation of the Board, the Inspector or Regional Transport Officer must act.

“ Another grievance of the fleet owners is that they are the heaviest taxed in the whole of the country. For a 21-seater bus, the fleet owner of Madras pays Rs. 1,400 against Bombay Rs. 392, Bengal Rs. 114, Bihar Rs. 380, Orissa Rs. 358, Central Provinces and Berar Rs. 352, the Punjab Urban Rs. 165, Rural Rs. 56, Assam Rs. 150, North-West Frontier Province Rs. 44 and Sind Rs. 114. Having regard to the high rates of taxation that our motor owners are subject to, I would plead that the minimum rate per ticket might be fixed at 4 annas. This will be to the benefit of long distance travellers. Supposing a bus starts in the morning, any and everybody who is prepared to pay the rate for the first station can board the bus and to that extent a person wishing to travel to the terminus of the bus is denied room for want of space, which is occupied by a person travelling a short distance. Then, Sir, if you want to have an honest and efficient administration, the mileage rate should be put up to at least 9 pies, though there is a strong case for raising it to 1 anna. The present position is that twenty buses form one fleet. I suggest that it would be better if five could make one fleet so that it would be compact and could run efficiently as long as it is on the road. I for one am not against nationalization of bus transport, if it is profitable to the State, but I feel it is not advantageous. After having investigated into the question, the Government may take over the same. I am surprised, Sir, that even now prosecutions are being launched under the Defence of India Rules. There is nothing to be defended, now that the war has ended; and I plead that any action if it is warranted must be taken under the ordinary law of the land.

“ There are a number of suggestions that have been made from time to time on the question of motor transport. I suggest, therefore, that a committee might go into the rules so that they might be reviewed and any objectionable features removed.”

The House adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

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