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MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

SATURDAY, 29TH MARCH 1947

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THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Saturday, the 29th March 1947.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—STATEMENT *RE* NEW MINISTERS.

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ Sir, before we begin the proceedings of the House, I have got to make an announcement for the information of the hon. Members. The Madras Council of Ministers has been increased by five more members. They are : The Hon. Sri A. B. Shetty, the Hon. Sri Kala Venkata Rao, the Hon. Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiyar, the Hon. Sri V. Kurmayya and the Hon. Mr. Daniel Thomas. Their respective departments have already been published and if any hon. Member wants any further information on this subject, I shall be very glad to give him.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I am sure the House will welcome the new team as also the old Ministers who came into existence a few days back and I am sure the House would feel highly gratified that three of its members are on the Cabinet. I wish them Godspeed.”

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ Who is the Leader of the House, Sir? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ My humble self has been asked to be the Leader of the House.”

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ Why the Hon. Sri Madhava Menon has resigned his leadership of the House? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ May I inform the hon. Member that Hon. Sri Madhava Menon was never the Leader of the House.”

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Re-employment of retired persons.

* 115 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the services of all retired officials, either re-entertained for a definite period or given extension of service, have all been terminated;

(b) whether there are any still in service whose retention has been considered necessary for special reasons and, if so, what they are and what the reasons for extension are; and

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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whether, before such extensions are granted, efforts are made to secure officers with the same or similar qualifications either by promotion or direct recruitment?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“(a) The answer is in the negative.

“(b) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative.

As regards the second part the reasons for the extensions of service or re-employment are generally paucity of suitable and qualified candidates for appointment or promotion in the ordinary course. As to who the persons are that have been re-employed or granted extensions of service, in the interests of economy in stationery and printing a list of such persons has not been printed and placed on the table of the House. If the hon. Member wants it, he may obtain a list on application to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

“(c) Generally such efforts are made.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“From what the Hon. Minister has stated it looks that this list appears to be a formidable one. Will the Government take immediate steps to stop extension of service or re-employment of the retired officers?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“The Government are always prepared to do that, but there are circumstances under which we are not able to put the whole of that policy into practice. It is, as I have said, due to paucity of suitable men for the post and in these days when service conditions have become so very competitive and enormously enlarged, it is certainly very difficult to procure the right kind of men. The Government have not however given up the idea of not engaging or re-engaging people who have become superannuated.”

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—“May I know, Sir, whether the time has not come to retire all superannuated officers in view of the fact that there are many educated unemployed and more and more graduates are being produced every year?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“Yes, Sir, the time has come but we have to run the Government and the suitability of the candidates has got to be ascertained before they are taken in. In view of this fact a few of the superannuated people are being retained to carry on the administration and these also will be retired as soon as possible.”

MR. K. O. ANTHONI :—“May I know, Sir, whether the Special Officer for Departmental Enquiries is one of those whose services are absolutely necessary to be continued?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“That is a more detailed question which I am not prepared to answer as there are more than about 150 or 200 people still in service of whom about 15 or 20 are Gazetted officers and there are a great number of non-gazetted men in the service. This specific question will have to be gone into before I can find an answer.”

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“I remember the hon. Mr. Prakasam laid on the table of the House a Government Order saying that in the view of the Government no such extension should be given and still we are told there are 150 re-employed officers in service. Will the Government give an undertaking that they will examine each case and see that the Government Order is given effect to?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“I have already given an indication as to the policy of this Government in this matter. It will not be fair to send away all these people home one fine morning because the principle has been accepted. Certainly this point will be remembered by the Government and they will, as far as possible, expedite the termination of these people.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“May I also bring to the notice of the Government another instance. In the Local Fund Accounts one retired officer was re-employed as an Examiner of Local Fund Accounts and when he went on leave the other day they promoted an Assistant Examiner to act in that post. May I know why if the Assistant Examiner was competent to act in a leave vacancy he should not be considered competent to act in a permanent vacancy? That also has to be looked into, Sir.”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“That will be examined, Sir.”

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—“Is it a fact that attempts are being made to re-employ certain retired high educational officers?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“I do not know of it. We shall enquire.”

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“May I know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that retired Muslims have particularly been excluded from re-employment?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“I am not aware of this fact, Sir.”

Report of the Cabinet Salaries Committee.

* 116 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to place on the table of the House the report of the Cabinet Salaries Committee, 1946, on which Madras Revised Scales of Pay Rules, 1947 (G.O. No. 78, Finance, dated 6th February 1947), have been based?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“The Cabinet Salaries Committee wished that its report (on which the revised scales of pay have been based) should be treated as confidential and intended for official use only. The Government therefore regret that the report cannot be placed on the table of the House.”

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" When there is a reference made to the Committee's report in the Government Order quoted by me in the question how is it possible either for the members of this House or the public to know what circumstances compelled the Cabinet Sub-Committee to make their recommendations which the Government have accepted if the Report of the Committee is not published? If no reference had been made to this report, it would have been a different matter."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I have nothing more to add to the answer already given, Sir."

Subsidies to newspapers and journals.

* 117 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have been granting subsidies or subventions to newspapers or journals in the Province, either regularly or occasionally;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, in what shape the subsidy or subvention is given, i.e., by cash payment or by purchasing a certain number of copies of the paper or journal;

(c) the names of papers and journals which have received assistance in some shape or other and what such assistance has cost Government;

(d) whether the Government have assisted papers or journals to secure extra quota of paper required to assist their propaganda; and

(e) why the Government resort to this method of subsidized propaganda when they have a Publicity department of their own?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (a) The answer is in the negative.

" (b), (c) & (e) The question does not arise.

" (d) The answer is in the negative."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Am I to understand that the Government have never purchased copies of any journal in the past for the purpose of distribution? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It may have been so, Sir."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that 5,000 copies of the *Swatantra* were purchased by the Government for the purpose of distribution? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I do not know whether they actually purchased it or not. If you make a specific demand for investigation of this matter, Government will certainly enquire into the matter."

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" When a general question of this nature is put, can we not expect Government to investigate into the matter and furnish the information? Why should the Government say that we should ask a specific question? Is it necessary to put a specific question for the purpose of knowing whether a particular journal has been assisted and only if there is a specific question, the matter becomes important? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is not a specific question that I referred to but I wanted specific instances."

House Surgeons and House Physicians in the city hospitals.

* 118 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(a) the number of posts, paid and unpaid House Physicians and House Surgeons, in the city hospitals and mufassal hospitals;

(b) on what considerations paid and unpaid House Surgeons and House Physicians are selected;

(c) whether there is any difference in the treatment accorded to the two categories of House Surgeons and House Physicians;

(d) whether these officers are provided with rent-free quarters;

(e) whether there is any proposal under consideration to increase the number of these officers;

(f) whether every student passing out of the Medical College can secure one of the posts on application;

(g) whether the entertainment of Medical graduates as House Surgeons and House Physicians is intended to equip them better professionally; and

(h) whether there is a proposal to abolish the distinction between paid and unpaid House Surgeons and House Physicians and convert them all into paid posts?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) The number of posts of paid House Surgeons and House Physicians in the Government hospitals in the City and mufassal is 139 and the number of unpaid posts is 96.

" (b) The candidates are selected as far as possible, to represent the various communities in the Province. Paid and unpaid appointments are given to those candidates who have passed the final examination with a good record, according to the order of merit as evidenced by the results of their examinations.

" (c) & (d) Paid House Surgeons and House Physicians are given a subsistence allowance of Rs. 60 per mensem and free quarters or a house allowance in lieu thereof. Unpaid men are not given any allowance but are given free quarters wherever they are available.

Paid men in teaching hospitals are required to be on duty for 24 hours of the day and also to attend to emergency calls.

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In non-teaching hospitals they are posted for casualty and night duties. Unpaid men who are not provided with free quarters are not required to attend on the patients during emergencies or in the night.

“(e) In February this year, the number of paid posts has been increased by 23 and unpaid appointments by 13.

“(f) Every student can secure one post provided that he is willing to be posted to any hospital either in the City or mufassal to which he is selected.

“(g) The answer is in the affirmative.

“(h) This question is under examination.”

Allotment of yarn and cloth to merchants.

* 119 Q.—SRI S. A. S. RM. RAMANATHAM CHETTIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the surplus quota in yarn and cloth given to every centre in the whole of Madras Presidency during the period 1944-45 and 1945-46; and what was done with it all and by whom;

(b) how much of the total quota was allotted to Dr. Sir Alagappa Chettiyar, the special reasons for giving licence for so much cloth and yarn; and for how many lakhs of yards of lungi, licence was given to Dr. Sir Alagappa Chettiyar; and

(c) whether it is true that a licence which was given to a Muslim at Cannanore was cancelled and the same given to Dr. Sir Alagappa Chettiyar and, if so, the reasons for such preferential treatment?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“(a) No centre in the Province has at any time been given a surplus quota of yarn or cloth. The quantities available for distribution from time to time are allotted equitably to all districts and there is no surplus left over.

“(b) The first part of the question does not arise. Dr. Sir Alagappa Chettiyar was granted in March 1946 an export quota of one lakh of yards of handloom cloth, per month, as a special case.

“(c) Cancelled licences are never given to other persons. As the Alagappa Corporation, Cannanore, was doing yarn business even in the pre-control period, it has had a yarn licence all along.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“May I know if it was the Government or the Textile Commissioner who granted the licence.”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“The Government granted it on the recommendation of the Textile Commissioner.”

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“May I know how it is that the Government come in as a licensing authority under the control orders?”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“This was done in March 1946. As it is, it is seen from the file that a letter was addressed to the Government and the Government asked for the opinion of the Textile Commissioner. He naturally recommended it and the orders have been passed on it.”

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“May I know, Sir, what the special circumstances were under which the permit for export quota was given to Dr. Sir Alagappa Chettiyar?”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“One of the reasons that seems to have weighed with the Government in the matter of the grant of the quota seems to have been the fact that he is a great philanthropist and has contributed large sums of money to various public charities.”

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“Are only philanthropists allowed special quota?”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“I am only stating what has happened before this Government came into office. I could only help hon. Members with the information that I have at my disposal.”

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—“May I know if he is the only philanthropic person in the whole of the Province to warrant the entire quota of one lakh of yards to be given to him?”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“I am not sure if other philanthropic parties applied for it at that time.”

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“Was there a communication to the other philanthropists?”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“I cannot answer this question. I have already answered what the reasons were.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“May I know if it was a quota for all time, and did it cease once an export of a lakh of yards has been made?”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“The quota was per month.”

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“May I know whether the present Government feels that the previous Government was justified in granting such a large quota for one individual.”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“No.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“Now that the Government see the inequity of the order, will they revise the order and cancel that licence?”

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THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" The policy of the present Government is to put down all inequities."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" So far as the present inequity is concerned, are they prepared to put down this inequity? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I think my answer covers everything."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" We want to know from the Hon. Minister whether this is an inequity or not and if this is an inequity, whether he will give us an assurance that this inequity will be stopped? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I have already said that the question will be examined to see that no inequity is perpetrated by anybody under this Government."

Production of khadi.

* 120 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether a final scheme for the production of khadi has been formulated by Government and if so, what the scheme is with full particulars;

(b) whether it is proposed to give a filip to ' Commercial khadi ' as distinguished from ' self-sufficiency khadi ' ;

(c) whether it is a fact that for years institutions and individuals other than the All-India Spinners' Association have, subject to such conditions as have been imposed, continued to contribute a great deal for the promotion of khadi production;

(d) what the position of these khadi producers will be in the new order of things; and

(e) whether the Government have received representations from khadi producers and, if so, what their decisions are?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (a) The hon. Members' attention is invited to the pamphlet on the Madras Government khadi Scheme, copies of which have already been placed on the table of the House.

" (b) It is presumed that by the term ' Commercial Khadi ' the hon. Member means ' uncertified khadi. ' If so, his attention is invited to paragraph 18 of the pamphlet on the Madras Government's Khadi Scheme indicating the lines on which such khadi will be controlled.

" (c) The Government are unable to give a categorical reply to this question. Certain organizations which were once recognized by the All-India Spinners' Association have since been disowned by that body on the ground that they had ceased to work on sound lines. There have also been instances of private organizations exploiting spinners or indulging in reckless competition according to the conditions

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in the khadi trade or producing and selling ' spurious ' khadi woven with mill yarn deliberately mixed up with hand-spun yarn.

" (d) It is proposed to eliminate the production and sale of uncertified khadi in the following areas :—

(1) the areas in which the ' intensive ' part of the Government Khadi Scheme is in force;

(2) the firkas selected for the ' extensive ' part of the khadi scheme;

(3) all the villages lying within a distance of ten miles beyond the limits of the ' intensive ' areas;

(4) villages within a belt of ten miles beyond the production centres of the All-India Spinners' Association and organizations certified by the All-India Spinners' Association and other approved organizations, if any;

(5) the Coimbatore and Erode Municipalities;

(6) Madura town.

" (e) Representations from a number of khadi producers and dealers have been received, and they are under consideration of the Government."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the insufficiency of mill cloth and also khadi, will they take into consideration this fact and desist from preventing this source of supply to the public? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" If such a necessity arises, we shall do so."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know, Sir, if the present Government is wedded to the khadi policy of the previous Government? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I do not know what the policy of the previous Government is in this matter. But I can certainly say that wherever possible, our policy does not differ from that of the previous Government and we continue the khadi policy laid down by the previous Government."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Was not the pamphlet issued by the previous Government seen by this Government? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes. We take responsibility for it."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Therefore, Sir, I wish to know whether the present Government is wedded to the khadi policy as previous Government was."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, Sir."

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Rates of Entertainments and Sales Taxes.

* 121 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the receipts from the Entertainments Tax, Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation and the General Sales Tax (yearwar) since the enactment of the respective Acts;

(b) the rates of these taxes and whether there have been changes;

(c) whether the rates of Sales Tax has been altered in respect of any commodities or articles and, if so, what they are and what the rates have been;

(d) the amounts of compensation given to local bodies from the proceeds of the taxes on entertainments and sales of motor spirit (yearwar);

(e) the income of local bodies from tolls before its abolition;

(f) whether local bodies have claimed a portion of the proceeds from the Sales Tax also and if so, what the decision of Government in the matter is;

(g) whether it is proposed to re-enact the Sale of Cloth Act in some other form;

(h) whether the licence fees charged for licensing dealers in cloth bears any relation to the proceeds under the Sale of Cloth Act; and

(i) whether the system of licensing dealers of all commodities is under consideration?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“(a) to (i) The information asked for by the hon. Member is laid on the table of the House. *”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—“From the statement placed on the table of the House, it is seen that the local boards are not given anything out of the proceeds of the motor spirit taxes. Prior to 1920-21, district boards and municipalities were in receipt of large sums of money on account of tolls. I wish to know how they can maintain their roads if they are not given any portion of the motor spirit taxes.”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“It was never the intention to give anything to the local boards from the amounts realized on account of motor spirit taxation. But toll compensation is being paid to them out of the 105 lakhs and odd which is recovered under the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act.”

Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras.

* 122 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the number of manuscript and printed books in the Madras Government Oriental Manuscripts Library;

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(b) whether catalogues of manuscripts have been published for each of the languages and if so, what the number of catalogues is according to language;

(c) what the staff engaged in the preparation of the catalogues is and whether it is adequate to complete the work within a reasonable period of time;

(d) whether the library is being utilized for consultation and if so, what the average number of users is;

(e) whether the staff employed is adequate to cope with the inquiries received;

(f) whether any charges are levied for supplying transcripts to scholars and institutions and if so, what they are and what the income has been during last year;

(g) what the number of the staff is with the qualifications and emoluments prescribed for each post;

(h) whether sanskrit qualification is not insisted upon for the Curator's post;

(i) whether the library has been located in a rented building and whether the accommodation provided is adequate;

(j) whether there are proposals before the Government to convert the library into a Research Institute;

(k) whether the members of the staff are required to go out on tour to collect rare manuscripts and acquire them for the library;

(l) whether adequate arrangements have been made to preserve the manuscripts in their original form or otherwise and whether rare works are being published and made available to the public as in the case of records in the Madras Record Office; and

(m) whether the Government have under consideration the whole question of the future of the Oriental Manuscripts Library with a view not only to promote the purpose for which it has been established but also make it more useful to the general public?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

“(a) There are 48,708 manuscripts and 9,251 printed books in the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras.

“(b) Yes.

“The number of catalogues, published is: Sanskrit—55; Tamil—15; Telugu—16; Kannada—5; Malayalam—2; Arabic, Persian and Urdu—4.

“(c) There is no special staff solely for the purpose of cataloguing. A staff of one Librarian, two Assistant Librarians and eleven Pandits under the Curator; attend to the work of the preparation of catalogues, in addition to their normal duties. The sanctioning of additional staff to complete the work of cataloguing in a reasonable time is under consideration.

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"(d) Yes. It is consulted locally by visitors and by non-residence users through correspondence and loan of manuscripts. For the period from 1st April to 30th November 1946 the monthly average of users is 258.

"(e) Yes.

"(f) Charges are levied for supplying transcripts to scholars and institutions at the following rates:—

Sanskrit, Kannada and Malayalam. Rs. 10 for copying 1,000 granthas. (A grantha is equal to 32 syllables.)

Telugu and Tamil .. Rs. 9 for copying 1,000 granthas.

Urdu and Persian .. Rs. 10 for copying 10,000 letters.

Arabic Rs. 10 for copying 45,000 letters.

Besides, there are comparing charges at the following rates—Charges for comparing 1,000 granthas in Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam and 60,000 letters in Urdu and Persian and 45,000 letters in Arabic are Rs. 2-12-0.

"The income received was about Rs. 939.

"(g) The number of the staff, with the qualifications and emoluments prescribed is as follows:—

Designation.	Number.	Qualifications.	Scale of pay. RS.
Curator	1	First or second class M.A. or B.A. (Hons.) of any British or Indian University in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Arabic or Persian with a working knowledge of Sanskrit.	200—30/2—260— 40/2—500—50/2 —700.
Librarian	1	B.A. (Hons.) or B.Sc. (Hons.) or M.A. or M.Sc. of a University in the Province and must possess a sufficient knowledge of Sanskrit and of at least one of the languages, namely, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada. Below 30 years of age. Account Test for Subordinate Officers—Part 1.	100—10/2—150.
Assistant Librarian (one temporary).	2	Do.	70—5/2—85—7½/2 —100.
Clerk	1	S.S.L.C.	30—3/2—45—2/2 —55.
Do. (Temporary)	1	Do.	30 per mensem (fixed).
Typist (Temporary).	1	S.S.L.C. with qualification in typing.	30—3/2—45—2/2 —55.
Senior Pandit (one for Tamil).	1	Oriental Title of one of the Universities in the Province.	45—5/2—60.

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Designation.	Number.	Qualifications.	Scale of pay. RS.
Pandits (1 temporary), 3 for Sanskrit, 1 for Tamil, 1 for Telugu, 1 for Kannada, and 1 for Arabic, Persian and Urdu. (One of the Sanskrit Pandits efficient in Malayalam for Malayalam).	9	Oriental Title in concerned language of one of the Universities in the Province.	35—4/2—43—2/2 —45.
Marathi Pandit (Temporary).	1	Proficiency in Marathi with sufficient knowledge of English and ability to read and write Marathi manuscript recorded in Nagari and Modi script. Preference to Oriental Title holders of graduates.	75 per mensem (fixed).
Attender	1	III Form	19 to 30.
Peons	3		12 to 18.
Dusting coolies for dusting manuscripts and books.	2		12 paid from contingencies.

"(h) Sanskrit qualification is not insisted upon for the Curator's post, but a candidate who knows to read and write Sanskrit is given preference for appointment to the post.

"(i) The Library is not located in a rented building. At present it is housed in a portion of the University buildings on the western side. The accommodation provided for it is not considered adequate.

"(j) No.

"(k) On receiving information regarding the availability of rare manuscripts in any particular place, a member of the staff qualified to examine them is deputed with or without the Curator to acquire them for the Library.

"(l) Yes.

"(m) An advisory committee has recently been constituted and it will be asked to go into the question of making the library more useful to the general public and submit their recommendations."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"Before the question is answered by the Hon. Minister, I wish to submit that I never intended this to be put as a starred question as I was aware long answer is involved. But by some mistake, it has been starred. I would only request the Minister to furnish me with a copy of the answer now and it might go into the proceedings."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—"The question has appeared on the agenda. Though the answer may be long"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—

"I am prepared to read out any portion of the answer which hon. Members may be interested to hear."

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ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know who the Curator is?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—" I do not know."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it not a fact that a Muslim gentleman by name Muhammad Fazlullah Sahib, M.A., L.T., is the Curator?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—" I take the information from the hon. Member."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it not a fact that he is highly qualified in Sanskrit?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—" I do not know, Sir."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Will it be possible to have it printed and circulated one of these days the Council is sitting so that we may put supplementary questions on it?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—" A copy of the answer is with the Council Secretariat and it might be circulated by them as usual."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" If hon. Members want it to be printed and it might be arranged."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" The answer to this question is also sufficiently long. If you want, I will read it."

Functions of the Publicity department.

* 123 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Information be pleased to state—

- (a) the functions of the Publicity department;
- (b) the publications issued by the department;
- (c) whether all Press Notes and communiqués of Government are issued by this department;
- (d) the staff employed and proposed to be employed at Madras and in the mufassal;
- (e) the nature of work entrusted to officers of the Publicity department in the mufassal;
- (f) whether the mufassal staff will work under the control and supervision of Collectors;
- (g) whether *Madras Information* is issued only in English or in regional languages as well;
- (h) whether it is proposed to issue a Hindi edition of *Madras Information* and if so, of what region is Hindi the spoken or written language;
- (i) the expenditure incurred on the publication of *Madras Information* and the number of copies printed (language-wise); and
- (j) where English and language editions including Hindi edition are published?

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THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" (a) The functions of the Publicity department have already been explained on the floor of this House on 10th February 1947 by the Hon. the Minister for Public Information in answer to question No. 40 of Mr. K. O. Anthoni, M.L.C.

" (b) The main publication of this department is the fortnightly magazine *Madras Information* and its counterparts in the regional languages, and Hindustani. In addition, pamphlets on subjects of topical interest like Prohibition, Anti-corruption Measures, Food Administration in the Province, Livestock Improvement, Settlement of Labour Disputes, Rationing, Textile Policy, and Irrigation Schemes have been issued in English as well as the regional languages. Pamphlets on recipes relating to unfamiliar foodgrains like wheat, maize and barley also have been issued. A pamphlet on the zamindari system is being published with a view to give the public a background of the system and the Government's proposals to deal with it.

" (c) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (d) Information regarding the staff employed at Madras has been furnished to the House in answer to question No. 40 of Mr. K. O. Anthoni, M.L.C., on 10th February 1947. For the field publicity organization in the districts the following staff has been sanctioned :—

Two Deputy Publicity Officers at Trichinopoly and Bezwada to be in charge of the Tamil districts and Telugu districts respectively.

Two Divisional Publicity Officers for Malabar and South Kanara to be in charge of the two districts respectively.

One Sub-Deputy Publicity Officer at Guntakal to be in charge of the Ceded districts.

Twenty-four District Publicity Assistants at the rate of one per district except Madras.

Five translators at the rate of one per Deputy, Divisional, and Sub-Deputy Publicity Officer.

Two accountants at the rate of one for each Deputy Publicity Officer.

Five lower division clerks at the rate of one per Deputy, Divisional and Sub-Deputy Publicity Officer.

Seven typists at the rate of two for each Deputy Publicity Officer, and one for each Divisional and Sub-Deputy Publicity Officer.

Twenty-nine peons at the rate of one for each Publicity Officer and Publicity Assistant.

" (e) The District Publicity staff proposed for appointment is mainly concerned with the collecting of facts regarding anti-Government propaganda that is being carried on by interested

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parties in the districts and to take steps to counteract such propaganda, produce literature and propaganda material for the purpose and see to their distribution. They will also be responsible for publicity of the Government's nation building and developmental activities.

" (f) The Field Publicity staff will work as officers of the Information and Publicity department and in close co-operation and consultation with the Collectors concerned.

" (g) *Madras Information* is issued in English as well as the regional languages.

" (h) A Hindustani edition is also issued. The Hindustani edition has two parts, one in Devanagiri script and the other in Urdu. The Hindi portion is intended mostly to educate the public in Northern India regarding the work of the Madras Ministry and the cultural heritage of the south.

" (i) The estimated cost of all editions is about Rs. 1.1 lakh per annum. The number of copies printed languagewar is as follows :—

English	...	...	...	...	2,750
Telugu	...	...	...	...	1,000
Tamil	...	...	...	...	1,500
Malayalam	...	...	...	...	500
Kanarese	...	...	...	...	500
Hindi	...	...	...	...	1,000

" (j) English, Telugu and Tamil editions are printed and published by the Government Press. The Malayalam edition is printed at Jaya Kerala Press, Madras, Kanarese edition at Srivatsava Press, Madras, and the Hindustani edition at the Dakshina Bharata Hindi Prachar Sabha, Madras."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Sir, the answers may be printed, and we may be given an opportunity to put supplementary questions on some other day."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I suggest, Sir, that copies of answers to these questions may kindly be supplied to us, and that we be given permission to put supplementary questions arising out of the answers to these two questions on some other day when the Council meets? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" All right."

Rules for the movement of controlled articles.

* 124 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether for granting permits for the movement within and outside the province of essential or controlled articles such as groundnut-oil, potatoes, jaggery, onions, etc., the Government have prescribed rules and if so, what they are;

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(b) who the authority granting permits is;

(c) whether any appeal to Government is provided against the orders of the sanctioning authority;

(d) whether the Government themselves in the first instance have issued permits in certain instances without reference to the authorized sanctioning authority; and what the names of such grantees are;

(e) whether in such instances the grantees have invariably satisfied the conditions governing the sanction of permits;

(f) what steps are taken to ensure that the permit-holders do not transfer their permits for a consideration;

(g) whether any instances of abuses by permit-holders have come to the notice of Government and if so, what action has been taken in their cases; and

(h) whether permits have been granted to persons who do not belong to this province?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The information^a required is placed on the table of the House."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister whether Government as such have power, or competent, to interfere with the powers of the licensing authority, as the order is passed by His Excellency the Governor? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Government is an appellate authority, and therefore Government has got the power."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I inform the Hon. Minister that in the various orders passed no mention of 'Government' is made and the licensing authority alone is mentioned. I raise this because I think Government have taken upon themselves the power to issue instructions to the licensing authorities to issue certain permits. I believe this is *ultra vires*. I would like the Hon. Minister to have this examined by the Legal Department to see whether the Government are competent to issue instructions to the licensing authorities."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, Sir."

Prices of agricultural products.

* 125 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have undertaken or propose to undertake a survey of the prices of agricultural and 'non-agricultural' products before and after the war; and

(b) whether statistics of the prices the cultivator was receiving before and after the war and the prices he has to pay during the same period for his bare necessities other than foods are available?

^a Printed as Appendix II on pages 515-518 infra.

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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“(a) No. The Government of India have constituted a Board called the “Commodities Prices Board”. This Board will maintain a continuous review over the prices of all commodities and assist the Government in the very difficult task of fixing prices by advising them as to the prices or price levels to be fixed for controlled commodities so that the best interests of the commodity may be served. The survey of the prices of the nature referred to in the question will be undertaken by the Board.

“(b) The Government are compiling and reviewing every week index numbers of prices of various commodities for 13 selected rural centres in the Province. In this connection the prices of food and non-food articles prevailing in these centres are being collected and recorded every week.”

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“May I ask the Hon. Minister whether the price of paddy fixed now is economical to the agriculturist?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“As far as possible, the economic condition of the agriculturists is predominating in the minds of the Government. The prices now fixed are such that while answering the price level of the consumer, they also see that the producer also gets a fair share of profit.”

Effect of reduced intake of food on youngsters.

* 126 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government propose to take to study the effects of reduced intake of food due to reduced rations especially on children and young persons?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“The following steps have been taken to study the effects of reduced intake of food due to reduced rations especially on children and young persons :—

(i) A periodical examination of vulnerable groups such as infants, children, adolescents and nursing and pregnant woman for clinical signs of under-nutrition and mal-nutrition by the Health staff.

(ii) Measurements of heights and weights of groups of children in deficit areas and comparison of these data with those of standard biometric tables.

(iii) Analytical studies of mortality figures in different age groups from such of the causes as are directly or indirectly attributable to quantitative or qualitative deficiencies in food, e.g., dysentery, diarrhoea, respiratory diseases, starvation, etc., and comparison of infantile mortality rates, maternity mortality rates and general death rates with corresponding periods in previous years.

(iv) Observation of cases treated at the various hospitals and dispensaries.

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Periodical reports are being received by the Government on the above items. No abnormal features have been observed so far, as a result of rationing and there is no particular increase in mortality amongst the vulnerable groups of population from any cause directly attributable to food shortage.

“The Nutrition officer attached to Food Department has also proposed a scheme for the examination of school going children between the ages of about 5–12 in different areas of the Presidency, for signs of food deficiency diseases. A close watch on the health of the vulnerable population is being maintained. The free distribution of milk to elementary school children in certain deficit districts and the supply of free midday meals to elementary school children under the compulsory Elementary Education Scheme are intended to offset the effect of reduced rations.”

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“Is it a fact, Sir, that midday meals are being stopped from the 1st April to school children?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“I think so; because it is mentioned in the budget.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“One of the means by which you wanted to prevent under-nutrition or mal-nutrition is sacrificed evidently may I say wantonly!”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“I suppose you dealt with this in the budget.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“Yes, Sir.”

Lands under the Tungabhadra Project.

* 127 Q.—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) when the inauguration of the Tungabhadra Project was notified in the official gazette;

(b) how many acres of land coming under the project area have been sold in each year and at what price, after the said notification, with reference to each taluk of Bellary and Kurnool districts;

(c) how many persons have purchased more than 50 acres and below 100 acres in the said area and at what price; and

(d) how many have purchased more than 100 acres and at what price in respect of each taluk referred to above?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“(a) 1941.

“(b) Talukwar particulars of sale of lands, value per acre, etc., are not available, as the ayacut of the project has not been fixed yet.

“(c) & (d) The question does not arise.”

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ Is it not possible for the Government to get this information about the sale of lands at least in the supposed project area?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ The ayacut has not yet been localised. Therefore the information that is asked for cannot be given now.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ May I know, Sir, when the legislation relating to the Tungabhadra project about preventing speculation in purchase of land will be introduced?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ Notice; this is a subject dealt with by the Minister for Revenue.”

Secretary, Chingleput District Board.

* 128 Q.—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the claims of one Mr. Natesa Ayyar, a senior qualified officer in the service of the Chingleput District Board, has been overlooked when the vacancy of the secretaryship arose;

(b) whether it is a fact that one Mr. Manicka Naicker has been appointed to the secretaryship;

(c) whether it is a fact that Mr. Manicka Naicker was much junior to Mr. Natesa Ayyar and educationally unqualified for the post;

(d) whether it is a fact that Mr. Natesa Ayyar has appealed to Government against the decision of the District Board President, Chingleput, in overlooking his claims for the secretaryship of the Board; and

(e) if so, what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—“ (a), (b) & (c) Sri R. C. Manicka Naicker was appointed as Secretary of the Chingleput District Board in preference to one Sri Natesa Ayyar who was his senior. Sri Manicka Naicker is qualified to hold the post of Secretary. Promotion to the post of Secretary which is a selection post is made on grounds of merit, seniority being considered only where the qualifications and merit are approximately equal. The promotion of Sri Manicka Naicker as Secretary was made on this basis.”

(d) & (e) Sri Natesa Ayyar submitted a petition to Government in November 1946 against the supersession of his claims for appointment as Secretary of the Chingleput District Board. The petition was rejected.”

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—“ May I know whether it is a fact that Sri Manicka Naicker has not got even S.S.L.C. qualification?”

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—“ Sri Manicka Naicker is a S.S.L.C. eligible for college course.”
(Laughter.)

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MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Not for Secretaryship you mean!”

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ Is it a fact that Natesa Ayyar, when he was the manager of the defunct taluk board, was charged with forgery of a cheque for Rs. 2,000?”

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—“ Natesa Ayyar was charged for defalcation and other irregularities. Police enquiries revealed no tangible proof. His work was generally considered to be good.”

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—“ May I know whether the charges were foisted by Manicka Naicker himself, and the charges against Natesa Ayyar were found unsustainable and he was exonerated?” (Laughter.)

(No answer.)

Chingleput Wholesale Stores.

* 129 Q.—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Chingleput Wholesale Stores were the wholesalers for procurement and distribution in Madurantakam taluk and parts of Saidapet taluk;

(b) whether it is a fact that large quantities of rice were transferred from Madurantakam Sub-depot to Saidapet Sub-depot in the year 1946;

(c) whether it is a fact that out of this stock about 1,068 bags of rice were missing and remained unaccounted for;

(d) whether it is a fact that this quantity has gone underground into the blackmarket;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Co-operative Department Official who unearthed this scandal has been transferred immediately;

(f) whether it is a fact that these 1,068 bags of rice were written off in the accounts as wastage and dryage; and

(g) whether the Government propose to hold an enquiry into the matter and bring the offender to book?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ (a) Yes.

“ (b) The stores are supplying rice to the Madras suburban area and rice is therefore being transferred not only from Madurantakam sub-depot but also from Conjeeveram, Chingleput and Uttiramerur to Saidapet.

“ (c) No complaint in this regard has been received and no enquiry was therefore made.

“ (d), (e) & (f) The Government have no knowledge.

“ (g) The Government are having the matter enquired into.”

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Sub-depot of Chingleput Wholesale Stores at Avadi.

* 130 Q.—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chingleput Wholesale Stores maintain a Sub-depot in Avadi;

(b) whether it is a fact that large quantities of sugar were missing;

(c) whether any enquiry was held in the matter and how it was disposed off; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the missing sugar bags were written off as wastage and if so, how many bags were so written off?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“(a) There was a branch of the Chingleput Wholesale Co-operative Stores at Avadi. It was subsequently closed down. There is no branch of the stores at Avadi now.

“(b) No quantity of sugar was actually missing. Some irregularities in the distribution of sugar however noticed in July 1946 at the Avadi branch of the stores.

“(c) Investigation into the irregularities in the distribution of sugar was made by the officers of the Commercial Tax and Co-operative Departments. As investigation showed that the conduct of the godown keeper at Avadi branch was suspicious he was removed from service.

“(d) There is no information that any quantity was written off as wastage.”

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Settlement of labour disputes.

8. Q.—SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the general principles followed by Government in regard to the appointment of Adjudicators, Conciliators, and Courts of Enquiries in labour disputes; and

(b) whether the Government have any other schemes and plans for prompt and effective settlement of labour dispute and if so, what the schemes and plans are?

A.—(a) The general policy is to appoint officers of the status of District and Sessions Judges as Adjudicators, Conciliators and Courts of Enquiries.

(b) Yes, Sir. The most important proposals are—

(1) The Industrial Disputes Bill recently passed by the Central Assembly;

(2) The establishment of Wage Boards to fix minimum wages;

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(3) The enforcement of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, the Workmen's Health Insurance Act, the Shops and Establishments Act and the Non-power Factories Act when the last three are enacted;

(4) The extension of welfare measures such as recreation centres, creches, housing schemes, etc.; and

(5) The strengthening of the present Conciliation staff.

Labour conditions in certain services.

9. Q.—SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether a Court of Enquiry has been appointed to enquire into labour conditions in the Motor Transport Services, oil-mills, rice-mills and other similar mills, automobile engineering factories, minor engineering concerns, foundries and make recommendations;

(b) what the scope of the enquiry, its terms of reference, etc., are;

(c) under what circumstances and under what law or rule the enquiry has been ordered;

(d) who constitute the said Court of Enquiry and whether any procedure has been laid down or will be laid down for its proceedings;

(e) whether the appointment of this Court of Enquiry will in any way affect any conciliations or negotiations now pending between trade unions and employers in the said industries; and

(f) whether any conciliation proceedings in any dispute have been stopped on account of the constitution or proposed constitution of the said Court of Enquiry and whether the Government have received any representations from any trade union in this connexion and, if so, what the Government propose to do with the representations?

A.—(a) Two Courts of Enquiry, one to enquire into the conditions of labour in motor transport services, motor transport workshops, engineering firms and type-foundries and the other to enquire into the conditions of labour in rice and oil-mills have been appointed.

(b) The object of the enquiries is to have a comprehensive picture of the conditions of service of the workers in these services and industries in the Province in order to standardize them as far as possible.

(c) Enquiries have been ordered under section 3 (a) read with section 4 (1) of the Trade Disputes Act on the report of the Commissioner of Labour that the conditions of the workers in these concerns are unsatisfactory.

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(d) Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, retired District and Sessions Judge, is the Court of Enquiry for motor transport services, motor transport workshops, engineering firms and type-foundries and Sri U. Ramappa, retired Judge of the City Civil Court, Madras, constitutes the Court of Enquiry for rice and oil-mills. The Courts have been asked to follow the procedure laid down in sections 5, 9, 11, 13 and 14 of the Trade Disputes Act and the rules issued by the Provincial Government under the Trade Disputes Act.

(e) & (f) No, Sir.

Strike notice by Public Works Department Workers' Union at Dowlaishwaram.

10. Q.—SRI P. R. K. SARMA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Public Works Department Workers' Union at Dowlaishwaram (Rajahmundry) has issued a notice of strike demanding redress of definite grievances;

(b) whether the notice was withdrawn at the request of the Government and on an assurance to the President of the Union that the grievances will be redressed early;

(c) what action have the Government since taken in the matter; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the concerned workers have informed the Government that they would have to resort to direct action if their grievances are not immediately redressed and what the Government propose to do in the matter?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The notice of strike was withdrawn after Government informed the President of the Union that they were considering the various demands put forward by the Union and that orders would be issued as soon as a decision was arrived at and suggested that the workers might be advised not to resort to strike.

(c) The Government have called for a detailed report from the Chief Engineer (General, Buildings and Defence) and it is awaited.

(d) The notice of strike has not been renewed, but the President of the Union has been reminding the Government. The matter is receiving the special attention of the Government.

Sinking of wells.

11. Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any fresh schemes for accelerating the sinking of wells has been formulated;

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(b) whether in framing it, the difficulties encountered in giving effect to previous schemes have been taken into account;

(c) whether the question of Government undertaking sinking of wells in areas where the response has not been encouraging has been considered; and

(d) whether the Government will be pleased to place the new scheme on the table of the House?

A.—(a), (b) & (d) The Government have sanctioned a new well-subsidy scheme with effect from 1st March 1947, in supersession of the earlier schemes. In framing it, the difficulties encountered in the working of the earlier schemes were taken into account. Details of the scheme were announced in a Press Note ^a, dated 3rd March 1947. They are laid on the table of the House.

(c) Judging from the number of applications received, the response from the ryots to the Accelerated Scheme was not particularly good in the districts of Tanjore, Malabar, South Kanara, Kistna, Guntur, East Godavari, West Godavari, Madras, and the Ceded districts. The subsidies given under this scheme were not attractive in the Ceded districts. Larger subsidies up to a maximum of Rs. 500 are now given in the Ceded districts. Under the new scheme, it is also proposed to raise the maximum subsidy for wells to Rs. 500 in other areas where conditions similar to those in the Ceded districts exist.

The Government have decided that it is not feasible for them to undertake the sinking of wells for ryots.

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

III.—MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

MR. PRESIDENT:—“ I have to announce to the House that the following message, dated Fort St. George, 27th March 1947, has been received by me from the Hon. Speaker, Madras Legislative Assembly:—

“ In accordance with rule 94 of the Madras Assembly Rules I transmit a copy of the Madras District Municipalities and Local Boards (Amendment) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 7 of 1947) as passed by the Assembly on the 27th March 1947 and signed by me for the concurrence of the Council.”

IV.—DISCUSSION ON SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1946-47.

MR. PRESIDENT:—“ Discussion will now proceed on Supplementary Statements of Expenditure for 1946-47. May I know the number of intended speakers. We have to bear in mind that we have only one and a three-quarters hours before us.”

(a) Printed as Appendix III on page 519-520 infra

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, as the hon. Leader of the Opposition has not chosen to get up, let me say . . . "

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Are we to understand that discussion will end at that hour and there will be no more discussion after that."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Quite so."

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" With your permission, Sir, may I also express our sincere sense of gratification on the accomplished fact that after all, this House is being represented on the Cabinet. You may remember, Sir, the hon. Mr. Farookhi gave notice of a resolution on the subject and, before withdrawing it he made a speech indicating the feelings of this House with regard to the representation of its Members on the Cabinet. We thought, Sir, at least after the speech of the hon. Mr. Farookhi, the then Prime Minister would respect the wishes of this House, but to our surprise the next day we found another member of the Assembly was made a Minister. However, we have now been paid not only with compound interest but may I say at usurious rates of interest (Laughter), and we are very gratified that this House is being represented on the Cabinet by three hon. Members. We are more gratified that the Hon. the Prime Minister belongs to this House. That is a request which we did not contemplate to make at any time, and much less did we expect it to fructify. And we are grateful to the Hon. the Prime Minister for having chosen also as his colleagues two members of this House.

" Sir, you may remember, you have been put to considerable inconvenience for want of a Leader of the House in order to arrange the business of this House. And to-day we are also glad that an hon. Member of this House, who is also a Minister has been nominated as the Leader of the House, so that in future the business of this House may be conducted without much inconvenience to yourself and to the members of this House.

" Then, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the procedure adopted in regard to these supplementary statements. I invite the attention of hon. Members of this House to the introductory memorandum written by the Secretary to Government, Finance Department, to which I believe Government are also a party. Sir, the Finance Secretary quotes section 81 of the Government of India Act, and in the course of the memorandum he says, it was only prior to 1st April 1937 supplementary demands had to be presented to the Legislature when the amount voted in the budget for a grant was found to be insufficient for the purposes of the year, or, a need arose for expenditure upon some new service not contemplated in the budget." And he also explains, that 'in respect of expenditure of the latter class, the practice was to present a demand for a token sum of Rs. 100 if it was found possible to meet the balance of the expenditure by reappropriation from savings within the grant.' I would like to invite the attention of this House to the words 'if it was found possible.' Now what

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has happened to this supplementary budget which consists of new items, new services and new commitments. The expenditure incurred shown by the Secretary is not correct. The amount given is not a correct figure in the sense it does not indicate the real state of affairs. Now the demand is for Rs. 9,65,61,900. This is not the real demand; this is mostly made up of token sums and if you total up all the items of expenditure you will see the real amount is much more, perhaps, many crores. If only one takes the trouble to tabulate all the sums involved in new services, for which expenditure has been incurred as also in respect of items for which accounts have yet to be made up, the expenditure, you will see, amounts up to many many crores, and not nine crores and odd. I do not think it is fair to the Legislature not to get its previous sanction especially for new services, before they were undertaken. Now, let us see what does section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935, say :

'Section 81.—If in respect of any financial year further expenditure from the revenues of the Province becomes necessary over and above the expenditure theretofore authorized for that year the Governor shall cause to be laid before the Chamber or Chambers a supplementary statement showing the estimated amount of that expenditure, and the provisions of the preceding sections shall have effect in relation to that statement and that expenditure as they have effect in relation to the annual financial statement and the expenditure mentioned therein.'

My point is no expenditure ought to have been incurred on new services without bringing it before the Legislature for approval. The Finance Secretary tries to show that 'except in special circumstances, expenditure on new services is not ordinarily incurred before the supplementary demands relating to them have been presented and voted.' Here the whole of the supplementary demand, almost the whole of it, I would say, is nothing but expenditure on new services incurred without coming to this House or the other House, and getting its vote. This is a very sorry state of affairs especially when this province is going through a financial crisis. Sir, I have taken trouble to mark all new services in the statement furnished to us; and I find almost all of them are new services. In some cases the expenditure incurred amounts to several lakhs—15, 16 and 20 lakhs, and so on. I shall give a few instances. I will take agriculture. From pages 23-24 of the memorandum you will see a sum of Rs. 22,67,000 has been spent in purchasing pumps, tractors and jeeps, etc. I do not know for what purpose these were bought, where they are now and how they are being utilized, God only knows. What was the policy of Government in purchasing them has not been explained. Did they get the sanction of the Legislature before they spent such a large sum of money? Sir, there are certain items of expenditure incurred simply because the Government of India had promised a half grant for them. Sir, unless we feel there is a necessity for such new services, it is wrong policy on the part of Government to incur expenditure on them simply because we are eligible for a half grant on them from the Government of India. In doing so, I submit, they have violated section 81 of the Government of India Act, 1935. Now, what we are doing is all post-mortem

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examination. There are many items in which policies are involved. It would have been fair to the Legislature if at least a resolution had been moved or a token grant of Rs. 100 moved and obtained its sanction. If that had been done, then, members of the Legislature might have offered their remarks, and it would have enabled Government to alter any item of new service before they had incurred expenditure.

"Then, Sir, there is a fairly large sum of money spent on the producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies. It is a new service; it involves a new policy which had not received the approval of the Legislature here or there. Then there is the resettlement of ex-service men. I am told these various schemes of resettlement of ex-service men have not borne much fruit. Sir, large sums are involved in them. I do not know whether there is anybody or any method by which these various schemes that are put forward involving expenditure on a large scale have been scrutinized, or if the advice of experts competent to express an opinion was taken. In this connexion I am reminded of a story. One Collector of a district was invited to visit a poultry farm; he was very reluctant to do so; but he was prevailed upon to visit it. He went there and found, there were no eggs at all. So he entered in the visitors' book the following: 'There have been more visitors than eggs.' Sir, it looks the same thing with regard to the resettlement of ex-service men. It looks as though there are more institutions for ex-service men than enough ex-service men taking advantage of the facilities. The other day His Excellency the Governor visited a resettlement colony in North Arcot, and as reported in the press, he found the response was very disappointing though Government have planned to spend lakhs of rupees on these colonies. In the words of His Excellency, 'Only a handful of people have come forward.' It is up to us to see that various schemes for ex-service men should be made attractive so that they may be induced to take advantage of them.

"Now I come to industries. As we have no power to discuss demands, the only way in which we can express our views on them is by conveying our remarks to Government now in office, so that whatever might have happened in the past, at least in future sufficient care may be taken, when new services are undertaken by Government. Here are two classes of officers appointed. What are they called? They are called authorized controllers of textile mills and Assistant Inspecting Textile Commissioners. These are new services for which no provision has been made in the budget, and yet expenditure is incurred on them without the consent of the Legislature. We are perfectly willing to concede that these officers are necessary in regard to the textile policy of the Government and of the Government of India so that the consuming public may not suffer. I remember the other day in reply to a question in the Legislative Assembly the then Industries Member gave out some qualifications required for these textile officers, and how they had to appoint them in pursuance of the policy decided. I think, at a conference of Ministers of Industries that was held at Delhi. Textile is a difficult subject; even those

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of us who are interested in textile mills do not know what warp and weft are. To administer control orders of a highly technical nature we expected men with sufficient knowledge of textiles would be appointed. I am told most of them know hand-spinning. But, Sir, hand-spinning and hand weaving are two quite different things. You may remember, Sir, in a supplementary question I brought to the notice of the then Minister for Industries how an Inspecting Assistant Textile Commissioner threatened to cancel the licence for yarn of weavers because they were engaged in preparatory processes necessary before yarn is put on the looms simply because he did not find the yarn on the looms. I have heard another story and it is worth while repeating. When an Assistant Inspecting Textile Commissioner went to a weaver, he complained that though he had indented for a bundle of forty's he had been given two bundles of twenty's. Thereupon, the officer replied 'Why, you have been given two twenty's; twenty plus twenty makes forty; so you have got forty's which you wanted.' (Laughter.) Sir, this betrays the knowledge these officers have on textiles.

"I think, Sir, the sooner these posts are abolished the better. They will be neither good for the people nor will they be able to discharge their duties satisfactorily. I am sure, as I said in the Budget debate, the Collectors must be finding they are more a hindrance than help in carrying out their duties. But they dare not express this being Government servants. I wish, Sir, that this thing is looked into. 12 noon.

"Sir, I invite the attention of the House to page 29. For development of cottage industries, look at the amount of money budgeted here. I would like hon. Members to read item 9 on page 29. The recurring cost of the scheme will be, after making certain deductions Rs. 29.75 lakhs and the non-recurring cost will be Rs. 14.56 lakhs. Sir, these are not small amounts. My hon. Friend Mr. Farookhi and I have been complaining that you have deprived the school children of a free mid-day meal and now you are pursuing plans of a chimerical nature, without obtaining results by carrying on experiments in certain selected areas. This is a huge amount, Sir, and I wish this Government brought forward a detailed scheme and obtained the sanction of the House. Simply a paper is put on the table of the House and they say: 'We have supplied it.' Of course a printed scheme was given to us. But no motion was made. Unless a motion is made nobody can criticise the Government. All that we can do is to send up questions and get elucidation of the various points. This huge amount is being spent like this while the poor children are being starved. Sir, I do not mind cottage industries being encouraged. By all means give all possible help. In fact I earnestly plead for them. But there also I see more officers have been employed than more industries started. I do not blame hon. Members of the Treasury Bench who sit there to-day though some of them formed part of the previous Government. I would like them all to take some personal interest when any new proposal is brought forward.

"Sir, I am pleased that for the first time now there is a separate Minister for Finance. All these things have happened because Finance and other subjects in which a particular Minister

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was interested were in one hand. Sir, the Minister for Finance is like a watch dog. He can scrutinize every item of expenditure and I beg of him, Sir, to take charge of the Finances of this Province and not allow anybody to fritter them away as I find. I must regretfully say, in this supplementary statement. I have never come across any Government coming forward with supplementary estimates on the 29th or 30th of March, just a day previous to the end of the financial year, involving crores of rupees. It is unthinkable, Sir, that a popular Government should have done this. They may as well say: 'We are Fascists, we will carry on. We have a large majority. We can do whatever we like and get approval afterwards.' One who goes through these lists of expenditure will be horrified. I am sure the Hon. Ministers now in office will not take up such an unreasonable attitude.

"Another thing which I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Finance Minister is to let the excess amounts spent on grants already received to be shown separately from the amounts intended for new items. Sir, they are all mixed up so that one has to go through this volume very carefully to find out which is a new service and which is an old service on which a larger amount has been spent. The Finance Secretary says that prior to 1st April 1937, they were giving them. Simply because the Congress Government came into office in 1937, why was it given up? This is a system which is good for all whereby the Government can place all its cards on the table and allow anybody to criticise and be benefited by such criticism as is given. Sir, this excess amount spent in respect of grants already made and the new services are all jumbled up together so that a man has to spend days to find out which is a new service and which is an old service on which an excess amount has been spent. I wish, Sir, the Hon. the Finance Minister takes note of this humble suggestion of mine and I also hope, Sir, he will exercise due care in the future and will not allow departments to proceed with new schemes unless he has scrutinized them and is satisfied about their practicability, utility and value.

"I would like the Hon. Finance Minister to see pages 37 and 43. In page 37, you will see 'Amount transferred from 85-A—Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes of State Trading Schemes.' Sir, the amount put down is Rs. 6,62,25,000. But on page 43 a small token grant of Rs. 100 is put against each item and if you count the amounts involved in these items they come to crores on account of payment of subsidy to ryots, on account of rice and millet, and so on. I would like to know what the difference is between reference to trading schemes in Grant XXXI and that in Grant XXXVIII. May I take it that one is outright expenditure whereas the other is Capital Outlay on State Trading, some of which may come back and most of which may not come back. But for the present the expenditure is treated as an investment likely to be returned, though without interest, after the accounts are made up. You will be surprised, Sir, that a huge amount to the tune of Rs. 61 lakhs has been spent on dehydrated potatoes. I do not think most of us had occasion to eat dehydrated potatoes. It is a huge amount and why such a large amount was spent and

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how the distribution was made, all these things are not given in detail and no facts are mentioned. I hope the Hon. Minister for Finance will see that the Administration Reports of all these spending departments are separately issued together with the accounts.

"Then again, Sir, a sum of Rs. 27.60 lakhs has been spent on the purchase of gunnies. I do not mind if purchases have to be made in order to maintain the population. I do not mind any amount of expenditure. But we would like to know how the Hon. Minister for Finance will reconcile this statement on page 43 and with that on page 37. If in one case it is outright expenditure and in another case it is only an outlay from which he expects to get back something in course of time, let him say so though we are constrained to think that even that will be ultimately an expenditure amounting to many crores.

"I have nothing more to say, Sir, except to point this out and making a request to the Hon. Finance Minister to be so good as to see that the statements given to us, lay men, are in a form that we may be able to understand in what respects the amounts are excess grants and what amounts are intended for new services. Secondly, this system of putting token sums of Rs. 100 and to get the approval of the Legislature afterwards is all right, as it is stated here, if it is possible to meet the balance of the expenditure by reappropriation from savings out of the sanctioned grant. But if it is a new service, I would like, though even cases where it is possible to meet the cost by reappropriation, the Hon. Finance Minister to insist on the Hon. Ministers concerned to table a motion asking for a token sum giving at least an approximate amount of the expenditure involved in undertaking expansion of existing services or that of new services. Sir, I have made these suggestions in no critical spirit. It is the Finance Secretary's memorandum that prompted me to look into these matters and I found that several crores are involved in this supplementary demand. I would also like the Hon. Minister for Finance to show us some consideration and to come up with supplementary demands as and when they are required and not to put them off till the end of the year."

* K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—"Mr. President, Sir, when I opened this supplementary budget the same idea which my hon. Friend, Mr. Suryanarayana Rao gave expression to, also struck me. This is rather not the work for a Legislature. I found that this is a report to the Public Accounts Committee rather than to the Legislative Council, because on most of the items they have spent—and some of the amounts were very large—and it is only an attempt on the part of the Government to go through the technicalities of the law. Sir, they have hidden under these few pages so many items which as my hon. Friend said involve commitments for crores of rupees. My hon. Friend Mr. Suryanarayana Rao has in his own way pointed out to this House how this Government is attempting to swindle, no Sir, to deprive this House and through this House the public of the Madras Province to the tune of hundreds of crores. Mr. President, in short, I feel that to discuss this supplementary budget is only a waste of energy and a waste of public money and waste of everything, because most of the items . . ."

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SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—“ Did I hear the hon. Member say, Sir, that the Government was attempting to swindle and are the hon. Members who represent the Government listening to it? Am I wrong when I say that I heard him say that the Government was trying to swindle? ”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ He corrected himself immediately, Sir.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I thought he himself was not conscious of it.”

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ If I have in any way dropped from my mouth some words that would be disparaging this House, I am very sorry for it, Sir. It is only a slip of the tongue in the course of my statement.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The hon. Member does not know you as I do.”

* K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ What I was saying is that the Government should give respect to this House and the House should not be treated as it has been treated in this supplementary demand.

“ Sir, I have been going through the items in regard to industrial development. There are so many items in it that I do not want to detain the House by detailing them. Members can read that. There are so many items and so many new services the results of which even this Government, even though they may differ from us, do not know. Sir, I am doubtful about the results. On such occasions it is the duty of the Government to take this House into their confidence and bring such matters before the House and give the House and the representatives of the people an opportunity to discuss and decide. My hon. Friend Mr. Suryanarayana Rao has put the whole thing in a very lucid and clear manner. I do not wish to mar the effect of that on the Government. My request to the present Finance Minister is that he will look into all these things and if necessary scrap some of the items for which there are demands for which we are automatically going to consent or rather as the old adage says, silence will be taken for consent. Sir, we are not able to speak on each item of the demands and so he will take it that we have granted. Anyhow, Sir, he has got a great responsibility to the people of this Province and I think he will work hard and find out whether public money is not wasted. With these words, Sir, I am done.”

12-15 p.m. * DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Mr. President, Sir, this supplementary demand for expenditure in the current year is a confession in print that the Government had no mind of its own and no plan of its own when the original estimates were prepared. They were then pre-occupied with non-administrative matters and they have now come forward with a supplementary demand for grants for expenditure. The Hon. Minister has thought fit to introduce these demands for grants without a speech explaining the various

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items. Perhaps he will explain them later on. I should like now to confine myself to one or two items only as many items have been dealt with by other speakers.

“ Sir, it is a very dangerous thing for Government to enter into schemes of state trading. On page 43 of this memorandum, we find figures of enormous losses on account of state trading. I have always thought, Sir, that retired Government servants and lawyers should never enter business because they always lose. I am convinced that Ministers are persons who will lose more.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I hope you are safe from that failing!”

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ I never entered business. I have seen my friends entering business and losing. The real truth is that by training by up-bringing and by habits, Ministers, Government officers and professional men are incompetent to carry on trade or business. It is better left to person who are trained up in business. If we look at the various items under the heading ‘ Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes of State Trading ’, we find that there has been colossal loss on state trading. One should have expected the Government to make a loss, but not such a colossal loss of about five crores. Payment of bonus to ryots for the early delivery of the surplus from short-term crops involved an expenditure of Rs. 255.18 lakhs. The previous Ministry—I hope the present Ministry will not follow that example—was a ‘ control ’ Ministry. It introduced many pieces of legislation to control every aspect of man’s life. We have to-day an Act in force under which a person can be detained or externed or interned, a search made, the press gagged or confiscated without resort to a court of law. When the Government had so much power, it is atrocious that they should have given away Rs. 255 lakhs of the tax-payers’ money as bonus. This amount went to somebody and we might console ourselves that after all that it went to the agriculturists. But, Sir, look at the enormous loss due to sale at reduced rates in Malabar and South Kanara of defective quality Sind raw rice which amounts to Rs. 2,33,500. Then there is another item, ‘ Loss due to sale of Balasore boiled rice at reduced rates ’, but the actual amount of loss is not given. Then under ‘ Wheat and Wheat Products ’ there is a loss of Rs. 100 lakhs incurred on the subsidized sale of maida. It is atrocious that the Government without any experience should go into trade and on one item alone lose Rs. 100 lakhs, instead of handing over the business to the usual trade channels. The loss incurred on the subsidized sale of overseas millets is Rs. 7 lakhs odd. There is also another item of a loss of Rs. 61.03 lakhs due to sale at subsidized rates of dehydrated potatoes manufactured and imported on Government account. Reference was made to this by the previous speaker. It is quite possible that the present Members of the Government are not responsible for these losses incurred in state trading. I request them to go into the matter very very carefully and see whether it is the function of the State, whether it is advantageous for the

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State and whether it is proper for the State that crores of rupees of the tax-payers' money amounting nearly to one-tenth of the total revenues should be given away or written off as losses on account of state trading. When we have businessmen who can carry on trade without much loss, I cannot understand why Government without any experience of trade should take up this job on themselves and lose crores of rupees amounting to one-tenth of the revenues of the Province. I say, Sir, it is atrocious, it is a great injustice to the tax-payer, and as has been already pointed out by the previous speakers, it is very regrettable that these supplementary demands for expenditure should have been made.

"Then Sir, I want to refer to another item where the Government are losing money on socio-political experiments. I want to draw your attention to the scheme for the opening of training and demonstration units for the development of cottage industries in selected firkas in the Province as a part of the Firka Development Scheme. The scheme is said to involve an expenditure of Rs. 14·56 lakhs on non-recurring items such as equipment and construction of sheds and recurring expenditure of Rs. 29·75 lakhs annually on staff, raw materials, maintenance of canteens, contingencies and grant of stipends. Sir, this is a socio-political experiment and the tax-payers' money is thrown away not only in capital expenditure but also in recurring expenditure on this scheme. The tax-payer is not paying his taxes for the Government to spend in any manner they like. Sir, I must particularly draw the attention of the House to the expenditure on staff. I should like, if possible, that the Hon. Minister when he replies gives us some idea, a rough idea of the appointments made by the previous Prime Minister, by the previous Government, during the last 11 months. Appointments of a temporary and permanent nature may be included in his statement. I suggest, Sir, that thousands and thousands of appointments have been made without any reference whatsoever to the Public Service Commission. Sir, if there is one weakness in any Government, it is the desire to exercise patronage. For the purpose of exercising patronage, public money is drained away in trading concerns and socio-political experiments. Sir, it is very wrong on the part of the Ministry to do so. I would like the Hon. Minister to give us some idea of how many appointments were made on salaries from Rs. 50 a month. I am sure, Sir, the public, the hon. members of this House and you, Sir, will be surprised at the number of appointments made by the last Government. I submit, Sir, the establishment charges alone would come to very much. The Government of a country should be run in accordance with some plan. The very introduction of these demands shows that Government had no plan of their own. We have read, Sir, of there being a method in madness, but, as far as the expenditure detailed in these demands is concerned, I do not find any method. I submit, Sir, it is a very wrong on the part of the Government to have introduced these supplementary demands without in many cases giving the actual amounts and in many cases mentioning a token sum of

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Rs. 100 only. Without a plan and without ideas, they spend away crores of rupees on trade which they are incompetent to carry on and also on socio-political ideas which are not shared by the tax-payers generally in the Province. I ask the Government to go into these matters now that we have a new Government, go into every item thoroughly and check it before the expenditure is incurred."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" Mr. President, I wish to say a few words . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I hope they will be really few. We have only got half an hour for all the other members."

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—" I shall take as little time as possible. Sir, in the supplementary demands for grants, I am sorry to say that neither principles of public finance nor the well-known methods adopted in the preparation of a budget have been observed. A supplementary demand can be moved only for a particular purpose which has been mentioned in the original demand. Supplementary demand should not cover expenditure for a purpose which has not been mentioned in the original budget. As my hon. friend Mr. Suryanarayana Rao has already said, the demand for crores of rupees in this supplementary budget goes against the fundamental principles of public finance. Anyhow since this expenditure has already been incurred under the authority of the Government, there is no other alternative for this House except to accept the demand. If we analyse the expenditure incurred, we will find that much expenditure has been incurred on things on which it ought not to have been spent and nothing has been spent where it ought to have been spent. For instance, there are two colleges managed by Government in Andhra Desa out of 11 Government Colleges in the whole Province. For nine long months, I am told that the Rajahmundry College was run without a Principal. It seems the Government asked the college to admit more students in the science classes, but no lecturer or demonstrator was appointed. That is a kind of expenditure which we should have seen in a supplementary grant. For admissions to colleges take place in the month of June and so they cannot visualise exactly what expenditure they may have to incur later on. That is the kind of expenditure which we can expect in a supplementary demand. Such things were not done. In fact, I am glad to see that the Annamalai University is given more funds. As a representative of this House on the Senate of the Andhra University, I must say in an unequivocal manner that that University is treated in a step-motherly manner. Huge funds for the promotion of education in Andhra Desa are given by zamindars, and we are now out to confiscate them. I do not know how the colleges will be run hereafter. The Government may have to take charge of them. The two colleges in Andhra Desa are not treated well. For instance, a site was purchased some years back to construct buildings for the Rajahmundry

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College near the Government Museum. What happened to it? Is there any proposal pending for the construction of buildings for this ancient Rajahmundry College? Nothing is found in the supplementary statement of demands for grants about it.

“At the tail end of the year, drainage channels in the Kistna and Godavari districts get silted up and they have to be cleared. Every year Government have been incurring loss of crores of rupees on account of remissions on lands submerged by water. Neither the Government nor the ryots benefit thereby. Government lose revenue and ryots lose paddy. Unless the drainage channels are cleared of the silt, the cultivators will not prosper. This is the time to provide funds for the clearance of silt, but we do not find any provision here. Only a few hundreds of rupees have been provided for expenditure on capital outlay.

“Since the time at my disposal is short, I will refer to only one knotty problem, and that is the producer *cum* consumer co-operative societies, about which much has been said. In this supplementary budget, we find large expenditure under that head. From the very starting of these societies, none of the legislators in the districts of Guntur, West Godavari, East Godavari and Kistna were consulted in the matter. They were not even supplied with the details of the scheme before its inauguration. To-day we find sitting in the Visitors' Gallery many important ryots of our district, every one of whom has come here to represent to the Food Minister to abolish these unwanted and unnecessary societies. (Hear, hear.) I represent at least most of the ryots, if not all the ryots. I say these societies are neither producer societies nor consumer societies. The shareholders of these societies are neither producers nor consumers in the real sense.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“We have heard about these societies from the hon. member in the course of the budget discussion. So, he need not go into the matter again.”

SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“I would like to say only a few words more on this. Yesterday many ryots, along with some legislators, waited on deputation on the Hon. Food Minister seeking some relief from the hardships caused to the ryots on account of the societies' inability to purchase paddy from them. This I would like to tell you with all the emphasis at my command. To-day, in West Godavari, the rate of interest has shot up to 3½ per cent. It is because the societies are unable to purchase paddy, and consequently the ryots are unable to sell. But the ryots have necessarily to pay land revenue and meet their expenditure. Where can the small landholders of my district go? They are driven to the necessity of borrowing money from money-lenders. They execute promissory notes at 3½ per cent, borrow money and pay land revenue. Is this the way to treat the ryots in the name of societies said to have been introduced for their benefit?

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The Hon. Food Minister is not here. With due respect I say that he should at least suspend the operation of these societies. Yesterday some legislators and big ryots requested him to issue orders to suspend their activities at least for the present and allow the ryots to sell in the open market. I heard that the Government had already issued such orders in respect of Guntur and Vizagapatam districts. We request the Government to issue similar orders in respect of West Godavari district forthwith, and relieve the suffering of the ryots.”

* K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—
“When the last budget was introduced by the then Hon. the Premier, we opposed certain items on fundamental principles. These supplementary demands have justified in full the view of the Opposition. First of all, we were against the Government embarking on trading schemes. As has been pointed out by my friends, crores of rupees have been lost in state trading schemes. I would like to point out the loss to Government of Rs. 61.03 lakhs in the purchase and sale of dehydrated sweet potatoes. We do not know how this loss has occurred.

“Even on the last occasion we pointed out specific instances of huge losses to Government on account of the deputation of inexperienced revenue officials to purchase foodgrains. One such instance now is the loss of about Rs. 2,33,500 due to the sale at reduced rates of defective quality Sind raw rice. The loss incurred on the subsidized sale of maida alone is about one crore of rupees. Then there is loss in respect of groundnut toffee which unwilling people were forced to purchase. Do not these instances point out that the principle of the Government embarking upon trading schemes is fundamentally wrong? Government must take advantage of the experience of people who have been in the trade for generations. On account of their throwing these traders out of employment and entrusting the work to inexperienced revenue officials, they are now faced with these huge losses. I would appeal to the present Minister to take note of this fact and consider whether the time has not yet come for a reversal of the policy pursued by the Government during the past one year. Even within one year, we are faced with a loss to the tune of so many crores. If the Government continue and develop this policy, we will have to lose many more crores, and the Province will be heading towards bankruptcy. The Hon. ex-Premier in his budget speech quoted an observation by a French economist, and it applies more aptly to the present supplementary demands.

“Again, we were against the pet obsession of the Congress, namely the Khadi scheme. It was repeated *ad nauseum* that the people were for Khadi and that they were putting into effect the will of the people. At page 28 of the supplementary statement of demands for grants, it is said :

‘Under the scheme, arrangements will be made for the training of weavers and spinners and for the supply of charkas, carding and slivering equipment at cost price and of guts at one-third of the cost price. A sub-

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sidy at 4 annas per square yard will be given to self-spinners on the quantity of cloth woven for the consumption of the spinner's family. The expenditure on the scheme during 1946-7 is estimated at Rs. 21,44,342 and the receipts at Rs. 12,96,232. The ultimate expenditure is estimated at rupees one crore and the receipts at Rs. 94.5 lakhs per annum. Only the amount spent on the subsidy and on training courses, viz., 5.5 lakhs per annum, will be a loss to the Government.

I cannot understand the figures. I remember a statement regarding this scheme was placed on the table of the House sometime ago. I tried to analyse it, and even then I was faced with the same difficulty. It is impossible to understand that there will be a loss of Rs. 5.5 lakhs only per annum. Even according to the above statement there will be a loss of about 9 lakhs during 1946-47. The Congress wants to put into effect its pet scheme. If the Government are convinced that the people are for it, then why should they suffer any loss at all? Why should they give a subsidy of four annas per square yard and sell equipment at cost price? If the people are for it, allow the Khadi scheme to develop and allow the mills also to develop side by side. That is the only way to remedy the present cloth scarcity. From the way in which the Ministry have been doing things, I am sure they are not going to remedy the scarcity. You want to shut out the mills. You want to throw away the spindles allotted to this Province by the Government of India. If I am right this Ministry is prepared to revise the policy of the previous Ministry only to the extent of allowing the allotted spindles to come into this Province, and they are not prepared to fight for further allotment of spindles. Is that the way to meet the present scarcity of cloth? I say: Certainly not. As has been repeatedly pointed out, the Khadi scheme is not going to solve the cloth scarcity. Further, in item (v) at page 18, I find: 'In order to encourage the study of Hindustani, the Government have directed that provision should be made for the teaching of the language in Forms II to IV in all secondary schools in which the language is not now taught. It is a surprise thrown at us. At the time of the last budget, nothing was mentioned about the introduction of Hindustani in the schools. Whether it is through Hindi script or Urdu script, I do not know.'

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Hindustani in both the scripts."

12-45 P.M. K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In having both scripts, I must point out one great hardship which is being imposed on Urdu Munshis recently. The Government have issued an order that every Hindustani Munshi should know both the Arabic and Devanagiri scripts with the result that experienced Urdu Munshis are thrown out and in their places so-called Graduates or certificate-holders of the Hindi Prachar Sabha of Mambalam are being appointed. Will they be able to teach Urdu properly? This is a matter which I would like to request the Ministry to consider seriously. This will not solve the problem. If both the

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scripts are taught in this manner, eventually Urdu will be eliminated and all boys will be compelled to learn Hindi in Devanagari characters.

"This item of expenditure is lugged in along with so many other items of expenditure. This shows that the House is not treated properly. The Government know what amount of opposition there has been in the Province ever since the last Ministry thought of introducing the scheme. Still this item of expenditure is lugged in along with many items even though the question was actually raised on the floor of this House. Is that the way to treat this House? Is it fair on the part of the Ministry to initiate policies in that way without even the knowledge of the House?

"There is another point with regard to Education. The Government must provide for instruction in B.A. class in the Brennen College, Tellicherry. This is long overdue. People in the West Coast are put to great difficulties. No provision has been made even in these supplementary estimates in respect of this matter. I know report was called for from the Director of Public Instruction and the same has been received by the Government from the Director. Still we find no provision is made in these supplementary estimates in respect of the matter. I want to emphasize the urgent necessity of opening B.A. classes in the said college in 1947-48."

* SRI N. RANGA REDDI:—"Sir, I should like to make a few remarks with regard to the supplementary demands. But before doing so I would like to correct the impression created by my hon. friend, Mr. John, with regard to the State's trading policy. The whole question involves the function of the State. What is the function of the State? Is it only keeping law and order in the Province? Or is it to keep all the people of this Presidency in proper health"

MR. PRESIDENT:—"The hon. member will finish his speech in five minutes. The Hon. Minister has to reply."

* SRI N. RANGA REDDI:—"I shall take ten minutes, Sir."

"Is it only to keep law and order in this Presidency or to keep all the people in the Presidency in good health and in good condition? What is the function of the State? Is it only to be a Police State? My hon. friend was saying that the State should no engage itself in trade. The question of loss and gain does not at all arise in the case of activities of the State. Only in the case of private individuals dealing in certain commodities, the question of loss and gain does arise. In the case of the State, there is no question of loss and gain. The Government is interested in the welfare of the people of this Province. On account of inflation, the poor man is not able to purchase his food, his cloth and some other things. As a matter of fact hon. members may be aware that even fuel is subsidized in Madras. The Government purchase fuel at a higher cost and sell it at a lower cost so that the ordinary poor man can

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live in Madras. Prices have gone up. My hon. friend feels that this function should not be exercised by the State at all. When the ordinary trade channels are not able to supply necessary materials, it is absolutely necessary that the State should step in and see that the ordinary man is supplied with all the necessary materials. When doing so, the State supplies some facts and figures of expenditure; you come to the conclusion that there is loss. Is it not so, Sir? I give you concrete instances. There are the hospitals; the poor, the sick and the indigent are treated in the hospitals; so much money is spent in every hospital. Is it a loss to the State? What is lost in one direction is gained in another direction. That is the way you have to look at the matter. It is not a Police State only.

"I do not know whether there are plans for preparing our budget. We have to see that the budget is prepared not for one year but for, say, 10 years. I would go to the extent of saying that the budget should not be spread for one year but for a longer period. You should have some sort of planning and see that moneys are spent from that point of view. The so-called loss that has been incurred by the Government is due to the fact that figures has to be budgeted at the end of every year.

"I wish to say a few words with regard to the agency to work the Prohibition Act. It has been decided that the Police and the Excise departments should work the Prohibition Act. I would submit that it is rather difficult to get a correct picture when the work of Prohibition is entrusted to Police as well as the Excise departments. The Excise department is inadequately staffed and inadequately equipped. It has not got its own buses; the Police people have got buses. The Excise officials want the help of the Police when the former have to go on raiding work. If the District Superintendent of Police helps, it is well and good. If not, the Excise officials will be put to great difficulties; they will not be able to discharge their duties satisfactorily. The Excise officials do not command as much respect as the Police. When this work is entrusted to the Police, it would appear that the Act is being worked successfully; when it is entrusted to the Excise officials, it may appear to be unsuccessful. I would suggest that it should be either the Police or the Excise department; let us have only one agency; let us not have two agencies; then only we will get a correct picture. It does not matter if it is the Excise department; let us have only one.

"My hon. friend said that so much money is spent by some departments unnecessarily. I join issue with him. So far as the ameliorative side is concerned, Deputy Registrars of Co-operative Societies is placed at the head of the department in each district. Two or three Deputy Tahsildars have been appointed under him; they have no work they want to say they are doing something. Practically they are not doing anything. It is waste of money. With regard to the village welfare work, some money has been spent; some people have been recruited for doing the work. What

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I would like to say, it is not enough if people are appointed to particular posts. The villagers will appreciate if something is being done; they have to see that something is being done by way of laying roads, sinking new wells, construction of better houses, irrigation channels, etc. Now what the Government have done is they have appointed certain people and they have made no provision for undertaking any work and showing to the people that they are really doing something for the welfare of the people. Unless money is given to the Firka Development Officers to enable them to carry on their work, it will be waste of money to continue them. If you are not able to give more money for these people, you may abolish the Firka Development officials.

"I find that some Polytechnic centres have been opened in the Presidency. I submit, Sir, that Rayalaseema has been completely neglected in this matter. One must have been opened for Rayalaseema. When facilities for Collegiate Education are asked, they say money is not available. When you are starting Polytechnic centres, you might have started one at least for Rayalaseema. These Supplementary Estimates are asking for new services also. The Government could have established a Polytechnic Institute for Rayalaseema."

* Mrs. MONA HENSMAN :—"Sir, in view of the shortness of the time before me I shall take only 4 or 5 minutes. While bringing forward these extra items of expenditure which have been incurred during the past year, the Government have in so many ways increased the Budget. They have been lavish in other ways and increased the expenditure connected with administration but they could have done the same in the case of Education also, and this might well have been one of the channels by which expenditure might have been lavishly and extravagantly increased. Certain items have been brought up for supplementary or extra expenditure incurred. The Government might have incurred extra expenditure for an increase of salaries to teachers, for the betterment of boys and girls in schools and colleges, for more staff, for better hostels, etc., throughout the Province for those who are now studying in schools and colleges. If extra expenditure had been incurred on such things, it would have been worth while. By saying this, I do not impute motives to all those on the Treasury Bench who have brought forward estimates for extra expenditure. But it is surely a shame to this Province that we have not spent more money on Education. We have not got the highest percentage of literacy, because Travancore and Cochin have already claimed a higher percentage. The Treasury Bench may in the near future bring forward some Supplementary Estimates for Education, although they are not able now to include some items of expenditure in the annual Budget. I would ask your indulgence to bring forward at an instance of what is lacking, certain defects in the Queen Mary's College, the Premier Women's College in this Presidency. The dining rooms and kitchens of that college are not in good condition. Hon. Members of the House should come and see them. Then . . ."

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MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The best way is to invite hon. Members of this House for a dinner party in the College.”

MRS. MONA HENSMAN :—“ Yes, Sir, and then the hon. Members will see how the floor of some of the rooms are lower than the steps leading up to them, and if they are washed, the water cannot be drained. Some rooms are low and dark; they would have been old-fashioned in the time of Akbar and of William the Conqueror of England. We have got to-day students in the College between 200 and 300 without any proper rest rooms for them, without tiffin rooms and other conveniences. I take this as instance. We can multiply such instances with regard to other Government Colleges in the Presidency. I know Government has not got much money but is it not worthwhile that we should spend money on these schools, colleges and teachers, the backbone of the nation. I am aware that labourers also uphold the name of the country, but educational institutions uphold the fair fame of the nation too. We are not one-sided, nor are we one-track minded. We are not monomaniacs but we have to see what is happening elsewhere. It comes to this: that if there is going to be trouble, if groups of people say they will not deliver letters if they are not given a fair living wage, we have to give them what they fight for. And if those whose duty it is to uphold law and order in this Province press their claims and have them recognised by the stand they take, we honour them for the stand they take. We are not for any strike, but for a firm stand that convinces those against them. There are honest men and women in this Province who are teachers who are not able to bring their pitiable condition to the attention of the Treasury Benches. They cannot voice their grievances to the children whom they teach, nor to the parents of those children. If you spend lavishly on other matters, does it matter if you incur some necessary expenditure for the teachers, for their salaries and allowances in Government-Aided and private schools?

1 p.m. “ Because, Sir, I repeat that the teachers are the backbone of the nation. I am aware that workers and labourers are the backbone of the nation, but teachers who are also the backbone of the nation have not been fairly treated and their mouths are closed, because of their culture and because of what we have taught them what is right to do. I would therefore ask the Treasury Bench to understand and realise the present needs of the teachers and not sit like the frog of the Aesop's Fable which nearly burst, without knowing the outside world, and see how far the salaries of this group could be supplemented immediately. To meet the present cost of living, teachers must be paid a minimum salary of Rs. 30 + 22 and Rs. 70 + 30 (in the case of high school teachers) per mensem. Nothing less than Rs. 52 per months will be a fair living wage for a teacher now, and I appeal to the authorities in question to allot the necessary amounts for this branch of national service as well as for administration.”

* ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ Mr. President, I must thank you, Sir, for giving me double the time.”

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MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I should be glad if you will finish your speech in half the time.”

* ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ We are glad, Sir, that we have more members of this House occupying the Treasury Benches than what I myself either wished or anticipated. We are also glad, Sir, that one of our Members is the Premier of this great Province. Perhaps in no other Province, after the advent of the present Reforms, has a member of the Upper House become the Premier. Perhaps this is the first instance. Sir, of course my hon. Friend Mr. Suryanarayana Rao has given expression to the views of most of the Members on this side of the House and of course my hon. Friend Mr. Uppi Sahib has also given a very deserving complement to the gentleman. Such gentlemen are really assets for any Legislature.

“ Now, Sir, he has pointed out that a resolution was sought to be moved on the floor of this House with regard to the feelings of this House, that members of this House should become Ministers. Now the object why such a resolution was sought to be moved was that this House ought to occupy a place which it really deserves. I want to bring, Sir, to the notice of the hon. Members on the other side, and particularly to the new Ministers that this spirit has to be observed and maintained; and in observing this spirit, the fundamental thing that they should keep before their minds is that the gentleman who is the spokesman of the whole House should be allowed to occupy a place which he really deserves, by which I mean that his status should in no way be less than that occupied by the Speaker of the Assembly from the point of view of emoluments. Sir, on many occasions, I along with other members, brought to the notice of this House that the President—I am not referring to you, Sir, personally—must be given a salary which is equal to the salary of the Speaker.”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“ May I point out to the hon. Member that a Bill to this effect is already coming.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Whether it comes or not, I am sorry, you are losing your time.”

* ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ No, Sir. I am pressing a very important point. I want to bring to the notice of the House that large sums of money have been provided in the supplementary demand and therefore when such large sums have been provided, I feel that it is necessary that the Hon. Ministers on the other side should understand the real feeling of the Members on this side of the House that the salary of the President is a very important item. I am glad and I am thankful to my hon. Friend Mr. Madhava Menon for having given us the assurance that a Bill is coming. I know that a Bill was circulated and it is there for a long time. I want to bring home to the Minister that there is no use in putting off this Bill. Of course this Government will have to take the responsibility for what the other Ministry has done and I know they are taking. As a matter of fact, this supple-

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mentary budget is only the legacy of the previous Ministry, but for which all this extravagant expenditure would not have found a place in the supplementary demand. It is therefore no use saying that a Bill is coming. I should like to impress upon the Ministers that the Bill must come immediately, and no time should be lost with regard to this. That is point No. 1.

“ Well, Sir, the Hon. Premier is a very good friend of ours; there may be reasons why he did not become the Leader of the House, but we are glad my Hon. Friend Dr. Rajan is there, a gentleman with great experience and who was also the leader previously.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ He is away on some urgent business; he took my leave to go.”

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ I do not blame about his absence, Sir. I was simply saying that he is the Leader of the House; but we all wished that the Premier should have been the Leader of the House. Anyhow, we are satisfied that Dr. Rajan is there.

“ Now, Sir, what has Dr. Rajan said this morning with regard to the health of the people? He said that measures are being taken to keep up the health of the people from deterioration. But now that he has become a Minister, this time, as usual, he was evading a very important question. He did not state, until a supplementary question was put to him, that from the 1st of April, midday meals to poor children is going to be stopped. When there is so much of expenditure, lavish expenditure, fabulous amounts are being spent on quite unnecessary items, is it not just on the part of the Minister to see that these poor children are given at least one mid-day meal so that they may attend school and maintain their health, without getting deteriorated? Therefore, Sir, I should like the Minister in charge of Education who is not also here, to see that this midday meal to children is not stopped.

“ Then, Sir, I should like to bring one other important point to your notice, and that is, if there is a change in the Ministry in any Government, whether in this country or in any other country, that change is brought about on account of some fundamental difference in policies. I should like to point out that such difference in policies must be maintained, without which there could be no justification of any new Ministry taking the place of the previous one. Let me tell the present Ministry that the policy pursued by the former Ministry was the cause of its downfall and one of the important items of its policy was its textile policy. I do not want to take much of the time of the House on this question. You are already fed up with the producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies. But as regards the textile policy, I was able to elicit an answer to a supplementary question from the Hon. Leader of the House, Dr. Rajan, that the Khadi policy of the previous Government will be maintained. Sir, if all the policies of the previous Government are to be continued. I do not see any reason for these

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hon. Gentlemen to sit on the Treasury Benches. I would therefore like the Hon. Minister to see that no restriction is placed upon the installation of mills. (Interruption.) Whatever assurance my hon. Friend Mr. Madhava Menon has given somewhere else, I want this assurance to be given on the floor of this House, namely that there will be no restriction hereafter on the installation of new mills and also on the mills already existing.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ The newspaper reports are not correct.”

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ I do not know anything about the reports that appeared in the newspaper, but I should like to be assured that on no account should the people be deprived of the cloth.

“ Then, Sir, there is on page 7 of the Supplementary Demand, an item with regard to betting. Sir, my complaint has been, and still is, that the Government publish Bills, circulate Bills—I do not want to say anything about their intention—but those Bills do not see the light of day, after some time. A Bill has been published with regard to betting. There is a genuine suspicion in the minds of the people that some of the present Ministers are fond of encouraging races, that some gentlemen are also stewards or might have been stewards. Let not this suspicion be confirmed in the minds of the people that on account of their zeal for betting, they are not going to stop betting altogether. I am sure the Bill will see the light of day very soon.

“ Another point I want to refer to, is this. I have seen in this morning's papers that the present Government has proposed to increase the salaries of the City police constables. I congratulate them on their move and I wish that they give effect to their decision.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Please leave it at that, and do not make any suggestions.”

* ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ I do not make any suggestion, Sir, but what I say is that if the contemplated increase is due to the rise in the cost of living, then the cost of living has increased all-round in the whole Province, and even in villages too. Therefore, that increase should apply to all other services too not only in the City but in the mufassal as well.

“ With regard to the staff of the Legislature, I have to say one word. I have seen them working from morning till late at night. Therefore, Sir, their cases too should be considered and their pay also should be increased.

“ My last point is this, Sir. It is a very important one, and it will be interesting to the House to hear it. There is a complaint, Sir, that the claims of women have not been recognized by the present Ministry. I wish that one of our lady Members becomes a Minister. (A voice : It is from this House?) Whether it is from this House or from the other House, it does not matter. If the complaint is from this House, then it must be taken as a complaint

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from the Province, because we represent the whole Province. Therefore, I think the Hon. the Premier will bear this in mind and see that women are given their rightful place, and that a convention is established, that if there is a Lady Minister from the other House, there must be another Lady Minister from this House also." (Laughter.)

* Mr. K. O. ANTHONI :—" Sir, I shall not take more than five minutes.

" The restriction that you are placing on us in this House with regard to time in making our remarks on this supplementary budget is a tribute to this House. That shows that this House is very keen on offering its remarks on the supplementary budget; and since almost all the points have been covered, I have only to make one or two remarks.

" With regard to prohibition, we see that a big allotment has been included in this supplementary budget. The extra cost (ultimate) on account of the pay and allowances of the staff, contingencies, etc., debitable to this head works out to about Rs. 9,50,000 per annum recurring and Rs. 2,26,700 non-recurring while the cost in 1946-47 comes to Rs. 5,89,400. As Dr. John said in referring to this matter, there are some in this House who are not intellectually convinced of the utility of the socio-political experiments of the Government; and we see that large sums are being spent on the staff for enforcing these policies. It is only fair to this House, Sir, that we should be given a report on the progress of these schemes. Unfortunately, excepting the propaganda carried on by certain officers connected with the prohibition department, I have not seen any report on the subject. I note that my hon. Friend Mr. Daniel Thomas has been promoted to the region of prohibition. I hope he will take steps to see that the progress made in this direction will be made known to us. (The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi : 'He is also in charge of Excise'.) Does that mean that the one cancels the other, Sir?

" Then again, I must join hands with Dr. John in commenting upon the large expenditure incurred by the Government in creating appointments and spending the taxpayers' money. I think that a good deal of the trouble that was caused to the late Government was due to this multiplication of appointments and the patronage that was connected with it. But that is not my concern just now. I would like the Finance Minister to whom a tribute was paid by my hon. Friend Mr. Suryanarayana Rao, to see that the tempo of new appointments is curtailed. As I said in my budget speech, there must be a certain percentage of the revenues spent on services and within that limit I should expect the Government to set themselves as an ideal employer and give a living wage to the low-paid staff. I see that no attempt is yet being made by the Government to give such a wage to the staff. That there is considerable discontent in regard to this problem is evidenced by the fact that we are getting threats from almost all services. So I

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should like that this Government gives its attention to this problem as well as to the problem of examining the necessity of maintaining the staff in the new appointments that have been made.

" One word, Sir, about Parliamentary Secretaries. I note that an extra allotment has been asked for because the number of Parliamentary Secretaries was increased from 13 to 14. We have time and again asked the Treasury Benches as to what the duties of these Parliamentary Secretaries are, and I find that the Parliamentary Secretaries have been given personal clerks. Some Ministers have been given Personal Assistants in the place of personal clerks also. What all these differences are, and why Personal Assistants have been given in the place of personal clerks, we do not know. Nor do we know what the personal clerks of these Parliamentary Secretaries are doing. I hope, Sir, the Treasury Bench will enlighten us on the duties that the Parliamentary Secretaries are doing. They have not been appointed now, I understand. With regard to these Parliamentary Secretaries, I hope we will be enlightened on their duties before they are appointed.

" Sir, I thank you; I shall not delay the House any longer."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Sir, I am very thankful to the hon. Members of this House for the various constructive criticisms they have made with regard to the supplementary demand for grants. I am particularly thankful to Mr. Suryanarayana Rao for pointing out some of the so-called mistakes which this present supplementary demand contains. Sir, while I am new to the job, I can assure the hon. Members that I will certainly be the watchdog of the finances of the Government of Madras; and I want you, Sir, and the members to be equally the watchdogs of the finances of the Government. Whether I am here, whether you are there, it makes very little difference as long as we are all interested in the better government of the Province. I want my friends to realise that last year was an exceptionally bad year for any Government. After seven years of Advisers' regime, after a terrible devastating war and when the food situation was very gloomy in the Province, the Government came into office. Had they come into office early enough to frame their own budget, had they presented the budget themselves and taken this House into their confidence, things perhaps would have been different. But, as you are aware, they had to accept the Advisers' Government's Budget as it was. They had come into office by the end of April and they had very little time to frame their own budget and formulate their own policies. So, I want the members to remember the time at which they came into office and the situation in the Province also at that time with regard to food and cloth. I for myself was feeling very despondent, Sir, when my leaders took up office by the end of April—how they were going to tackle this food problem. South India was affected very badly and we are thankful that not one individual died of starvation in our Presidency. I will be failing in my duty if I do not pay my own compliment to the Prakasam Ministry for the way in which they handled the food situation and saved the Province

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from starvation (Hear, hear). If now we have presented this supplementary demand for Rs. 9 crores and odd, it is rather unusual. It is because, as I said, they could not envisage many things when they formulated their own budget perhaps in the month of June or July—I do not remember exactly the month. Anyway, food alone is responsible for nearly six crores or so. Hon. Members are perhaps already aware, but I may just read out some of the items :

‘ Payment of bonus to ryots for the early delivery of the surplus from short-term crops, represented Rs. 255.18 lakhs.

Loss incurred on the subsidized sale of maida amounted to nearly Rs. 100 lakhs.

Loss incurred on the subsidized sale of overseas millets came to about Rs. 7.11 lakhs.

Loss due to sale at reduced rates in Malabar and South Kanara of defective quality Sind raw rice, amounted to about Rs. 2.34 lakhs.

Subsidy to meet the extra cost incurred in respect of the movement of 20,000 tons of paddy and rice from the Northern Circars to Malabar, about Rs. 5 lakhs.

Purchase and sale of dehydrated potatoes. Rs. 61.03 lakhs.

Purchase of gunny bags for packing food-grains. Rs. 27.60 lakhs.’

Other items are subsidized sale of Balasore boiled rice, additional staff, additional staff for the purchase and distribution of firewood, etc. All these items are under the Food Department. But for the huge sums spent, I am sure the province would not have been saved from the terrible effects of famine. The Government had to rush imports from Brazil and Argentine, from Sind and from Balasore and they had also to purchase gunny bags, so that they could facilitate the transport of rice to the devastated areas. So, Sir, all these alone represent Rs. 6 crores and odd. As regards well and other things, under the “ Grow More Food Campaign ” they had to incur a lot of expenditure. There was also another important thing; just immediately after the war, the situation in the province was so very dismal with regard to labour trouble, and with regard to the services, that the Government when they presented the last Budget, could not visualize how the Government services were going to react to the new Government because of the post-war period. Whoever expected, Sir, that the services in the Secretariat would stage a “ staying in ” strike—I do not know what it is—and press their demand for increased salaries on the Government? Whoever expected that the police in the City and elsewhere would demand increased salaries and say that if it was not given to them in proper time, they would go on a symbolic strike or come such thing? So, the situation all round was very gloomy and the Government had to take prompt steps to see that these things were sanctioned immediately and thus save the situation from terrible consequences. All these must be borne in mind, Sir, before the Members can criticise how this expenditure of Rs. 9 crores and odd came to be omitted when the last Budget was presented. I do not want to go into other questions that were raised by hon. Members; they had enough time to discuss the policy of the Government for full four days when the original Budget was presented

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to them and all the criticisms levelled at the original Budget or at the supplementary Budget will be borne in mind by the Government. And God willing, with the full co-operation of all the Members and of all the sections in the Legislature, the Government will be able to carry out some of the programmes adumbrated in the old Budget and also which they are contemplating to frame in the near future. I am also aware how the salaries of teachers are very much on the horizon now and something has to be done with regard to the salaries of teachers. But only recently, the Cabinet Sub-Committee made some recommendations; we have to examine them thoroughly and see also how the provincial finances may be augmented so that we can meet this legitimate demand of increased salaries for teachers. I am fully sympathetic to the demand, and let us see what we can do with regard to that.

“ Sir, Mr. Suryanarayana Rao has raised a very pertinent point with regard to the way in which the supplementary demands have been presented. He wanted that the House should be taken into confidence by a resolution moved by the Government just before incurring expenditure. Sir, I would like that the Government should be treated with some little compassion and leniency in this matter. It is not a University body where the Vice-Chancellor or the Syndicate will go before the House and ask the leave of the House for increased expenditure on a particular item if it is not already provided for in the Budget. It is not a district board or a taluk board where at every turn the president has to come before the board and seek the sanction of the board.

“ Sir, when a Government has to function, when it is in charge of law and order, when the services have to be placated, when the policemen have to be pleased and labour strikes have to be prevented and when prohibition has to be enforced, we want immediately some staff and things like that. Government cannot wait for the House to be summoned so that it can move a resolution and get their approval. Sir, I want the Government to be treated with some leniency. When the Government represents the majority party, it also means that these Members of Government are the representatives of the people as long as they are on the Treasury Benches. That is the democratic position. Government must be assumed to be the trustees of the finances of the Government and that they incur reasonable expenditure and discharge their duties properly and efficiently. So, we must draw a distinction between the University bodies and other local bodies. You must allow Government to incur this expenditure at the end of the year because there is the Public Accounts Committee, there is the Upper House and there is the Lower House and all these will certainly bang the Government if they go wrong. So, Sir, it is up to you to point out the mistakes but the Government must be allowed a free hand with regard to expenditure during the course of the year on all new services and all new items where the amounts are insufficient and also for meeting the immediate exigencies of the times. It has been the practice not only of this Government,

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Sir, but the Government of India also. The Government of India, when they want to meet any supplementary expenditure, do not come before the House and it is only laid upon the table at the end of the year for discussion. It is a sort of post-mortem examination. Government must be trusted to deal with such items as new services and if the allotment made in the Budget is not sufficient, they should also incur additional expenditure. That has been the practice. I am glad, Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Suryanarayana Rao, has raised it in a question also and it is coming shortly before the House when the position will be further explained. In this matter, we are not following any bad precedent. It has been the practice from 1937 when the first Congress Ministry was in office. I have nothing more to say except to ask for the fullest co-operation of the Members in trying to keep a watch over the finances of the Government and I hope the Members will guide us by co-operating with us so that unnecessary expenditure can be curtailed. I am aware that during the Advisers' regime, many new departments and many new services were added on to the existing services."

MR. K. O. ANTHONI:—"During the previous ministry also."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"All these items can very well be examined. Let us not forget that we have passed through a terrible war period and the Advisers, whether they are responsible or not, had to take certain responsibilities in maintaining the so-called King's Government and they had, in their own way, added several new departments."

"With regard to the co-operative societies, Sir, Mr. Govindacharyulu referred to them in very strong terms, but may I just tell him that these co-operative societies are going to be financed by the Madras Provincial Co-operative Bank. They have asked for some help from the Government and the Government also is willing to finance them. I am sure that the Madras Provincial Co-operative Bank will immediately sanction the loan applications of these societies so that they may immediately purchase the grain. But just now these societies are at a standstill because they have not got enough money but the Provincial Co-operative Bank will soon come to their aid and I am sure things will go on smoothly as we expect them to go. I can say nothing more about these co-operative societies. It is the policy of the Government to examine these societies frequently and to correct them if they go wrong. Government will also see whether these societies do the right thing by the producer and the consumer. They must be given all encouragement."

"Sir, as regards State Trading Schemes, the Government has to give good subsidies because there is a scarcity of things like agricultural implements, etc. The poor ryots have to be given facilities and they must be given these implements at reduced or concessional rates. So, we have to incur some expenditure to meet that loss. Though it is not an actual loss for the Government

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because it is an investment, for the time being, it is a loss to Government if there are no sale-proceeds. That will be shown in the next Budget. So let us not condemn these schemes straightaway. These schemes depend upon the Government because they cannot incur the whole expenditure."

"Sir, the other matters mentioned by the hon. Members will certainly be borne in mind and I am very thankful for the very valuable criticisms offered on the supplementary budget demands."

MRS. MONA HENSMAN:—"On a point of information I did not wish to interrupt the Hon. Minister when he was speaking. I am grateful to the assurance that he has given that teachers are to get increased amounts. Does it mean that until financial additions are made and additional taxes are put, the increased amounts will not be given or that the teachers will be given a priority under the already drawn up Budget so that they might come out of it before any financial adjustments are necessary?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Just now, Sir, I am unable to give any assurance to the hon. the Lady Member because that subject comes under the Education Department. We shall certainly consider the matter and examine the financial aspects involved."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"The House stands adjourned till 5-30 this evening."

(The Council re-assembled at 5-30 p.m.)

V.—ANNOUNCEMENT *RE* MEMBERSHIP OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE.

MR. PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Mr. R. B. Theobald has resigned his Membership of the Legislative Council. Consequent on his resignation he ceases to be a Member of the House Committee to which he was nominated by the President. Another Member must be nominated. I, therefore, nominate Dr. V. K. John in the place of the hon. Member Mr. Theobald."

VI.—ANNOUNCEMENT *RE* PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Consequent on the resignation of the Hon. Mr. K. Madhava Menon, who has gone over to the Treasury Bench, from the panel of Chairmen, I nominate the hon. Member M. Narayana Rao Garu, to be on the panel of Chairmen."

VII.—THE MADRAS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES AND LOCAL BOARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1947 AS (PASSED BY THE ASSEMBLY.)

MR. PRESIDENT:—"The Hon. Minister for Local Administration."

* THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move—

'That the Madras District Municipalities and Local Boards (Amendment) Bill, 1947 L.A. Bill No. 7 of 1947) as passed by the Assembly be taken into consideration.'

[Sri K. Chandramouli] [29th March 1947]

" Sir, in moving this, I do not want to take up much of the time of this House. I shall go over only the three salient points of this Bill.

" Proviso (ii) under the proposed sub-section (3-B) under sub-clause (iii) of clause 2 of the Bill states that the object of the Bill is to increase the strength of the reserved seats for the minorities; the total number of reserved seats hitherto is one-fourth of the total strength of the council. The intention of the Bill is to make it one-third of the total strength of the municipal council.

" Then item (iii) of sub-clause (1) of clause 5 of the Bill takes power for the appointment of special officers to all municipal councils during the interval between the date of expiry of the term of the councillors previously holding office and the date on which the newly elected councillors will come into office. This is to give an interval for conducting the elections and other things.

" Then clause 7 of the Bill is intended to validate the orders issued by the Government last November postponing the elections to local bodies and municipal councils after the notices had been issued by the election authorities.

" I request the House to accept the motion to take this Bill into consideration at once."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The question is that the Bill further to amend the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, the Madras City Municipal, District Municipalities and Local Boards (Second Amendment) Act, 1942, and the Madras District Municipalities and Local Boards (Second Amendment) Act, 1946 (L.A. Bill No. 7 of 1947) as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration at once."

* K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill. The two main objects of this Bill are to give increased representation to minorities by way of reserved seats and to appoint special officers.

" Sir, you may remember that on more than one occasion, Members on this side of the House have raised their protest against both these issues, viz., the reservation of seats through joint electorates, and the appointment of special officers.

" I shall first deal with the question of reservation of seats through joint electorates. Sir, when the Government feel that there is necessity for the reservation of seats for minorities, they do grant that certain sections of the population of this Province have to be represented by their own representatives and not by representatives of other communities or other sections. When this is granted, the corollary follows that the person who is to represent a particular section of the people must be able to reflect the will of the people whom he is purported to represent. He must be a personification of the will of the people; otherwise, the purpose of the reservation of seats will be defeated. From this it follows that filling up of reserved seats through joint electorates will be of no avail, and it will not fulfil the purpose in view. We have on more

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than one occasion amply dealt with the subject and I think it is not necessary for me to traverse the ground once again in view of the fact that my friends . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" If you think it is not necessary, then why speak? Probably you think it is."

* K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" But unfortunately, Sir, we have to do it, we are forced to do so on account of the attitude that is being adopted on the other side. Whatever may be said on the floor of this House seems to have no effect at all on the Members of the other side."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" We do not accept it."

* K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" But the fact is there. Whatever we said had been a cry in the wilderness; but still we feel that we must do our duty and we hope that at least in the future—it may be some years hence—our words will have effect. Therefore, until we succeed in our efforts, we must go on doing our duty without consideration of the fact whether our words have immediate effect or not.

" Well, Sir, when once you say that sections of the population must have seats reserved for them, it necessarily follows that those persons who are to fill those seats must be able to give expression to the will of the people whom they are to represent. That, they can do only if they really represent them, if they are their real representatives. Sir, what is democracy? It is Government of the people, by the people, for the people. Applying the same principle, the person who is to represent a particular section of the people must be one of those people and he must be chosen or elected by the persons whose views he is to represent and whose grievances he has to remedy. Otherwise, he cannot by any stretch of imagination be said to be their representative. The provisions of this Bill are fundamentally opposed to this vital principle of democracy. That is why, Sir, I am constrained to oppose this Bill, on this point."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" You oppose the number being increased? "

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" My Hon. Friend says the number may be increased."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" No; the Hon. Minister wants to know if you oppose the increase in the number."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" That is not my look-out just now; I shall come to it at the proper time.

" Well, Sir, if the Government insists that these seats should be filled only through joint electorate, the result would be similar to that or identical with the result of 'jerry-mandering of elections' as it is known in the West. The person elected would not be the representative of those who are deemed to elect him, but would represent some other persons.

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“ Another point is this, Sir. These seats are reserved for the purpose of safeguarding the rights of the minorities. If the representatives are not elected by persons whose rights are to be safeguarded, will they be able to safeguard their rights? That is the question I put to the hon. Members. If you allow these people to elect their representative by separate electorates, the persons elected will understand the difficulties and the grievances of the people and they will be guided in their work by the opinions of the people and try to remedy their grievances. It is very often said, Sir, that the European cannot be made to represent the Indians on particular committees. The same principle applies to the issue in question also. If you only analyze the matter, differences do exist between Hindus and Muslims in this country and these differences are far more vital than the differences that we find between any two nations in Europe, for example, between the Portugese and the Spaniards or the Englishmen and the Irishmen. When you concede these differences, you must also concede that these representatives of the peoples must be elected through the separate electorates only; otherwise, the purpose will not be served. My Hon. Friend asked, what about the increased representation. It may so happen that one or two Muslims elected through joint electorates may—I lay emphasis on the word ‘ may ’—be the true representatives of the people but it cannot be said that all these people elected will be real representatives. That is why I want that there must be separate electorates. We should not depend upon the whims and fancies of voters who belong to a different community and who constitute the majority in a particular electorate, of people who belong to a different community which happens to be a majority. So, Sir, if these persons are not elected through separate electorates, these Muslims must depend upon the goodwill, may be upon the whims and fancies, of the voters belonging to the other communities and so they cannot get their real representatives elected. Sir, this is a matter which affects the very existence of Muslims. So, Sir, we want these separate electorates in order that we may elect our own real representatives to these municipal councils and local boards without the necessity of waiting for mercy or concession from other persons.

“ Another point, Sir. These municipal councils and local boards are even more intimately and vitally connected with the everyday life of the people than these legislatures and such being the case, it is more necessary that separate electorates should be constituted for these municipal councils and local boards than for the legislative bodies. Now, Sir, when we have come here through separate electorates to these legislative bodies, it is much more necessary that we must be given the same right in getting into the municipal councils and local boards because the members on these bodies have to come into contact more often with their constituents in their respective wards or circles and how can they go to them unless they command their confidence. Unless they go to them and contact them, how can they know and attempt to

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remedy the grievances of the people in those areas? Such people will not ordinarily be sympathetic to their electors and the electors also cannot and will not go to them for redressing their grievances. That is why, Sir, it is absolutely necessary that there must be separate electorates. If there are no separate electorates, the representatives cannot be said to be the representatives of the Muslims of the locality and their grievances cannot be properly remedied by these representatives. I may quote here the very apt words used by the late Moulana Muhammad Ali in this connexion. He said that persons elected through joint electorates will not be the real representatives of the community but they will be only ‘ men of straw ’ from the community. ‘ Men of straw ’, these are the words used by the late Moulana Muhammad Ali. These words, Sir, are pregnant with meaning and sum up the entire position.

“ Now, Sir, there is no refusing to face realities especially when the whole Government is run on communal lines. Well, Sir, when the Interim Government was constituted, did they not select men on the basis of communities? What was it for? You conceded that each community must be represented on the Interim Government. So also when forming the ministry—the present ministry as well as the previous ministry—you gave representation to the communities. You did not ignore the existence of communities, but on the other hand these communities had to be given representation in the Cabinet. Such being the case, you must apply the same principle with regard to the municipal councils and local boards also. Again, Sir, you may say that true representatives can be elected through joint electorates. But our experience has been otherwise. The other day, when the question of the constitution of the food committees came up before this House, everyone of us recorded our protest on the ground that these food committees would become the replicas of the Congress Committees and that Muslims will not have proper representation on these committees and the results have amply justified our worst fears. There are districts, for example, Tinnevely, South Arcot and Trichinopoly districts—where, I have personally known, there is not a single Muslim elected to any of the district committees. That is also the case with many other district committees. Do you mean to say, Sir, that there is no Muslim capable of becoming a member of these blessed district committees? ”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Have I said so? ”

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ I am glad the President is with me.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ When you questioned me saying ‘ Do you mean to say, etc.’ I said ‘ Have I said so? ’ ”

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ So, Sir, we want our true representatives on these municipal councils and local boards. The true representatives can be secured only through separate electorates and persons elected otherwise than by separate electorates, will not ordinarily represent the Muslims.

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"Now, Sir, whenever we talk of separate electorates, there is one argument that is trotted out against it and that is, that separate electorates will breed communal differences. I would request those friends who say that these electorates have caused communal bitterness just to read the Indian Political History for the last several decades. They will find that separate electorates are not the cause of communal differences but its logical and natural effect. In justification of this, I would say this. In the legislative bodies, both Central and Provincial, Hindus go to the polls and elect their own representatives and Muslims go to the polls and elect their own representatives and there is no communal bitterness at all. So, Sir, I would say that the best method to cure communal bitterness is to give separate electorates and to concede the principle that Muslims should elect their own representatives so that even at the polls there may not be any communal bitterness. The result, so far as the legislative bodies are concerned, has shown that there has not been any communal bitterness."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM:—"If Muslims go to separate polls in local bodies, they will also demand separate seats in those bodies."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Here, Sir, you see how we are sitting. Is there any trouble here? If we had joint electorates all these members would not be here. There may be one or two . . ."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—"Even with reservation of seats."

5.50 P.M. MR. PRESIDENT:—"I think it is better that the hon. Member proceeds with his speech than argue with hon. Members."

* K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Then, so far as separate electorates are concerned, some of my hon. Friends, including my hon. Friend, Mr. K. O. Anthoni, representing the Christian community, expressed the other day their desire for separate electorates at least so far as the Constituent Assembly was concerned."

Mr. K. O. ANTHONI:—"I am sorry I should be dragged here."

* K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Even my hon. Friend, Mr. Jagannatham, representing the Scheduled Castes said that he wanted separate electorates on account of the difficulty which his community had to face in the mixed joint electorate and also in view of the fact that the Scheduled Castes have to go through two forms of electorates."

"I do not want to elaborate on the question of reservation of seats, because the President wants to finish the business soon."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"In the interests of all of us."

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* K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"There is another handicap in the joint electorates in regard to reservation of seats, so far as the Muslims are concerned. In many of the wards in municipalities and in the circles of district boards, Muslims living in contiguous areas are split up. I know there are several such instances. The result is that Muslims do not form a majority in many of the circles and wards. Let us take one concrete instance. Take for example a place called Kilakkarai in Ramnad district which contains more than 15,000 Muslims. About 10½ miles away from Kilakkarai there is the town of Ramnad which contains more population than Kilakkarai. In between these, about 2½ miles from Kilakkarai and about 8 miles from Ramnad there is one place called Tiruppallani where there are about seven to eight hundred Hindu voters and Tiruppallani is constituted into a separate circle while Kilakkarai and Ramnad are clubbed together. At no time can a Muslim get elected from that circle though there are 15,000 Muslims, while Tiruppallani with about 900 to 1,000 voters can elect a Hindu member. There are so many other instances like that. Even in the City of Madras, for instance, there is the Mirsahibpet area. A few years ago, the area round about Mirsahibpet was constituted into a separate ward, with the result a Muslim could be elected from that ward since Muslims happened to be in a majority in that ward. Now it has been divided and part of Mirsahibpet is clubbed with Rayapettah and the rest with Mylapore so that in no ward the Muslims form a majority. I ask, Sir, why should not contiguous areas where the Muslims are in a majority be clubbed together and why should they be deliberately separated? Is it not to prevent the Muslims from electing their own representatives from those places?"

"There is another aspect of the matter, Sir, and that is in regard to the previous practice that was in vogue. These Muslim seats were deliberately reserved in wards where Muslims are in a minority and not in wards where they are in a majority. Now I understand that Government want to reserve seats where Muslims form a majority. Of course that is a salutary departure from the old practice and I hope it will be adhered to in all cases. I hear that attempts are being made in certain municipalities to deviate from this new practice to serve the interests of particular individuals. I hope that Government will not encourage such deviations from this practice, and see that at least in those areas where Muslims are in a majority true representatives of the Muslims are elected."

"Then, Sir, my friend said something about more reservation for Muslims. Of course, it is always welcome, because we are in a minority and we want not only to have better and true representation but we must also have adequate representation on those bodies so that our voice may be effectively felt and not become a cry in the wilderness as it happens both in the other House and in this House. It may so happen that though these Members are ultimately to be elected through joint electorates, some of them

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may be true representatives of the people—by chance it may happen. We are anxious that Government should give adequate and sufficient representation to minorities in these bodies, even though they find it difficult to accept our cry and demand for separate electorates.

“ Now in regard to the appointment of Special Officers, Sir, on former occasions also we opposed against this policy. I do not think there is any need for the appointment of Special Officers. Probably there is a lurking suspicion in the minds of hon. Members that because in certain municipal councils, members have been nominated they might interfere with the elections. I must take strong objection to the expression used in the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the original Bill which has been circulated. It is stated there; ‘ In order that undue influence is not brought to bear upon any section of the electorate during the next elections to municipal councils, it is desirable as in the case of district boards to place the municipal councils in charge of Special Officers . . . and so on ’. Well, Sir, I cannot understand what this means if it is not a reflection on those members of municipal councils who have been holding office as nominated members—I find that it also applies to members of elected councils? It has been the practice, Sir, throughout the whole world, for members of various bodies who are functioning now, to continue to function until their successors are elected and assume office. That is the ordinary rule of any democracy and why should you depart from that practice in the case of municipal councils and local boards. Supposing there is an election to be conducted for the Legislative Council or Assembly, are you going to say that a Special Officer should be appointed; or, that the Council or the Assembly should be dissolved as otherwise the members of the Council or Assembly will exercise undue influence over the electorate? Sir, it is nothing but casting unmerited slur on the members of the councils concerned. And, how can you say that these people will exercise an undue influence over the electorate? When especially they have been entrusted with the administration of important towns and when they can administer the affairs of their respective areas, can they not be trusted not to exercise any undue influence so far as the elections are concerned? Why can't you let them function whether they are elected or nominated persons? When the Government did not find any objection to entrusting the administration of whole districts and towns in their hands and have not superseded them, why should they want to supersede them only with regard to elections by appointing Special Officers. I cannot understand the logic of it. I do not want to take more time of the House except I oppose the Bill, Sir, for these reasons.”

6 p.m. * MR. K. O. ANTHONI:—“ Speaking on the important provision relating to the increased representation for the minorities in the District Municipalities and Local Boards, I must express on behalf of my community, the Indian Christian community, our gratification on the Government's recognizing the need for giving

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increased representation not only to my community but to the other communities as well. The hon. Mr. Ibrahim was referring to me also when he was pleading for separate electorates.”

MR. PRESIDENT:—“ Do not disappoint him.”

* MR. K. O. ANTHONI:—“ I am afraid I will have to. Sir, the Indian Christian community is as I remarked in connection with my speech on the budget, is the third largest community in the country and there are over two millions in our province. We have not yet developed to the stage. I hope we never will of demanding a Christianstan. We feel that our duty lies in becoming peace-builders in our country. Whenever there is communal tension as we now find in Northern India, we feel that Indian Christians have a very important role to play. The Indian Christian Community is drawn from the various other communities that reside in this land of ours and so they are in a better position to enter into the mentality and understand the view-points of the other communities. When I say that I do not stand for separate electorates on the floor of this House, I do not certainly ignore the fact that we have had our disappointments in the past. Unfortunately, the major communities have not extended communal justice to the smaller minorities in this country with the result that there is a feeling of insecurity.”

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ May I know, Sir, through what electorate he is here in this House now? ”

MR. K. O. ANTHONI:—“ I belong to the Indian Christian community. That does not mean that I should stand up and support the two nation theory in this House.”

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Give up separate electorate then.”

* MR. K. O. ANTHONI:—“ Speaking about our disappointments, I mentioned last time when I was speaking on the Budget the fact that the President of the All-India Catholic Union who happens to be the President of the Joint Committee of Indian Christians, Protestants and Catholics, and also the President of the Catholic Association of the Madras Province was not elected as a member of the Constituent Assembly from this Province. We also know that if we agree to this reservation of seats it is quite likely that members of my community who are nominated by the party in power or their organization are likely to be elected as representatives. We know all that. Still the progressive minds of the community think that we have got a duty to get into the general electorate and play our part in developing a better social conscience in our country.”

“ So, I feel, Sir, that our position is such that we should give our provisional consent to joint electorates with reservation of seats. If representation is to be effective in a democratic constitution, the candidate who enjoys the confidence of the group or the community should be elected. At the same time I realize that it is not wise

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to keep away from the general electorate. That kind of disintegrating tendency is not a thing that will result in good being done to the country as a whole. That is what the best minds of the Indian Christian Community feel to-day. While therefore I give my provisional support to the principles adumbrated in this Bill, I would appeal to the Leaders of the Hindu community to realize that the Indian Christians are politically an important community and that they are not quite satisfied with the results that have so far been obtained in the working of general electorates or joint electorates with reservation of seats. It should be up to the majority communities, especially the Hindu community to realize that the Indian Christian community has got a role to play in this country and to see that the rules and regulations are so made that it would enable the community to elect their true representatives to these local boards and municipalities. We shall watch this experiment with the keenest interest and it will be our painful duty, if say within a year or two we realize that the conditions that obtain in these elections have not permitted of our electing the true representatives of the community, to ask for a change in the electoral system."

SRI S. K. SATAGOPA MUDALIYAR:—"I would submit, Sir, that there should be reservation for the fair sex. The argument that had been adduced by the Mohammedan colleague will apply in this also. Another argument which I strongly urge is that 50 per cent of the seats should be reserved for the fair sex. They represent all the communities. I think that at least in this case Mrs. Mona Hensman will support me."

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Mrs. MONA HENSMAN:—"Mr. President, I thought I shall not participate in this debate because I felt it was a matter for men. While appreciating the suggestion of the last speaker, I do feel that women have to stand by their declaration of fifteen years ago of the Lothian Commission that they wanted joint electorates. Moreover they took this stand not only for women but also for men but you will excuse my saying it, that it was the men of this country that upset that procedure. I must congratulate the present Government on bringing a Bill that is going to enlarge the scope of minority representation. I am very glad to be able to say—you will excuse a personal reference in this regard—that those of us who were teachers in colleges and schools are just as fond of our children who are of different communities. We do not say because the school is run by a particular religious body that we are more fond of children of that religion. I have had in my classes, Muslim, Hindu and Christian girls all of whom are as dear to me and all of whom have done just as much and perhaps more than, men who have been students in parallel colleges. I will not mention names; but one of the chief superintendents of Muslim schools in this City was one of my beloved students and I cannot think of any other girl who could have done better. I could multiply instances but I do not want to hold up the House that way. I feel that Mr. Antoni is only voicing the

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opinion of those of us, the Christian community of North India, who have for a long time stood for joint electorates. We may lose; we may have disappointments. We have to endure it because we are training the electorates of the future. We are going to look to nationality and to the scope, wisdom and help that the person can give not only because of religion. I feel that our friends who feel very strongly for separate electorates will bear with me when I say that we are Indians first and that each of our religions makes us the truer citizens of the country and the truer sons of our country. I must congratulate the Government on their having extending the scope to a quarter and it will be not long before it is made a third and I trust that women will have increased number just as men."

* ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. President, I feel that I must join hands with my hon. Friend Mr. Ahamed Ibrahim Saheb in opposing this Bill. Though we agree in conclusions, we differ in arguments. I shall take a different line of argument altogether in opposing reservations of seats with joint electorates. I can understand if there is general electorate pure and simple and people of different communities being given the chance to find their place in the municipality or district board on account of their popularity because I do not feel that there will be any such thing as parties in local boards. But I feel that reservation of seats is nothing but an eye-wash. If you want the general interests of the country to be served, there is no need for reservation for any particular community. You want to reserve seats for a particular community in order that they may find representation on that body. If that is the case, I feel that representation should be given to people belonging to that particular community who could really represent that community. By reservation of seats in the general electorate, you are only going to get people who will be subservient to your wishes, particularly in a Province where we are in a minority and the electorate will consist of the majority who do not belong to the community, for whose sake particular seats are reserved. I feel there is no meaning at all in reservation of seats. You can as well say: 'There is only a general electorate if you are popular, you will be elected though you be a Muslim.' I wish we had an atmosphere of that kind. I wish for the old days in our life when a Muslim stood for election without any reservation and he was elected not only by Muslims but by a large majority of Hindus. That was the position some time ago but unfortunately it is not so now. By reserving certain seats for particular communities, you recognize the fact that that situation is not there in which people belonging to minorities can with confidence stand in a general electorate and be elected to municipalities and local bodies. Such being the case, I do not see the reason why you should ask those people to stand and get votes not only from Muslims but also as from non-Muslims and then say that they would be considered as the representatives of the Muslim community. You can give them any number; instead of four, you may even have four hundred.

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Do you honestly believe that those people will represent the community on whose behalf they have been elected? Certainly not. Because they will be elected not by their own community whom they have to represent but by others who will ask them to represent certain interests other than those of the community to which the representatives belong. I can understand your saying that all the seats will be open for any member of any community; that is perfectly logical. But even if you say you are going to give us 75 per cent of the seats in a joint electorate, that will not do. I say that one Muslim if he is elected on a separate electorate will be a better representative than all the 75 coming through the general electorate. (Interruption.) There is no use blinking over facts and saying, at a time when the sun is not shining, that all is sun. The fact has to be faced that people are there on reservation of seats elected by a joint electorate who unfortunately have to yield very important interests of their own community for the sake of people by whose majority votes they had been elected. Therefore, Sir, I say logically this reservation of seats is inconsistent. You can have joint electorate without reservation of seats. That will be an honest proposition and I can quite appreciate it. Have no reservation of seats at all. Ask people to be elected on joint electorate. On account of the popularity of particular individuals, let them be elected, and these people will certainly represent both Hindus and Muslims in as dignified a manner as it is possible for them to represent. If you say 'no', then I say let these communities elect their own representations and not people who will for namesake be elected to represent them. Actually they will not represent those communities, because they will be represented by some other people. Therefore, this is a question which Hon. Ministers have to seriously consider. On account of their majority, I am sure, I am as sure as you are sure and as any other member in this House is sure, that this Bill or any other Bill which may be brought forward by the majority party will certainly become law. There is no doubt about that and in spite of that fact we are crying hoarse. We have been fighting, as you on one occasion pointed out, very valiantly a losing battle. But this fight is certainly going to bear fruit one day or other. Though we are going down, we will not take this lying down. Though we are defeated still we will feel even in defeat there is success and glory. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, I feel that reservation of seats with joint electorates is quite an inconsistent proposition. Either there should be only joint electorates and people—Hindus or Muslims—should be elected, or there should be separate electorate, and the electorates should be given a chance to elect their own representatives. Sir, this is one point. Now I come to the other point. Whatever may be the experience of my Christian friends or other friends, this has been our bitter experience, Sir. In this House, and in any other part of India, the present Congress Governments are anxious either to get the real representatives of the people in the Government or to discard them altogether. If it is only a question of giving representation to Muslims, I would

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have seen somebody, some one from the Muslims, sitting on the other side with my hon. Friend Mr. Reddiar and the other Hon. Ministers. They could have easily nominated somebody to the Council and of course that could have been done earlier. They could have said 'we want a Muslim; we want Muslim representation.' So far as the Ministry is concerned there is no reservation of seats. Why? The reason is apparent. The reason is that the Congress Governments feel that if anybody is nominated or if anybody is brought by their franchise or by their electorate or by their influence that man cannot be considered to be a representative of the Muslims. Therefore, Sir, no Muslim has been taken in. If it was possible for the Congress, before this Government came, the previous Government could have done it. Somebody could have been nominated and he would have taken a seat on the other side as a Muslim Minister. The fact that you have not done it is conclusive proof that you feel that a Muslim who is not elected by the Muslims, a Muslim who is not elected by separate electorate, a Muslim who is not elected by the franchise of the Muslim voters, even though he may be nominated by the Congress Party, even though he may be taken as Minister, still he will not be in a position to represent the Muslim interests, Muslim feelings and so on. That being the case, I do not understand how Muslims whatever may be their number—whether they are 10 or 20 or 30 or even 90 per cent—if they are elected on joint electorate, will be able to represent the Muslims. If you want that they should represent only general interests, then have no reservation of seats at all. These people who will be elected on general electorate will be no better than people who some time back were appointed by the British Government, and who were given high offices for namesake. They were made mere figure heads. They were made responsible for the administration of a whole Province, and yet they were sitting like lifeless dolls without having any real power in their hands, and the whole string was pulled behind by somebody else, and these people were simply signing machines. Such being the case, Muslim representatives, or any representatives, of any community, if they are to be elected by the joint electorate system, cannot be the real representatives of that community. I say, and I still maintain, that if you want to have representation of all the people, then no reservation of seats is necessary. In a joint electorate I can stand, and if you have confidence in me, you can vote for me. That is the point which is to be very seriously considered. My hon. Friend Mr. Anthoni said that the Christian community is going to bridge the gulf between the various communities. Sir, I have got a number of Christian friends. I myself was educated in a Christian institution. I know their catholicism is proverbial. We shall take pride in the fact that Mr. Anthoni and the Christian community are going to be the bridge-builders between the various communities. But, Sir, I have an ambition. I do not know how far that ambition is going to be fulfilled. I do not know whether it is a reality or it is going to be a reality. I have got the ambition, and that ambition is that we in this Province, you and I,

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should be the bridge builders throughout the whole of India. I want this Province to give a lead in all matters, whatever may be the madness of people outside fighting like mad men. We, as sensible people, Hindus and Muslims in this Province as I have said on many an occasion, should set an example and show to the world that we are capable of adjustments, that we can understand and appreciate the feelings of either side, that Hindus can appreciate the feelings of Muslims and Muslims can appreciate the feelings of Hindus, that we are in a position to disabuse the minds of the different communities on account of our toleration, on account of our yielding to their wishes, and on account of our yielding to show that their suspicions are proved incorrect. Therefore, Sir, I am very anxious that the Hon. Ministers on the other side should realize this position and see that Muslims are given satisfaction that the representatives who will be elected to represent them in the local bodies and municipalities will be people who will really represent their interests.

"One more point, Sir, and I shall be done. That is with regard to the Special Officers."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"Enough has been said already."

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p.m.

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—"I shall finish in one sentence, Sir. In any democratic country, whether it is here or anywhere else, it is on the basis of public confidence that people work. This Ministry is here on that basis. I wish this Ministry long life. Supposing these people go out resigning their office, will not the Governor ask them to continue the administration until some other people come in? Such being the case, why should our friends on the other side say 'well; we do not have confidence in the people who are there; we want to have people who are above them.' Sir, what sort of Special Officers are they going to appoint? Why should there be want of confidence in our own people? Whatever party we may belong, let us not think in terms of party. The Congress party must be above all these things. I want the Congress party not to be so narrow-minded as to think that other people will interfere in elections and try to bring in other people who will not suit to the ideas of Congress. That is perhaps the whole difficulty. Therefore I want our friends to have confidence in our own people."

"Then, Sir, with regard to special officers. Who are going to be appointed as special officers? I do not know what the idea of Government is, and how they are going to be designated? If there are going to be special officers, let them be appointed from among non-official gentlemen, not from people who will be under the influence of the Government. Let them be non-officials who will be appointed to these places, and let them be from various communities, people belonging to Hindu community, the Christian community and the Muslim community. Let them be selected or nominated from all communities, so that all communities may have confidence in them."

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"Sir, I do not think much is needed to be said on this Bill. If this Bill is to be passed into law I am sure it will not give proper representation to my community."

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"Mr. President, Sir, I regret to say I cannot sympathize with the point of view of my hon. Friend, Mr. Farookhi. His whole point of view is based in the belief in the two-nation theory, to which he and his party cling. So they will ask for separate arrangement in every proposal. I am surprised my good friends talk as if they have come down to this place from somewhere. So there is no use trying to convince people who believe in that way. I wish to point out why separate electorate is not necessary to safeguard their rights and remedy their grievances, as long as representation to their community as such is guaranteed with reservation of seats in joint electorates. (Mr. Abdul Latif Farookhi : 'That is where we differ.') He and I agree that reservation of seats should be removed. To that extent it is a step in the right direction. But while I want to progress, Mr. Farookhi want to retrogress. (Laughter.) While I want to take a long view, he wants to look back; while I want to go a step forward, he wants to take one step back. (Mr. Abdul Latif Farookhi : I go back so that I may go forward and force on. (Laughter.) I am almost amazed how this question of separate electorate comes in here. It will arise only in the City Municipality Bill. This tendency to separate is quite foreign to municipal life. Because all the interests there are common to all communities. The other day I was reading the speech of the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly on this Bill, because I wished to know his point of view; and the example he gave of how the interests of his community would be affected was somewhat curious. He said he would find the whole place strewn with cowdung-water against the sentiments of the Muslims. He quoted this as an example, as he had no other examples to quote. In municipal life our interests are common. We drink the same kind of water, we have the same kind of quarters to be swept, occupied by them by Muslim or Hindu or any other community. In fact there are no conflicting interests in the administration of local bodies. Merely because a particular gentleman comes from one particular electorate, so long as he continues to be a member of a particular minority community, how is he going to better that particular community. (Mr. Abdul Latif Farookhi : By crying hoarse!) You can do that even when you come in through joint electorates. Sir, there are no separate interests as far as civic life is concerned. It is quite different in higher spheres, where fishes and loaves of office play an important part even in the best of democratic countries. It is very difficult to convince my friends. We only regret that they distrust all other communities. It is a pity this distrust is allowed to grow instead of my good friends using their influence to arrange and see the other side of things. Unfortunately I am afraid they are allowing their influence more to see the bad side of communal life."

[Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao] [29th March 1947]

"Sir, I am also against special officers. We have discussed that question very often, and so here, I will make only a passing reference to it. Let me express the hope they will not bring in outsiders. As I have already said on the last occasion this is only a mere bill to provide for the postponement of elections. No contentious provisions have been introduced in this Bill. It is merely intended to extend the life of the local boards beyond 31st March 1947. If Government want to have any alterations either in the number of members or in the method of elections that should be done by a comprehensive Bill dealing with all aspects of the matter, I wish my friends had not raised the contentious points. Perhaps it has been introduced in the City Municipality Bill and so they raise that here also. If my friends want to have the number of seats increased for their community by half the present total number, let them ask for it. Perhaps I will support them. But here in the present Bill there is no mention about the method of election. I want to raise a point of order—Of course—when the time comes perhaps you will have to give your ruling."

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P.M. * DR. V. K. JOHN :—"Sir, in rising to speak on this Bill one feels that one is not in an atmosphere of reality. The Bill will be passed without any amendment, however much we may press our views. I have several times said that all parties should have an effective voice in the shaping of Bills which pass through this House. Now that we have three Members of this House as Ministers, including the Prime Minister, I hope the Government will take the feeling of this part of the House into consideration, about the unreal atmosphere in which Bills are brought here in the shaping of which we have no hand at all, either in the Select Committee or in the House, because it has to go through without any amendment."

"Having said that I do not think, Sir, that the claim made by the Hon. Minister, Mr. Chandramouli, that the main object of this Bill is to give larger representation to the minorities is correct. Sir, section 7, sub-section (1) of Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, provides that the municipal council shall consist of such number of councillors as may be notified by the Provincial Government in accordance with a particular table mentioned in the section. It says that if the population exceeds 100,000 the number of members shall be 36. Sub-section (2) of section 7 provides that all the councillors of every municipality shall be elected. Sub-section (3), that is the sub-section which is now being amended, provides that in any municipality, the Provincial Government by notification, from time to time reserve seats for Muslims, Indian Christians, Members of the Scheduled Castes, Europeans, Anglo-Indians or women and the determination of the number of such seats is left to the Government. Then there is the proviso that the total number of seats so reserved shall not exceed one-fourth of the strength fixed for the municipal council under sub-section (1). It is provided further that no seat shall be

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reserved for any of the communities mentioned in clauses (a) to (e) (i.e., excluding women) if at the last census such community constituted more than one-half of the total population of the municipality. Sir, in sub-section (4) it is also provided that in reserving seats for the communities mentioned in clauses (a) to (c) of sub-section (3) the Provincial Government shall have due regard to their number and importance. Discretion is given to the Government to allot the number of seats among the Europeans, Anglo-Indians, Women, Members of the Scheduled Castes and Indian Christians, etc."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"The main object is that the 'one-fourth' should be increased to 'one-third'."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—"I am contending, Sir, that it is not much of an advance. Nothing contained in sub-section (3) shows that the members of any community or women for whom seats have to be reserved there in a municipal council can be sure that the seats will be reserved or how many will be reserved. Sir, this is the existing position."

"Sir, the Government have introduced a Bill. It says that in the same section the following sub-sections shall be inserted after sub-section (3), namely :—

'(3-A) The total number of seats reserved under sub-section (3) shall not exceed one-fourth of the strength of the municipal council as notified in sub-section (1).'

This is the first proviso itself in the old Act which they have taken out and incorporated in the new Bill. I was going to show, Sir, that this is a clumsily worded Bill. In my own experience as a lawyer I have never come across an Act which is more clumsily worded than this. How it is clumsily worded, Sir, I will show. In sub-section (3-A) they have taken one of the provisos saying that the reserved seats shall exceed one-fourth of the strength of the municipality. Next sub-section (3-B) says :—

'(3-B) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (3-A), the Provincial Government may, if they think fit by notification, fix the total number of seats reserved in any municipal council in excess of the number admissible under sub-section (3-A).'

Thus sub-section (3-B) deletes sub-section (3-A) in the same section. It seems to be very absurd, Sir, they should have deleted sub-section (3-A) and inserted sub-section (3-B). Now sub-section (3-B) gives power to the Government to override sub-section (3-A). And Sir, notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (3-A), i.e., the one-fourth maximum, the Provincial Government may, if they think fit, by a notification fix the total number of seats reserved in any municipal council, in excess of that number. The discretion is still with the Government. That is why, Sir, I say there is no advance at all. This section (3-B) which deletes sub-section (3-A) in the same section is conditioned by two provisos. One is :

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' Provided that the strength of the municipal council as notified under sub-section (1) is also increased by the same number as that by which the total number of reserved seats is increased and is specified in the notification aforesaid.'

Sir, King's language is murdered. It is very difficult to understand what this proviso means. It will take two hours for a man to interpret what it is; and then it goes on to say:

' and the total number of reserved seats is so fixed as not to exceed one-third of the strength of the municipal council as increased under clause (i). '

It is not that Government wish to give one-third to the minorities. It says, it shall not exceed one-third. They can fix it at one-eighth, or at one-fourth or one-fifth. They can have any number. It is left to the Government to fix and allot the number to any community. It is a general discretion either to advance on one-fourth or to keep it at one-fourth. I say that, if the Government's intention is so to increase the number of representatives of the minority communities, surely they should have raised it to 'one-third' and provided that one-third shall represent the minority communities.

" Now, Sir, I say there is no real advance. Besides, this is a clumsy piece of legislation, one section deleting another section.

" Sir, in 1947, they should not have copied the provisions of the 1920 Act. That we are divided into communities is a fact which cannot be denied by anybody. There are four alternatives before the Government if they want to solve the problem of communalism. The first is that which they have adopted, what they call 'joint electorates' with reservation. Now, Sir, it has been stated and forcibly stated by the Muslim members in this House that it does not give representation to the minorities at all. It is only giving representation to the majority community. They say: 'We will appoint whom we like.' Sir, the Executive Councillors in this Province were Indians and a claim was made that Indians constituted the Government as they were in the Executive Council. It was then stated that those Indians were elected or selected or nominated or appointed by the Britisher, a foreign Government, and they did not represent Indians at all. That was the contention made by the Congress always. Now Sir, my Muslim friends are afraid that anybody appointed by another person, although he is an Indian, or a Muslim or an Indian Christian, certainly we will not be giving representation to the minority community. And, therefore, I agree that, if the Government's object is to give representation to the minority community, this is not the way to do it.

" The next alternative is, as my hon. Friends pleaded, separate electorates. I feel, Sir, and I am strongly convinced about it, that it is the separate electorates that has accentuated communalism in this country. The day on which separate electorate system was introduced in this country we were lost. Any solution of the communal problem in my opinion must be one that effaces communalism in the long run, one which will not perpetuate communalism.

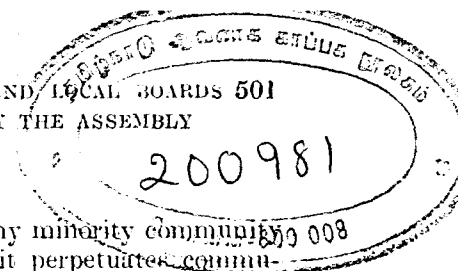
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It is not in the interests, in my opinion, of any minority community to have separate electorates at all, because it perpetuates communalism. It keeps them in a group and they are in a minority always. What then is the alternative? I say there are two more alternatives. One is to abolish reservation for minority communities altogether. It may be that in the beginning there will be a feeling of discrimination. I think communalism is passing from this country. The average man is not communally minded. Sir, some men may suffer in the beginning, but we must take a long view. In a few years, in 10, 15 or 20 years, it may be there will be no communalism in the country. And in the life of a community or a nation, 10, 15 or 20 years is nothing at all. We must take a long view of the matter. In the year 1947, a Congress Government which apparently stands for non-communalism should have brought forward a bill deleting section 7 of the District Municipalities Act.

" Now they have come forward and said: 'We feel that a larger representation is required for the minority communities; therefore, we take the power to raise the number to one-third under certain conditions. The minority communities have great faith in the Congress Government. Therefore, the Government have taken the power to increase the number.' But this is as if they have promised nothing at all. In my opinion, the Congress Government should not have felt that there is need for representation of minority communities in 1947. They should have boldly said: 'We stand for all communities, we are not communally minded at all and therefore we delete the section. If this is not possible, I suggest they should have introduced the system of election and selection. Suppose in a municipality 80 per cent of the inhabitants are Hindus, then allot 80 seats for the Hindus. Suppose 10 per cent are Muslims, allot 10 seats for Muslims and so on. Multiply the number of seats by 3 or 4 or 5. Let the Hindus for instance select 5 times the number assigned to them, i.e., 400 members, and let the Muslims select 5 times the number assigned to them, i.e., 50. Then, let all the other communities elect the required number of candidates from out of the numbers selected. The result will be that every member returned to the Council will have the confidence not only of one community but of all communities. Although the election will be a bit cumbersome, we can certainly go through it and in course of time you will find that no communal-minded person will be elected. He may be selected, because the selection is by his community. But it may be that members of the Hindu community may select an Indian Christian, because it does not mean that the representative must belong to the same community. I represent in the High Court many Hindus and Muslims and more non-Indian Christians than Christians. As their representative they have confidence in me. The Hindus may have a Christian as their representative."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I have a feeling that the hon. Member is going much beyond the principle of the Bill."



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DR. V. K. JOHN :—" We have been side-tracked into a discussion of joint and separate electorates. If the procedure of selection and election was adopted, we should have no communalism at all and everybody elected will represent all the communities, Hindu, Muslim and Christian. Therefore communalism will disappear in course of time. Any solution of the communal problem should be one which will not perpetuate communalism but efface communalism. I appeal to my hon. Friends: Let them not talk of separate electorates. We are on the threshold of freedom and we should all march as one nation in our political, public and economic life without any difference of caste, creed or colour. If we who are in this Council give a lead to our communities, that we do not belong to one community but to all communities, the future of the country is safe. I appeal to my hon. Friends not to ask for separate electorates. I appeal to the Government not to introduce any further reservations, because the reservation does not mean anything at all as it will be said that the reserved seats will be occupied by dummies and there will be quarrel over that. The principle of the Bill is wrong and it should be dropped.

"Again, Sir, it has been clumsily drafted. I do not know who is responsible for the last section which says:

'If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Provincial Government may, as occasion may require, by order do anything which appears to them necessary for the purpose of removing this difficulty.'

'Do anything . . . as occasion may require' is a thing which is unparalleled in the history of legislation. The Government takes power to do anything by order if they find there is some difficulty. If there is a provision like that, they will find any number of difficulties and they will pass orders to remove those difficulties. No Legislature could vest in the Government of the country such an arbitrary power to remove any difficulty merely by passing an order. This is a clumsy piece of legislation. Act was introduced a few months back and it has again been amended. Sir, this Government has not got the assistance of men qualified to draft bills, study the existing Acts and put into proper wording the intentions of the Government. I say, Sir, that this Bill ought to be dropped. I know that this is an unreal atmosphere. If I plead that the Bill should be dropped and even if they are convinced that it should be dropped, there is the question of prestige. The Bill has been passed by the Assembly and it should be passed by the Council. I ask you, Sir, whatever influence you may have as President of the Council, to put pressure on the Government and make them agree to have joint select committees at least so that we may have some voice in shaping the Bills which have to be passed through this House."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The Hon. Minister . . . "

* THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" Sir, I thank the House for the constructive criticisms and valuable suggestions

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"THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Before the Hon. Minister for Local Administration replies, may I say a few words? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I only said : ' The Hon. Minister ' . "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" The hon. Members Mr. Ibrahim Sahib and Mr. Farookhi Sahib said that the object of the Government in the appointment of special officers was to hit at the nominated councils nominated by the previous Government because we could not trust them to influence the elections. I shall give some figures which will speak for themselves. There are now 24 nominated councils and 57 elected councils. This Bill is going to affect both the 57 elected and the 24 nominated councils. The 57 elected councils are ' Congress ' councils and if it was a matter of trying to influence the elections in our favour, it would have been better to retain the 57 councils. It is therefore very uncharitable to say that this is an attempt to abolish nominated councils alone."

* THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" Mr. President, Sir, While thanking the House for its constructive criticism and valuable suggestions, I am compelled to differ from my hon. Friends, Mr. Ibrahim Sahib and other Muslim Friends. The object of this Bill is to increase the representation of minorities. It has nothing to do either with the electorate or with the franchise or the electoral areas or any such thing. So much of the criticism levelled against the Bill is not really within the scope of this limited amending Bill. I am sure the whole House has agreed that the objects of the Bill are necessary, but there have been one or two criticisms levelled against the Bill. My hon. Friend Dr. John said that instead of bringing this clumsy or hasty piece of legislation, it would have been better. If the Bill had been comprehensive and a little more specific and clear. I do agree with my hon. Friend and I assure him that it is the object of the present Government to see that such a comprehensive bill, without complications, a simple easy and effective bill without affecting any community or section and as a matter of fact giving full and satisfactory representation to the whole population may be brought forward at an early date."

"I request the hon. Members through you, Sir, to bear with me so far as the other points are concerned. Separate electorates and other things mentioned by our friends have nothing to do with the present Bill. I only appeal to our Muslim friends that a day might come when we will have to feel as one, work together, live together and not think in terms of separate communities, separate electorates and so on. With these words, I request the House to accept the motion."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I now put the question to the House. The question is that the Madras District Municipalities and Local Boards (Amendment) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 7 of 1947), as passed by the Assembly be taken into consideration at once,"

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The motion was put and carried and the Bill was taken into consideration at once.

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The hon. Member Mr. K. T. M. Ahmed Ibrahim has given notice of two amendments to clauses (2) and (3). I am afraid both the amendments are out of order.”

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ May I explain, Mr. President. The Statement of Objects and Reasons says that the Government consider it desirable to have power to increase the representation provided for minority communities. My point is that this Bill does not at all provide for proper representation. My amendments seek to provide proper representation.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Rule 60 (1) of the Madras Legislative Council Rules reads as follows :—

‘ An amendment must be relevant to, and within the scope of, the subject matter of the Bill or motion to which it relates.’

This Bill is an amendment to the existing Acts. The cardinal principle running through the existing Acts is that elections to the existing local boards, municipalities and other local bodies should be on the principle of joint electorates with reservation of seats. The provisions of the Amending Bill do not go beyond this object. The only object envisaged by the Bill is to raise the reservation from one-fourth to one-third if the Government thinks it necessary. If the amendments of the hon. Member are accepted, the principle of the existing Acts, that is joint electorates, will have to be modified, and separate electorates will have to be brought in in the place of joint electorates. The present amendments are to Clauses 2 and 3 of the Bill. The sections of the existing Acts which deal with the method of election and the method of division into circles and wards are Section 43 of the Madras District Municipalities Act and Sections 47 and 49 of the Madras Local Boards Act. It is not proposed to amend them now. So even if these amendments are accepted, Section 43 of the District Municipalities Act and Sections 47 and 49 of the Local Boards will remain as they are. It will mean that while Clauses 2 and 3 of the amending Bill advocate separate electorates, the real, effective sections of the Acts quoted above do not provide for separate electorates. The Acts will become contradictory in their provisions and will become absolutely unworkable. These amendments not only go beyond the scope of the Acts, but also materially vary the very scope of the Bill altogether. I am therefore constrained to rule these two amendments out of order.”

Clause 2 was put and carried.

Clause 3 was put and carried.

Clause 4 was put and carried.

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Clause 5.

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ I move—

‘ In clause 5 (1) (i) for the words “ may be different from ” the words “ shall be the same as ” shall be substituted.’”

The object of my amendment is that there should be no interregnum between the date of the newly elected councillors coming into office and the date of expiry of the term of office of the existing councillors. Then the need for appointment of Special Officers will not arise. I have explained the reasons already in the first reading stage, and I do not think it necessary to explain the amendment in detail.”

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ I second the amendment, Sir.”

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—“ I oppose the amendment, Sir.”

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 5 (1) (iii).

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ Sir, I move—

‘ Clause 1 (1) (iii) shall be omitted.’”

7-10
p.m.

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ I second the amendment.”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“ Sir, I rise on a point of order. The effect of this amendment is the same as the appointment of a Special Officer for the period after 31st March.”

The amendment was put and lost.

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ Sir, I move the following amendment :—

‘ At the end of clause 5. (1) (iii), the following proviso shall be inserted :—

“ Provided that the Government shall have the power to extend the term of office of the councillors previously holding office until the date on which the newly elected councillors will come into office.”’

“ This amendment is consequential to my first amendment.”

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ I second the amendment.”

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 5 (3).

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ Sir, I move the following amendment :—

‘ Clause 5 (3) shall be omitted.’

[K. T. M. Ahmed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur] [29th March 1947]

"This has also reference to the Special Officer."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—"I second it."

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 5 (4).

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—"Sir, I move the following amendment :—

"Clause 5 (4) shall be omitted."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—"I second it."

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 5 was put and carried.

Clause 6 was put and carried.

Clause 7 was put and carried.

Clause 8 was put and carried.

Clause 1 was put and carried.

The preamble was put and carried.

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—"I now move—

'That the Madras District Municipalities and Local Boards (Amendment) Bill (L.A. Bill No. 7 of 1947), as passed by the Assembly be passed into law.'"

MR. PRESIDENT :—"The question is that the Bill be passed into law."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—"Mr. President, Sir, I rise to oppose the Bill at this stage and at this late hour for reasons of my own . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"I hope the hon. Member will not keep us very late."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—"The question of joint electorates and reservation of seats is a hoax pure and simple and is a sort of crafty camouflage practised on the minority communities. Time was in the history of local bodies when there was no reservation of seats at all. There was such a time for valid and good reasons. It was thought that, because there was consensus of opinion, it was fit and proper to safeguard the interests of the various minority communities and that reservation of seats should be made. I may tell you that many of us were Congressmen in those days; we worked together and we were like a pair of tongs; we were collaborating . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"I hope you did not squeeze anybody coming between."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—"We co-operated together. We gave a very fair trial. But as ill-luck would have it, we were at cross-purposes and cross-roads."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"Never too late to mend."

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DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—"It is never too late for Congressmen to mend. If they grant our reasonable request and grant us separate electorates we are one. The object of both parties is one. The policy of all of us should be one; we should be one with them. But here oneness is of a different kind. All of us have read of Esop's Fables—the wolf and the lamb. The wolf wanted to be one with the lamb, the lamb wanted the same thing; but the wolf said 'I will swallow you, we will become one.' There will be no question of two bodies; there will be one body and one soul. In that fashion the Congress people now want us to be one with them. Why should they fight shy of separate electorates? I cannot understand. They are the biggest party in the country. Whatever may be the conditions and whatever may be the number of reservation of seats, there is no room for any apprehension at all. Why should they not give us separate electorates? I should say that they are consistently inconsistent in this matter. There are higher bodies such as Legislatures where this principle has been upheld and is in practice. We are having separate electorates in the higher spheres even in the highest bodies. Why should they not extend the same principle even to local bodies, I cannot understand. It is unanswerable I should say. They say local bodies are the field where you should practise joint electorates and not separate electorates. What are the valid reasons? I put the question straight to the Treasury Benches . . ."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"I rise to a point of order. The hon. Member is referring to separate electorates."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"He is opposing the Bill."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—"There is no consistency at all in the practice of the Congress party. They would not lose anything by granting us separate electorate. The Muslims stand first and foremost among the minority communities. Next come Harijans. Thirdly there is the Christian community. Among Harijans also there is great clamour for separate electorate. Adi-Dravidas from the great bulk of Scheduled Classes; they want separate electorate. My hon. friend. Mr. Anthoni, is absent now. The Christian community have got a purpose behind joint electorates. I will explain how it is . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member need not take the trouble."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—"I think the Christian community would have asked for a Christianstan, first and foremost, if only their population had not been scattered and distributed here, there and everywhere all over the Presidency and all over the country. Because they cannot ask for any particular area to be declared as Christianstan, therefore they are at their wits end and they have no other go, but to throw in their lot along with the majority community."

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p.m.

[Dr. Syed Tajuddin Sahib] [29th March 1947]

"Putting all the minority communities, if we count their number, I think they will be over 50 or 60 per cent of the total population of either this Province or of the whole country. So, the whole country is clamouring for separate electorate. If all these minorities are put together, they become the majority and the majority becomes the minority. Therefore I say that when the majority wants separate electorate, they have no business to deny us, saying that they are the majority and that we are the minorities and that we cannot have that.

"Sir, I do not want to keep the House very long. I have got one point here to say, before I come to the question of special officers. Sir, this question is against the very fundamental principles of democracy, because here in India, the population is not at all homogenous. Where there is a heterogeneity of population in a land, you cannot have the farce of a democracy unless you grant what the minorities want for themselves. So that is the greatest blunder some people make in saying that in democracy, why should there be any separate electorate at all. I once again impress upon the House that there is no homogeneity in the population at all.

"As regards the appointment of special officers, the Hon. Minister said that there are a number of Congress municipalities also and therefore it is not their intention to spot out only nominated councils. But what I would like to say is whether they are nominated municipal councils or Congress-elected municipal councils, it would be in keeping with the spirit of democracy if the present councils are allowed to go on, because all the councils, I should say, have done their best in carrying out the administration. If we read the annual administration report issued by the Government, we can see that no municipality has been branded as a bad one. And therefore, are not many heads better than one? Is the Government going to guarantee that the special officers that are to me appointed will be angels and better than angels?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—"The councils will have nothing to do with elections."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—"I maintain, Sir, that these municipalities may be allowed to carry on the administration till the elections are over. Beyond that, I have nothing to say."

* K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—"Mr. President, Sir, even at this third reading, I am sorry I have to oppose the motion. My hon. Friend behind me, Mr. Suryanarayana Rao was advising the Government not to concede or not yield to the Muslim demand for separate representation. It is only this advice and this tendency on the part of the majority community for the last several years that has brought the political situation to this position. They have been denying the right of the minorities to be represented by the persons of their choice for some reason or other. I do not wish to wash the dirty linen or rake up old controversies on the floor of

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this House regarding separate electorate. As a matter of fact, Mr. President, let me say on the floor of this House that Muslims are not only non-communalists, but they are nationalists, nay they are internationalists. We practice this every day and it has been our practice for the last 400 years. We have no barriers of community and no geographical barriers. To us the whole of humanity is one brotherhood. My friend over here knows it. From our infancy we were taught that the whole human race on the face of the earth sprung from one mother and one father. Whether he be a Brahmin or a Musalman, whether he be a Negro in Africa, or a Red Indian of America, or an Englishman or a Siberian or a Chinese, we believe that they are all human beings, they are all brothers. Our only difference is in the matter of faith. I have no objection to eat from another's plate, or in another's house, or even from the house of the meanest human being, whom they call Chandala. I have no objection to eat with him, except some prohibited food. Because it is prepared by a Chandala, I do not reject it. I do not call him a Chandala, but I call him my brother. There is no communalism among Muslims. Then, how has communalism come here? Who is responsible for such a state? I do not want to cross swords with them at this late hour. Was it not that very man who now fights for Pakistan that was working with you before? What does our Quai-de-Azam Jinnah gain for himself by asking for Pakistan, I ask? Has he axe to grind? No. The whole of India knows that even the highest position in India was at his feet. The highest position to which an Indian in those days could aspire, was at his asking. Did he go in for that? Such a man who was fighting with Muslims against the Muslim League has been driven to this position to-day. Who is responsible for it? If he had been aspiring for any high position and if he had been disappointed in the matter, then one could very well say, that because Mr. Jinnah was disappointed he has been misled. The late Gopalakrishna Gokhale . . ."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"I did not drag in Mr. Jinnah's name at all, when I was talking about separate electorate, Sir."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"Why do you object to Mr. Uppi Sahib referring to Mr. Jinnah?"

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—"I was just mentioning Mr. Gopalakrishna Gokhale, one of the greatest sons of this country of whom every one should be proud of, was the righthand man of Mr. Jinnah. When the British Government agreed to take an Indian on the All-India Executive Council, it was none other than the late Gopalakrishna Gokhale and Mr. Jinnah who went and did tapas before Lord Sinha who was reluctant to accept the post. I think, Sir, it is all in your memory: we were all young and I remember these two persons went to Calcutta and almost did tapas before Lord Sinha in order to persuade him to accept. That gentleman was reluctant to give up his very lucrative practice as a lawyer. But at last after two months' persuasion, Mr. Jinnah told

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Lord Sinha—he was not Lord Sinha at that time—‘We have been doing tapas at your feet for the last two months, not because we wanted to get anything from you, but because we wanted to protect the Indian interests and prestige. Here is the opportunity; you are the only person in India to take up that post; we want you to take it up; are you not prepared to sacrifice your practice for the country’s sake and take up that post.’ Even later on, I suppose, Mr. Jinnah could have got many things. Such a man about whom that great lady Mrs. Sarojini has written—that Jinnah is the ambassador of unity—such a man has been driven away. Under what circumstances? Your refusal to reasonable and legitimate demands of Mussalmans. Sir, what did force Mr. Jinnah to demand Pakistan? It is the statement that when Muslims wanted to co-operate with you, to work with you in the Government in 1937 the Congress leaders told us in our face ‘we do not know you, who are these Muslims?’ ‘We know only two people, the Congress and the Britisher.’ This was said at a time when the Britisher is here, when his cannons and his arms are here when you require our co-operation and help to fight him. And when he goes, where, I ask, is the guarantee that you will not ask: ‘If you want a share, you have to become this, you have to become that, give up your faith.’ Why not? You want our help, our co-operation, but when we ask you for our legitimate share you refuse it. In 1937 when we asked that, in coalition Governments, one or two Muslim representatives be taken then, none other than that great leader Jawaharlal Nehru wrote, what you may remember. ‘We do not know the Muslims. We knew only two, the Congressmen and Britishers.’ It was at that time my leader also wrote. In India, ‘not two but three’. There are a hundred millions of Muslims also. That has led to the present situation. The more you deny, the greater will be the demand—that is human nature. You refuse to a child a toy or anything; that moment it cries and revolts in its own way. We are afraid of you. For the present, in this Presidency, I say the position is this: you admit and you concede that we Muslims must be represented. How? ‘Representation is,’ you say, ‘by our selecting you.’ You concede the right, by reservation, to our representation; but you say we should not have the right of choice of our own representative; what you say is that we should be represented by a person whom you choose. What I say is: ‘No; that is not the proper method of representation; we must select our own representative.’ If you concede this reasonable demand all this trouble and unnecessary agitation will go. If you concede that, heavens will not fall or earth will not go up. What is the position to-day? These speeches in this House opposing our demand will only estrange our relationship. We say that if you want co-operation of Muslims allow us to elect our representatives. In that case, you may say ‘All right, but you will get only 6 per cent.’ We say ‘all right: we will be satisfied even with that with a true representative than by larger number of diluted ones’

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we have no trust in the weak diluted representatives chosen by you.’ (Dr. Syed Tajuddin Sahib: ‘Pseudo-representatives’.) Yes. Either the Government do not know, or they do not care to understand the correct position. Let me give the House some instances to show the real nature of representation chosen by joint electorates. In the last district board elections in Malabar, some ten years there were eight or nine reserved seats in the Muslim majority areas the right to contest the general seats was also there. Two Muslims from general seats also came and in both of them did not know even to sign their names. Such were the persons selected as Muslim representatives for the elections. I do not want to take you to higher levels or to a bigger arena on this matter.

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p.m.

“I do not want to retain the House for a long time but I wish specifically to state here that we require separate electorates. Why are you denying this to the people you have to deal with the day to day life of human beings and not with political ideologies and philosophies. Your policy is not going to obliterate from our minds the evils that are inherent in the joint electorates so far as minorities are concerned.

“Again, Sir, we have come here through separate electorates and there is no quarrel here. But, if we had been elected by joint electorates, during the time of election, all sorts of communal troubles would have taken place and there would have been bickerings even after the elections were over and they would have continued until the next elections. So, I say, let us be agreed on this matter. You elect your own representatives and we elect our own representatives. This principle will be conducive to a happy living. My hon Friend, Dr. John, told you that the whole Christian community do not want separate electorates. He is a gentleman, Sir, who is hailing from Travancore. Is not Travancore Christians demanding separate electorates? In this Province because they are unfortunately a small minority scattered all over, they do not consider it practicable and so do not demand separate electorate. The other day, I was listening to the debate in the other House, and even the Harijans there have begun to be vociferous in demanding for separate representation and due representation if their just demands would not be met. Then, Sir, how can you deny the Harijans or even the Christians their demand with regard to separate representation. If you want to concede the principle of separate electorates, do so; but do not ask us to come to you saying, we will discuss the matter and so on, because we know, the result will be worse and the remedy will be far worse. Sir, with these words, I oppose the Bill.”

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—“Only one word, I want to say, Sir.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“You had your full say. Now, the question is that a Bill further to amend the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, the Madras City Municipal, District Municipalities and Local Boards (Second Amendment) Act, 1942, and

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the Madras District Municipalities and Local Boards (Second Amendment) Act, 1946 (L.A. Bill No. 7 of 1947) be passed into law."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Since we are having Assembly sittings later on on the 31st March and 1st April, it is likely that two more Bills will be coming up for consideration here. We cannot possibly meet here in April. If you want to adjourn, it is very likely we may have a very long adjournment. Therefore, I suggest that we sit on the 3rd April and then adjourn, and it will be a long adjournment. Only two small Bills may be coming here; one is the Temple Entry Bill and the other Bill is about the President's salary, which really concerns us. So, we would have to hold on here and see that your salary is raised to a very respectable level. I would request the hon. Members to stay on till the 3rd and complete the work of the session and then the House might adjourn conveniently at least for a few weeks."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I hope the Leader of the Opposition has no objection."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" I hope the Hon. the Leader of the House will give us a guarantee that he will not summon us during the hot season. Granting that, we have no objection to stay on here for three more days."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is a very big bargain, Sir, on which I cannot give an undertaking. But so far as the present legislative business is concerned, we will have to sit on the 3rd. About sitting during the hot season, I shall try to see if that can be avoided."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The House stands adjourned till 11 a.m. on the 3rd April 1947."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on the 3rd April 1947.

VIII.—PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

* 1. Rationing explained—Pamphlet issued by the Information and Publicity Department.

* 2. Press Communiqué No. 13 (Public Information and Publicity Department), dated 19th March 1947, communicating the decision of His Excellency the Governor-General to withhold his assent to the Madras Trade Disputes Adjudication (Temporary Provisions) Bill, 1946.

3. Note on the New Well-subsidy Scheme.

† 4. The Madras District Municipalities and Local Boards (Amendment) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 7 of 1947) passed by the Assembly and received therefrom in the Council.

* Laid on the table on 25th March 1947.

† Circulated on the 28th March 1947.

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APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 121 asked by Sri R. Suryanarayana ao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 29th March 1947, page 442 supra.]

(a) The three taxes referred to were introduced during the year 1939-40 and the receipts under the three taxes during the years 1939-40 to 1945-46 were as follows :—

	1939-40.	1940-41.	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
	LAKHS.	LAKHS.	LAKHS.	LAKHS.	LAKHS.	LAKHS.	LAKHS.
Sales Tax	33'99	71'78	67'02	89'03	248'83	528'09	602'71
Motor Spirit Tax	15'77	16'19	13'90	13'11	16'21	34'15	48'49
Entertainments Tax ..	8'13	13'16	14'61	15'43	21'56	28'70	45'78

(b) The rates of tax under the three Taxation Acts were as shown below :—

	From 1st October 1939 to 31st March 1940.	From 1st April 1940 to 30th September 1943.	From 1st October 1943 to 31st March 1944.
1 General Sales Tax Act—			
(a) If the turnover is between Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 20,000.	Rs. 5 per mensem.	Rs. 4 per mensem.	Rs. 5 per mensem.
(b) If the turnover exceeds Rs. 20,000 ..	Half per cent of turnover.	Quarter per cent of turnover.	One per cent of turnover.
			Rates in force since 1st April 1944.
(a) (i) If the turnover is Rs. 10,000 and above but does not exceed Rs. 15,000.			Rs. 96 per annum.
(ii) If the turnover exceeds Rs. 15,000 but does not exceed Rs. 20,000 ..			Rs. 144 per annum.
(b) If the turnover exceeds Rs. 20,000 ..		Rates in force from 1st April 1939 to 31st January 1947.	Rate since 1st February 1947.
2 Madras Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation Act—			
Petrol	One anna six pies per gallon.		Four annas per gallon.
Motor spirit other than petrol	Six pies per gallon		One anna six pies per gallon.

	Amount of tax.	
	From 1st August 1939 to 31st March 1945.	Since 1st April 1945.
3 Madras Entertainments Tax Act, 1939—		
Where the payment, excluding the amount of tax is—		
(i) not more than two annas	Three pies	Three pies.
(ii) is more than two annas but less than six annas.	Six pies	Nine pies.
(iii) is six annas or more but is less than twelve annas.	One anna	One anna six pies.
(iv) is twelve annas or more but is less than one rupee eight annas.	Two annas	Three annas.
(v) is one rupee eight annas or more but is less than two rupees eight annas.	Four annas	Six annas.
(vi) is two rupees eight annas or more but is less than three rupees eight annas.	Eight annas	Twelve annas.
(vii) is three rupees eight annas or more but is less than four rupees eight annas.	Twelve annas	One rupee two annas.
(viii) is four rupees eight annas or more but is less than six rupees eight annas.	One rupee	One rupee eight annas.
(ix) is six rupees eight annas or more but is less than nine rupees eight annas.	One rupee eight annas	Two rupees four annas.
(x) is nine rupees eight annas or more but is less than ten rupees.	Two rupees	Three rupees.
(xi) is ten rupees or more	Two rupees in respect of the first ten rupees and two rupees for every ten rupees or portion thereof in excess of the first ten rupees.	Three rupees in respect of the first ten rupees and three rupees for every ten rupees or portion thereof in excess of the first ten rupees.

(c) The changes in the rates of sales-tax mentioned in the answer to clause (b) above were applicable to all commodities.

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(d) Prior to 1st April 1945 only certain local bodies which were in receipt of an income from the tax levied under the Madras Local Authorities Entertainments Tax Act, 1926, during any part of the three years preceding the 1st April 1939 were given a compensation from the entertainments tax under section 13 of the Madras Entertainments Tax Act, 1939. With effect from 1st April 1945, the Government directed that from the entire proceeds from the entertainments tax a deduction of ten per cent should be made towards collection charges and that the net proceeds after such deduction should be assigned to the local bodies within whose jurisdiction the tax was collected. This was inclusive of the compensation paid to certain local bodies under section 13 of the Madras Entertainments Tax Act. The amounts of compensation paid under section 13 of the Madras Entertainments Tax Act to certain local bodies prior to 1st April 1945 and the amount of net proceeds from the entertainments tax paid to local bodies for the year 1945-46 were as follows:—

	1940-41.	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
1. Compensation under section 13 of Madras Entertainments Tax Act.	2.96	1.77	1.63	1.67	1.74
2. Net proceeds from entertainments tax assigned to local bodies for the year 1945-46.	28.19 lakhs (for three quarters only. The proceeds of the fourth quarter are payable during 1946-47).				

No compensation is paid to local bodies out of the proceeds from the motor spirit tax.

(e) The total income of local bodies from tolls in 1930-31, the last year in which tolls were levied was as follows:—

	RS.	LAKHS.
District Boards		41.88
Municipalities		17.70
Corporation of Madras		0.91

(f) Yes. The Government examined the question and decided that no portion of the sales tax revenue should be given to local bodies.

(g) No.

(h) No.

(i) No. But a proposal to register all dealers having an annual turnover of Rs. 7,500 and above on payment of a small fee is under the consideration of the Government in connection with the proposed amendments to the Madras General Sales Tax Act, 1939.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 124 asked by Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 29th March 1947, page 449 supra.]

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Question.	Groundnut oil.	Potatoes.	Jaggery.	Onions.	Chillies.	Ghee.	Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, or Collectors of respective districts.
Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—							
(a) whether for granting permits for the movement within the Province and outside the Province of essential or controlled articles such as groundnut oil, potatoes, jaggery, onions, etc., the Government have prescribed rules and if so, what they are;	No permits are required for movement within the Province. For movement outside, the Government of India have allotted certain quotas to other Provinces. During 1945-46 permits were issued to registered millers and bona fide dealers. A bona fide dealer is one who has exported at least 1,000 imperial maunds in any two years during the basic period between 1941-45.	Within the Province "No", outside the Province "Yes". No rules are prescribed for issue of permits.	There is no ban on the movement of jaggery within the Province at present except in the case of movement of palmira jaggery from Tinnevely district. As for movement outside the Province the exports are prohibited except under permits under clause 7 of the Gur Control Order, 1946. The Gur Controller for India allots quotas to the deficit States and Provinces on an All-India basis. During 1945-46 permits were granted to bona fide dealers of this Province for export to quota holding administrations. During 1946-47, it is proposed to arrange for export of the allotted quota on the same system.	Movement outside the Province is prohibited except under permits.	Movement outside the Province is prohibited except under permits.	Movement outside the Province is prohibited except under permits.	Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, or Collectors of respective districts.
(b) who the authority granting permits is;	Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras.	Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, or any officer authorized by him in this behalf.	(1) Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, in respect of the whole Province, and (2) Collectors of Vizagapatnam, North Arcot, South Arcot, Coimbatore, Salem and Tinnevely for exports from their respective districts.	Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, or Collectors of respective districts.	Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, or Collectors of respective districts.	Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, or Collectors of respective districts.	Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, or Collectors of respective districts.
(c) whether any appeal to Government is provided against the orders of the sanctioning authority;	The Government have the inherent right to receive appeals and revise the orders of their subordinate.	The Government have the inherent right to hear appeals.	The Government have the inherent right to hear appeals.	The Government have the inherent right to hear appeals.	The Government have the inherent right to hear appeals.	The Government have the inherent right to hear appeals.	The Government have the inherent right to hear appeals.

[29th March 1947]

Question.	Groundnut oil.	Potatoes.	Jaggery.	Onions.	Chillies.	Ghee.
(d) whether Government themselves in the first instance have issued permits, in certain instances without reference to the authorized sanctioning authority and what the names of such grantees are;	No. But the Government have directed the issuing authority to grant permits in the following cases:— (1) Messrs. Mottamari Venkataramaniah, Pasumary, Guriah and Company, Parvathipuram, Vizagapatnam district. (2) Sri B. Gopalakrishnaiah, Bharat Typo Foundry, Governorpet, Bezwada. (3) Sri Issa Venkataramiah Chetty and Company, No. 4b, Kandappa Chetty Street, Georgetown, Madras. (4) Sri P. S. Rajagopalan, Mundakanni Amman Koil Street, Mylapore, Madras. (5) Messrs. Andhra Match Factory, Guntur, and (6) Mr. Muhammad Ghouse Baig, Chirala.	The Government have not actually issued any permits themselves but directed the Commissioner of Civil Supplies to grant permits to the following Madras merchants to export their excess stocks of potatoes from the City to Bengal and Bombay:— (1) Messrs. R. Parthasarathy and Company, No. 43, Malayaperumal Street, Georgetown, Madras. (2) Messrs. The Nilgiris Potato Supply Company, No. 14, Uthandi Street, Kothawal Bazaar, Madras. (3) The Victory Potato Supply Company, No. 43, Malayaperumal Street, Georgetown, Madras. (4) The Madras Potato Supply Company, No. 1, Uthandi Street, Madras. (5) Messrs. Muhammad Nadar Rowther and Company, No. 31, Uthandi Street, Madras, and (6) Messrs. V. T. Shanker, No. 20, Malayaperumal Street, Georgetown, Madras.	No. The Government have only directed the Commissioner of Civil Supplies to issue permits in the following cases:— (1) Messrs. Asgar Ali and Company, Calcutta, and (2) Messrs. Veppala Satyanarayana, Anakapalle, Vizagapatnam district.	No. The Government directed the Collector of Madras to issue permits to (1) Sri P. S. Rajagopalan, No. 34-A, Mundakanni Amman Koil Street, Mylapore, Madras, and (2) Sri K. T. Janakiram, No. 31, Thana Street, Vepery.	No. . .	No. The Government directed the Commissioner of Civil Supplies to issue permits for the export of only deteriorated ghee in the following cases:— (1) Messrs. Amruth Ghee and Company, Guntur, K. Rajalingeswara Rao, Gollaprolu, and (3) Srinathi Motibai, Proprietrix, Lakshmi-ross Premji, Guntur.

(e) whether in such instances the grantees have invariably satisfied the conditions governing the sanction of permits;

No. Permits were issued as a special case. The permits were granted as a special case to enable the permit holders to clear their excess stocks which were perishing. No. Permits were issued only under special circumstances. In the first case the application was recommended by the Government of Bengal which agreed to debit the quantity against its quota for the current year.

Yes. Yes. Yes.

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(f) what steps are taken to ensure that the permit holders do not transfer their permits for a consideration;

Permits are issued subject to condition that they are not transferable and that they are liable to be cancelled without previous notice at the absolute discretion of the issuing authority. Besides any permit that is taken out but not utilized should be surrendered forthwith for cancellation. Further one copy will be given to the applicant and a duplicate will be sent to the importing Province or State. The applicant should return his copy to the Commissioner of Civil Supplies on completion of despatches.

Every effort is made by the controlling authorities and their checking staff to prevent such abuses and all cases involving violation of rules are suitably dealt with under the provision of the Control Order.

Permits are issued subject to the conditions that they are not transferable. Permits are issued subject to condition that they are not transferable. Permits are issued subject to condition that they are not transferable.

(g) whether any instances of abuses by permit holders have come to the notice of Government and if so, what action has been taken in their cases;

One such instance has been reported. It is under investigation.

No.

No.

No.

No.

No.

[29th March 1947]

Question.	Answer.		Potatoes.	Jaggery.		Onions.	Chillies.	Ghee.
	No.	Except in the case of the Orissa quota, where permits were issued to the merchants of that Province, nominated by the Orissa Government.	No.	Yes.	In the case of exports to the Central Provinces permits were issued to the nominees of the Central Provinces Government. Item 1 under clause (d) also comes under this.	Yes. Only in the case of Mr. S. N. Mukerjee, Calcutta, a permit was granted for the export of onions as he was recommended by the Eastern Command as their contractor.	No.	No.
(A) whether permits have been granted to persons who do not belong to this Province?								

29th March 1947]

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 11 asked by Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao, at the meeting of the Legislative Council, held on the 29th March 1947, page 457 supra.]

New Well-subsidy Scheme.

The new Well-subsidy Scheme came into force from 1st March 1947. It supersedes all the earlier schemes and applies to all the districts in the province, except the Nilgiris and Madras.

In the districts of South Kanara and Malabar, not only wells but also tanks used for irrigation purposes, will be eligible for subsidies. In one respect the new scheme differs from the existing accelerated scheme, as no assistance under it will be granted in respect of repairs to existing sources. South Kanara and Malabar will, however, be exceptions to this rule also, and subsidies will be granted there for repairs to tanks as well.

The scheme offers a subsidy of half the cost, subject to the maxima mentioned below :—

South Kanara and Malabar .. Rs. 300 for new wells and Rs. 500 for tanks, new or old.

Ceded districts Rs. 500 for new wells

Other districts Rs. 300 for new wells.

In the case of tanks (new and old) in South Kanara and Malabar, however, if the cost exceeds Rs. 1,000, the Collector will have discretion to sanction an amount equal to half the cost, up to a limit of Rs. 1,000; and the Board of Revenue will have similar powers, up to a limit of Rs. 2,000. The maximum subsidy will be only Rs. 2,000 in any case.

It is also proposed to raise the maximum subsidy for wells to Rs. 500 in areas where conditions similar to those in the Ceded districts exist.

Under this scheme, prior approval of the site of the well or tank is necessary. The proposed well or tank should have an ayacut of at least one acre. Except in the Ceded districts and other areas where similar conditions exist, wells costing more than Rs. 2,000 each will not be eligible for assistance under the scheme.

The usual condition regarding the growing of food crops for three years, will be imposed. Food crops will include vegetables and such other crops as may be approved by the Collector.

The amount of subsidy will not, as before, be given as a free grant in the first instance. It will be advanced as a takkavi loan at first and will be treated as subsidy only if the work is satisfactorily completed by 30th June 1948. Under no circumstances will this time for completion be extended. The disbursement of subsidies will stop on 31st March 1948.

[29th March 1947]

The loan, if it is not subsequently treated as subsidy, will be repayable in five equal annual instalments. It will, however, be free of interest for the first year and repayment will start only after three years.

Wells for which subsidies have been sanctioned under the earlier schemes, but have not actually been paid, will be treated as coming under the new scheme.

Well-works for which subsidies have been granted under the Accelerated Scheme and the Ceded Districts Scheme will also be allowed the time prescribed in the new scheme, i.e., up to 30th June 1948, for completion, provided that some part of the work, not necessarily a substantial part, has already been done.

APPENDIX IV.

[Vide item VII at page 483 supra.]

L.A. BILL No. 7 OF 1947.

(As passed by the Assembly.)

A Bill further to amend the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, the Madras City Municipal, District Municipalities and Local Boards (Second Amendment) Act, 1942, and the Madras District Municipalities and Local Boards (Second Amendment) Act, 1946.

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, the Madras City Municipal, District Municipalities and Local Boards (Second Amendment) Act, 1942, and the Madras District Municipalities and Local Boards (Second Amendment) Act, 1946, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. This Act may be called the Madras District Municipalities and Local Boards (Amendment) Act, 1947.

2. In the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920—
in section 7, sub-section (1), for the words "The municipal", the words, brackets, figure and letter "Subject to the provisions of sub-section (3-B), the municipal council" shall be substituted;

29th March 1947]

(ii) in the same section, in sub-section (3), the first proviso and the word "further" in the second proviso, shall be omitted;

(iii) in the same section, after sub-section (3), the following sub-sections shall be inserted, namely:—

"(3-A) The total number of seats reserved under sub-section (3) shall not exceed one-fourth of the strength of the municipal council as notified under sub-section (1).

(3-B) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (3-A), the Provincial Government may, if they think fit, by notification, fix the total number of seats reserved in any municipal council, in excess of the number admissible under sub-section (3-A):

Provided that—

(i) the strength of the municipal council as notified under sub-section (1) is also increased by the same number as that by which the total number of reserved seats is increased and is specified in the notification aforesaid; and

(ii) the total number of reserved seats is so fixed as not to exceed one-third of the strength of the municipal council as increased under clause (i).";

(iv) in the same section, in sub-section (5), for the word, brackets and figure "sub-section (3)", the words "this section" shall be substituted;

(v) in section 8, in sub-section (2), after the proviso, the following proviso shall be added, namely:—

"Provided further that the Provincial Government may, for sufficient reasons, direct from time to time, the postponement or alteration of the date of an ordinary election or any stage thereof, and the election authority shall give effect to such direction.";

(vi) in section 44, sub-section (1)—

(a) in the first paragraph, after the words "whose name is included" the words "or who is qualified to be included" shall be inserted;

(b) in Explanation (1), after the words "who are entered", the words "or who are qualified to be included" shall be inserted and the words "as entered in such roll" shall be omitted.

(vii) in the same section, for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

"(2) The executive authority or any person authorized by the election authority in this behalf shall prepare and publish in such manner and at such times as the Provincial Government may direct, the electoral roll for the municipality or the alterations to such roll."

Amendment of Madras Act XIV of 1920. 3. In the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920—

(i) in section 7, for the words "The total number", the words, brackets, figures and letter "Subject to the provisions of sub-section (3-A) of section 9, the total number" shall be substituted;

(ii) in section 9, after sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

"(3-A) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (3), the Provincial Government may, if they think fit, by notification, fix the total number of seats reserved in any local board in excess of the number admissible under sub-section (3):

Provided that—

(i) the strength of the local board as fixed under section 10 is also increased by the same number as that by which the total number of reserved seats is increased and is specified in the notification aforesaid; and

[29th March 1947]

(ii) the total number of reserved seats is so fixed as not to exceed one-third of the strength of the local board as increased under clause (i).";

(iii) in the same section, in sub-section (6), for the words, brackets and figures "sub-sections (1) and (2)", the words "this section" shall be substituted;

(iv) in section 11, sub-section (2), after the proviso, the following proviso shall be added, namely:—

"Provided further that the Provincial Government may, for sufficient reasons, direct from time to time, the postponement or alteration of the date of an ordinary election or any stage thereof, and the prescribed authority shall give effect to such direction.";

(v) in section 51, in sub-section (1)—

(a) in the first paragraph, after the words "whose name is included" the words "or who is qualified to be included" shall be inserted;

(b) in Explanation (1), after the words "who are entered", the words "or who are qualified to be included" shall be inserted and the words "as entered in such roll" shall be omitted;

(vi) in the same section, for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

"(2) The District Panchayat Officer or any person authorized by the prescribed authority in this behalf shall prepare and publish in such manner and at such times as the Provincial Government may direct, the electoral roll for the local board or the alterations to such roll."

4. In clause (ii) of sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Madras District Municipalities and Local Boards (Second Amendment) Act, 1946, before the words "to advance" the words "from time to time" shall be inserted.

5. (1) Where elections have to be held for the first time after the commencement of this Act to fill vacancies in the office of the councillors of any municipal council whose term of office has been fixed under section 3 or section 4 (1) (c) or section 5 of the Madras City Municipal, District Municipalities and Local Boards (Second Amendment) Act, 1942, then, notwithstanding anything contained in section 6 of that Act and in the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, it shall be lawful for the Provincial Government—

(i) to cause elections to be held to the municipal council so that its newly elected councillors may come into office on any date fixed by the Provincial Government which may be different from the date of expiry of the term of office of the councillors previously holding office;

(ii) from time to time, to advance or postpone the date fixed under clause (i) and fix instead another date;

(iii) to appoint for that municipal council, a Special Officer during the interval between the date of expiry of the term of the councillors previously holding office and the date on which the newly elected councillors will come into office.

(2) Where any date other than the first day of November of any year is fixed under sub-section (1) as the date on which the newly elected councillors of a municipal council will come into office, the term of office of such councillors shall, subject to the provisions of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, and the Madras District Municipalities and Local Boards (Amendment) Act, 1921, expire at noon on the first day of November immediately succeeding the expiry of three years from the date so fixed.

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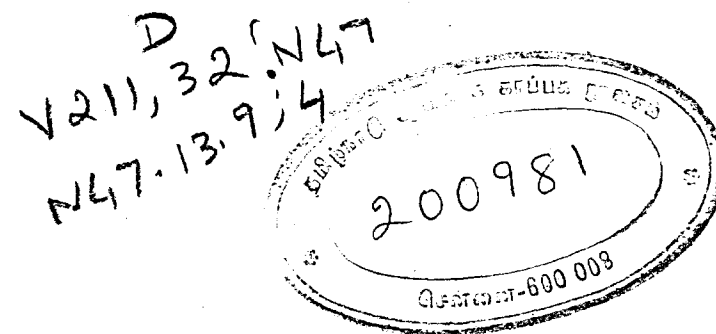
(3) A Special Officer appointed under sub-section (1) shall exercise and perform the functions specified in section 41 (3) (b) of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, in the same manner, as if he had been appointed under that section.

(4) A Special Officer appointed under sub-section (1) who is not a District Collector or a Revenue Divisional Officer may, if the Provincial Government so direct, receive payment for his services from the municipal fund.

6. Where elections have to be held for the first time to a district board which has been superseded under section 45-A of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, and has not been reconstituted at the commencement of this Act, the Provincial Government may, notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (4) of that section, postpone from time to time the reconstitution of the district board for such period as they think fit.

7. All orders issued by the Provincial Government before the commencement of this Act, directing the stoppage or postponement of elections to a municipal council or local board or any stage thereof, shall be deemed to have been as valid as if the said orders had been issued under the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, and the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, as amended by this Act.

8. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, or of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, or the Madras City Municipal, District Municipalities and Local Boards (Second Amendment) Act, 1942, as amended by this Act, the Provincial Government may, as occasion may require, by order, do anything which appears to them necessary for the purpose of removing the difficulty.

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of 1942. Elections to municipal councils and appointment of Special Officers.
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