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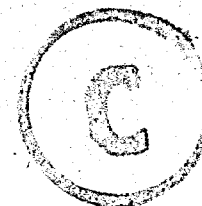


MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

FRIDAY, 25TH APRIL 1947

VOLUME XIII—No. 13



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THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, the 25th April 1947.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Muslim High School, Bellary.

* 167-A Q.—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Advisers' Government sanctioned the establishment of a separate Muslim High School in Bellary; if so, when;

(b) (i) whether the Executive authority of the Bellary Municipality permitted the occupation of one-half of the premises of the present Municipal High School, Bellary, for the purpose of housing the Muslim High School;

(ii) if so, the authority under which this was done;

(c) whether, on account of such occupation, the lower classes of the Municipal High School are now located in the Prince of Wales choultry, Bellary, where a number of beggars and vagrants gather every day; if so, what the Government propose to do to set right this matter;

(d) whether, on account of such occupation, the Headmaster of the Municipal High School was obliged to refuse admission to as many as three hundred non-Muslim students last year; and

(e) whether the Government propose to take any action to house the Muslim High School in a separate building from June 1947?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“(a) Yes; the order was issued on the 1st April 1946; the sanction was to take effect from the school year 1946-47.

“(b) (i) Yes; purely as a temporary measure till a suitable rented building is secured.

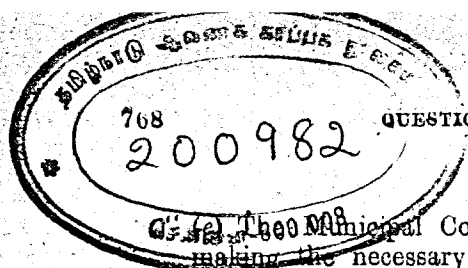
(ii) The Government have no information.

“(c) Yes; three lower classes are located in the Rani choultry; but the Government have no information that beggars and vagrants are allowed to gather in the choultry.

“(d) Only 133 students were refused admission for want of accommodation.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“The Municipal Council is the authority responsible for making the necessary arrangements; it has taken steps to house the school in separate buildings from the next school year.”

SRI B. BHIMA RAO:—“May I know who is responsible for the inconvenience that is caused to many students who have been refused admission?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“The Municipality wanted to open a new Muslim High School. They had to locate it somewhere.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—“If I make an application to open a school, is it easy to get permission to open it unless all the conditions governing recognition are satisfied? Have the Municipal authorities satisfied all the conditions for recognition?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“The Director of Public Instruction accepted the conditions for opening the school. They had to locate the lower classes of the Municipal High School in the Rani choultry. I do not think much inconvenience was caused.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—“May I know whether it is easy to get permission to open a school when there is no accommodation? Why were the lower classes of the existing school turned out in order to open a new school?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“The Municipality wanted to open very urgently a separate High School for Muslims. The Director of Public Instruction sanctioned the scheme.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—“May I ask whether the Hon. Minister knows if the Director of Public Instruction agreed to the location of this High School in the building of the Municipal High School?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I have no information.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—“Will the Hon. Minister call for a report on this matter whether there is any overcrowding in the existing schools, whether there is accommodation for two High Schools in the same building and whether the present arrangement is causing considerable inconvenience to the students?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“At this distance of time, there is no use calling for a report now; but if the hon. Member wants information, I shall call for it.”

SRI B. BHIMA RAO:—“May I know whether a new building has been found for housing the new school from next year?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“As I have already stated, the Municipality has taken steps to have a new building for the school from the next school year.”

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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SRI B. BHIMA RAO:—“The Municipality has been taking steps to acquire a building from June 1946 for this purpose. Has it been able to do so?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“The Municipal Council informs the Government that it has found some suitable building for the purpose.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—“If no suitable building is available for the Muslim High School, will the Government order that High School to be closed till it finds accommodation instead of grouping the two schools together in one building?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I am unable to give the assurance asked by the hon. Member.”

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know whether the students who are studying in the Muslim High School are students of the locality and are entitled to be admitted into the schools run by the Municipality and whether any case has been made out for closing the Muslim High School?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“Perhaps the hon. Member is right in assuming that the Muslim School admits non-Muslim students also.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—“Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Municipal High School admits Muslim boys also and whether instruction is given in Urdu to Muslim students? May I know whether there is not an Urdu section in each class of the Municipal High School?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“There were Urdu sections in the Municipal High School. The Director of Public Instruction sanctioned the opening of a separate high school.”

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know whether Urdu is the medium of instruction in the Muslim High School?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I have no information.”

SRI B. BHIMA RAO:—“May I ask whether there was not a separate section for each form in the Municipal High School for giving instruction in Urdu by Urdu teachers?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—“I think instruction was given in Urdu for Muslim boys in every class.”

Officers in the Madras Fire Service.

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

(a) the number of European and Indian Officers in the Madras Fire Service;

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(b) whether all officers, Indian or European, hold the same rank and draw the same emoluments;

(c) whether any qualifications are prescribed for the officers and, if so, whether all the present incumbents possess these qualifications;

(d) what the special qualifications of the present Director of Fire Service are;

(e) what steps, if any, are being taken to train Indian officers; and

(f) whether initial recruitment is by the Public Service Commission as in the case of other services?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“(a) Eight European officers and ten Indian officers.

“(b) No.

“(c) No qualifications as such have been prescribed. It is proposed to issue statutory service rules for all the posts in the service shortly, wherein specific qualifications will be prescribed.

“(d) (1) Officers training course, Woodford and Wanstead Fire Brigade, London.

(2) Patrol Officer, Woodford and Wanstead Fire Brigade, until formation of N.F.S.

(3) Company Officer, N.F.S., until joining duty in Madras.

(4) Passed Officers' qualifying course, N.F.S., London, 1941.

(5) Experience in London during the Blitz and in India since 1942 as Divisional Officer, Chief Fire Inspector and D.F.S.

“(e) A Provincial Fire Service training school is established in the Madras City. Candidates for appointment to the executive posts in the Madras Fire Service are trained there.

“(f) No. All the previous appointments were made during war time. The last six appointments to the rank of District Officers (Gazetted) were made with the concurrence of the Madras Public Service Commission.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“With reference to answer (b) that Indian and European officers do not have the same rank and the same emoluments, may I know why this distinction is maintained?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“Recruitment was made during war time and these European officers were imported from England at the time of a crisis; so we had to pay the price; therefore there is difference in status and emoluments.”

3-15 p.m. SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“May I know, Sir, whether they are on contract, or on permanent service?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“They are on contract, Sir, for four years.”

[25th April 1947]

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“May I know, Sir, whether the appointments of District Fire Officers recently made were advertised in papers?”

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

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“May I know, how many of those appointed are trained in fire service and how many are untrained?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“They are all untrained and they are now being trained in the Training School.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“May I give the information to the Hon. Minister that both trained and untrained candidates applied for these posts. May I know whether the Government satisfied themselves why untrained candidates should be appointed when trained candidates were available?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“I do not know whether there were trained candidates in sufficient numbers?”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“Will the Hon. Minister look into this matter, Sir?”

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

Midsummer vacation to Courts.

* 169 Q.—ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR : Will the Hon. the Home Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the period during which—

(i) the High Court, Madras;

(ii) the City Civil Court, Madras;

(iii) the Court of Small Causes, Madras;

(iv) the District Courts in the Province;

(v) the Subordinate Judges' Courts in the Province; and

(vi) the District Munsifs' Courts in the Province;

remain closed for mid-summer vacation;

(b) in case there is disparity between the periods during which these courts remain closed, what is the justification for such disparity; and

(c) what steps the Government propose to take to remove the disparity, if any?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“(a) (i) About seventy days.

(ii) to (v) One month and twenty-six days.

(vi) Five weeks and three days.

“(b) As Judges of the superior courts are generally older men and as the work they have to do is more difficult and exacting, the Government consider that they need a longer vacation to recover from the strain of the work.

“(c) Does not arise in view of the answer to clause (b).”

[25th April 1947]

Control of cattle feed.

* 170 Q.—MR. K. O. ANTHONI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether any arrangements have been made by the Government to control cattle feed under the Essential Articles Control Act and, if so, what they are;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Madras Milkmen's Union have notified the Government about their intention to strike between 7th and 15th March 1947;

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, what the demands of the Milkmen's Union are;

(d) whether the Government cannot control and ration cattle feed of all forms to all milkmen in the city; and

(e) whether the Government have taken any steps to call the representatives of the Milkmen's Union for effecting a settlement?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“(a) ‘Cattle feed’ was not declared to be an essential commodity under the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946 (Central Act XXIV of 1946). The Madras Government requested the Government of India to declare the commodity to be an essential article under the Central Act by moving the Secretary of State to take necessary steps to secure parliamentary legislation in the matter. Meanwhile, with a view to facilitate immediate action to improve the unsatisfactory position of supply in regard to the distribution, prices, etc., of cattle feed, the Government have declared the commodity to be an essential article under the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946, and have delegated powers to the Commissioner of Civil Supplies and to all Collectors to control its movement, supply, distribution, etc., and also to requisition stocks if necessary.

“(b) In order to ensure supplies of cotton seed to the consumers in the deficit districts a ban has been imposed on the inter-district movement of cotton seed except under permits from Collectors. The Collectors of Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevely have been instructed to allow exports of cotton seeds on permits to the deficit districts of Coimbatore, Trichinopoly and Tanjore in the proportion of 2:1:1. The Collectors of other districts have been asked to allow merchants in their districts to export on permits to deficit districts of their choice within the Province if they had excessive stocks. All Collectors have been strictly ordered not to allow any exports outside the Province.

“(c) Yes. The Government received a notice of direct action, dated 18th February 1947, from the President of the Madras Milkmen's Union.

“(d) The demands of the Milkmen's Union are—

(1) control and rationing of all cattle feed by Government;

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(2) railway priorities for transport of cattle;

(3) abundant credit facilities to milkmen for purchase of cattle through co-operative organizations; and

(4) subsidy at 25 per cent for purchase of cattle fodder.

“(d) The Government have their hands full trying to enforce control of cereals, sugar and jaggery and it is not considered advisable to embark on statutory rationing of cattle feed at the present time. A system of informal rationing in Madras is considered sufficient and a scheme put forward by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies for the distribution of certain specific items of cattle feed to milkmen in the City is engaging the attention of the Government in the Development Department.

“(e) Yes. A conference was held on 8th March 1947, in which Hon. Minister (Food) and Hon. Minister (Industries and Labour) and the President of the Milkmen's Union were present. As a result of the discussions, the Collector of Madras has been asked to issue immediate instructions to the wholesalers in imported grams and pulses and other dhall merchants who hold stocks of husks of pulses, to sell their stocks at reasonable prices fixed by him exclusively to Madras Milk Supply Union to the full limit of its requirements, the balance only being allowed to be sold in the open market. The Government are investigating also the possibility of importing on their own account quantities of wheat bran at reasonable prices for distribution to the milkmen in the City. The following proposals of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies since received are under the active consideration of the Government :—

(a) that the Government may fix maximum ceiling prices of gingelly cake and issue instructions to the Collectors of surplus districts, viz., Coimbatore, Salem, Ramnad, Madura and Tinnevely to fix their district rates and to instruct the wholesale dealers in the districts to hand over the quantities required to the Madras Milk-supply Union through its local agents, and

(b) that the Madras Milk-supply Union may be given permits for the purchase of groundnut oil cake from two of the important mills in Madras, viz., Messrs. East Asiatic Co., Ltd. and Ralli Brothers.”

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—“May I know whether the Government have taken steps to import cotton seeds to this Province from outside this Province?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“I have made a statement, Sir, that cotton seeds can be transported from district to district under permit. If the supply of cotton seeds runs short, and if procurement by Government becomes necessary, the Government will certainly approach the available markets outside the Province and import them.”

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SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—" Do not the Government consider that there is an acute shortage of cotton seeds in the Province at present, and will they consider the urgent necessity of importing them from other Provinces? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" If the Government are informed of the shortage, they will adopt the procedure of buying cotton seeds from outside the Province and distribute them to the deficit areas."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Cannot the surplus cotton seeds available in the Bellary district be transported to the Tanjore district? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The surplus districts have been asked to supply them to the deficit districts if the demand is made by the Collector of the deficit district."

Employees in State Transport Bus Service.

* 171 Q.—ABDUL LATIFF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have supplied uniforms to drivers and conductors employed in the State Transport buses plying in the City of Madras;

(b) if so, the number of such sets supplied to each employee;

(c) the quantity of cloth used for making each such set; and

(d) whether the cloth used is mill-made, handloom or khadi?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" (a) Both the drivers and conductors employed in the Government Bus Service are supplied with uniform at State cost;

" (b) Two sets are supplied to each employee;

" (c) The quantity of cloth used for each ranges from 7 to 8 yards including sash, according to the individuals concerned including cap;

" (d) The cloth used is mill-made (khaki obtained from B. & C. Mills, Madras)."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know, Sir, how the Government who are wedded to the policy of khadi, have allowed mill cloth to be used by its servants?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" The Government are at the same time committed to the policy of freedom of choice and so far as khadi cloth is concerned, hon. Members are aware that a certain quota of handspun yarn should be provided before khadi could be purchased. The Government are implementing an intensive campaign for the propagation of khadi and when that bears fruition, we hope and trust that the position will be improved and that the Government will be able to supply khadi to all its employees."

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SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I know, why Government cannot purchase khadi and supply it to these conductors? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" If they could produce sufficient quota of handspun yarn, we shall do so, Sir."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know why these conductors have been allowed 16 yards of mill cloth for each conductor and driver, when the Government have allowed only 5 yards to other people? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" They are given two sets of uniforms of 7 to 8 yards, Sir."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I know why exemption cannot be sought for from the A.I.S.A. for purchase of khadi cloth without the production of yarn? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" I do not know whether it will be proper for the Government to apply for relaxation of the general rules, Sir."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" When the Government thought that more than five yards of mill cloth should not be given to other people, how could they give 16 yards to each conductor and bus driver? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" This State uniform has to be uniform, so far as the individual is concerned. If they are given 8 yards, it means 5 yards of mill cloth and 3 yards of handloom cloth."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Does not the Government think that the same quantity of cloth is necessary for other people also? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" The Government are implementing a policy in order to enable people to get more cloth."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I take it, Sir, that the Government are going to increase the mill cloth quota? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" As soon as sufficient mill cloth becomes available."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Will the Government instruct these people that they should only have 5 yards of mill cloth and for the rest they should go in for handloom cloth? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" The Government do not want to dictate people in the matter; but I do not know whether it is a question of economy that they have been allowed so much mill cloth."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know, Sir, what is the reason for discarding khadi? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" I have already given my answer to this question, Sir."

[25th April 1947]

Grants to aided elementary schools.

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

(a) what the allotment made for grants to aided elementary schools during 1946-47 is;

(b) what the total assessed grant for the presidency was;

(c) whether the assigned grant was less than the assessed grant and, if so, what the amount is;

(d) what the actual amount disbursed is;

(e) how the difference in allotment between the assessed and assigned grants has been disposed of;

(f) whether increased grants were given to certain elementary schools and, if so, what principles governed such increased grants;

(g) whether teachers drawing fixed salaries were benefited by these increased grants; and

(h) if the answer to (g) is in the negative, what was the reason for paying increased grants for the benefit of managements?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“(a) Teaching grant Rs. 95,00,200.

Dearness allowance, Rs. 48,99,800.

“(b) Rs. 82,81,413

“(c) No.

	RS.
“(d) Day schools	94,70,407
Night schools	1,919
Arrear grants	17,682

Total 94,98,038

“(e) & (f) Increased grants were given to all deserving schools for efficiency.

“(g) & (h) Eighty-five per cent of the grant received by the school should be paid as salary to teachers employed in the school while the manager may keep the balance for defraying expense on the school other than salary of teachers.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—“If increased grants were given, as stated in answer to clause (f), may I know whether the increased grants were meant for teachers or whether managements also are allowed to take 15 per cent out of them?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“I have no information, Sir.”

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Revision of Secondary School-Leaving Certificate examination time-table.

* 173 Q.—SRI H. M. JAGANNATHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the resolutions passed at one of the recent meetings of the City Headmasters' Association, one of which related to the heavy strain that would be caused to the candidates on the third day of Secondary School-Leaving Certificate examination by having to answer four papers from 10 a.m. in the morning to 5-45 p.m. in the evening; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to make any revision of the time-table?

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

“(b) The time-tables have been suitably modified as from the examinations of 1947.”

Tuberculosis Institute, Egmore.

* 174 Q.—MR. K. O. ANTHONI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) the number of out-patients treated in the Tuberculosis Institute at Egmore in 1946;

(b) how many had applied for admission in the Tuberculosis Hospital at Royapetta and Tambaram in 1946;

(c) whether the hospital at Tambaram is fully equipped for operation and other kinds of treatment;

(d) if not, what steps the Government are going to take in the matter;

(e) whether it is a fact that there is considerable dissatisfaction over the situation of the Temple Garden Hospital, Royapetta, in a crowded locality;

(f) whether the Government have any plans for increasing the number of beds in the Tuberculosis Hospital; and

(g) whether the Government have any long-range policy in the matter of treatment of tuberculosis?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—“(a) The number of out-patients treated in the Tuberculosis Institute, Egmore, in 1946 was 12,517.

“(b) The number of persons who made written application in 1946 for admission in the Tuberculosis Hospital, Royapetta, was 92 and in the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Tambaram, was 109. Besides these applications, 3,249 persons who attended the out-patient department at Egmore asked orally for admission in the two institutions.

“(c) All operations except thoracoplasty are done at the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Tambaram.

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"(d) The proposal for the construction of an up-to-date theatre, laboratory, etc., in the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Tambaram, was deferred on account of financial stringency. The Government are drawing up a general building programme for the Medical department and these proposals will be assigned appropriate place in the programme.

"(e) & (f) The Government have already sanctioned an expenditure of Rs. 3.5 lakhs for the construction of 12 blocks of 18 beds each in the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Tambaram. Eight of these blocks are intended for providing additional accommodation in the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Tambaram, and the remaining four for transferring the patients in the Tuberculosis Hospital, Royapetta.

"(g) The answer is in the affirmative. The Government have included in their post-war scheme for the first five years proposals for—

(i) Provision of 100 additional beds in the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Tambaram.

(ii) Provision of 100 additional beds in the Tuberculosis Sanatorium Perundurai.

(iii) Opening of a new Sanatorium at Waltair with 100 beds.

"In addition to these the Government are examining the question of taking over the Wellesley Sanatorium, Bellary, by the Medical Department the opening of Tuberculosis Sanatoria at (i) Perapalli, Kurnool district, (ii) Salem, (iii) Madanapalle, Chittoor district, and (iv) Vallam, Tanjore district. The proposals of the Bhore Committee for dealing with tuberculosis are also under examination, with a view to implementing them as far as possible."

MR. K. O. ANTHONI :—" Sir, in view of the large number of poor tuberculosis patients who could not find admission in hospitals, will the Government consider the desirability of constructing thatched huts in some suitable place for segregating these people and thereby saving the lives of other people? Have they got any immediate measures on hand? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I would like to inform the hon. Member that tuberculosis is not an infectious disease as many people take it to be. Isolation and segregation are not applied to T.B. as it is applied to certain infectious diseases. In fact, there are T.B. patients in certain houses, where a number of people also live, but they do not get infected by it, although they move closely with them and sleep in the same room. Therefore it cannot be classified as an infectious disease. That is why Government consider that no such serious measures are necessary.

"With regard to the question of provision of funds for suitably accommodating them, even now huts are constructed to accommodate patients who seek admission in the Tambaram

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Sanatorium. But the pity is that these huts are not water-proof and they are not satisfactory in the long run. That is why the Government have sanctioned the construction of a number of buildings in addition to those that are already there at Tambaram."

MR. K. O. ANTHONI :—" I am glad to be enlightened by the Hon. Minister for Food on this matter; anyhow, the point is, if there is a tubercular patient in the house, whether there is any likelihood of the infection spreading. I am asking the Hon. Minister for Public Health, in view of the very large number of poor patients who are now walking about the streets in the City of Madras with tuberculosis, cannot something be done in their case to prevent infection spreading? That is what I want to know, Sir."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is a question of finance primarily. The Government know that people are going about; but they are not so dangerous to the public health of the people at large, although if they go on sleeping in crowded places, etc., no one can prevent infection from spreading. So far as housing is concerned, it is a much bigger problem than isolating them. The Government will have to incur a large expenditure if they are to be housed properly and they have taken the trouble of simply making a survey. It is in that view, Sir, that a large provision has been made. More than that, I do not think it is possible for any Government to house all the tuberculosis people in a city or in a town. That means it will be beyond the Public Works Department to provide accommodation for all the people. But in the meanwhile, house segregation and treatment in the house under the circumstances in which patients live is the only other alternative which is being pursued in regard to tuberculosis in the Madras City and will certainly be pursued until such time when accommodation will be made available; and I think this is the next best step the Government could adopt."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—" In view of the fact that raw milk is a fruitful source of tuberculosis, will the Hon. the Minister see that milk supplied in the cities, if not in the rural parts also, is pasteurized milk? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Sir, pasteurized milk-supply in quantities is practically impossible. The Co-operative Milk Supply Union does supply pasteurized milk; but it is not milk that brings in tuberculosis; it is only in the case of a very very small percentage of animals that their milk contains this tuberculosis bacilli. It is not as if all milk contains tuberculosis bacilli and becomes dangerous on that account. In fact the whole country is being fed with milk that is available; but in this country there is one safety. Generally our habit is to boil the milk and then take it and our children also are accustomed to taking boiled milk. So there is less chance of infection by tuberculosis bacilli and greater chance of its prevention. In other countries where

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milk is not boiled, of course the danger is much greater than it is in our country. This is our safety valve. The only alternative is perhaps, on a national scale, to boil the milk before taking it; that could be practised."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I ask the Hon. Minister for Public Health whether the Wellesley Sanatorium which he mentioned in his reply will be converted into a civil tuberculosis hospital? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Government have already decided to take it over and convert it into a civil T.B. Sanatorium."

War service candidates for Medical service.

* 175 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : With reference to answer to question 3 answered on 31st January 1947 will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that war service candidates in the medical service were asked to apply to the Federal Public Service Commission for posts;

(b) whether the applicants belonging to this Province were interviewed by the Madras Public Service Commission in October last;

(c) whether the Government have received from the Public Service Commission the approved list of candidates;

(d) whether any, and if so, how many of those candidates have been appointed;

(e) the names and the districts to which these appointees belong;

(f) whether the temporary appointments made of candidates during the war are still treated as temporary;

(g) whether there are still many vacancies in the Medical Department which remain unfilled, and if so, when it is proposed to fill them up; and

(h) whether it is a fact that there are hospitals in the Province without medical personnel or understaffed?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) Applications for the posts of Civil Assistant Surgeons were received by the Federal Public Service Commission up to 1st April 1946 and subsequently by the Chief Secretary up to 1st November 1946.

" (b) The Commission interviewed some of the applicants for Provincial services in October last.

" (c) The answer is in the negative.

" (d) & (e) No one has been appointed. No information can therefore be furnished.

" (f) The answer is in the affirmative.

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" (g) There are a few vacancies in the Medical Department and they will be filled up shortly as soon as candidates are available.

" (h) None of the hospitals sanctioned to be in charge of Civil or Sub-Assistant Surgeons is without medical personnel at present. There is no information as to whether any of the existing medical institutions is understaffed."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I ask the Hon. Minister for Public Health whether he would ask the Public Service Commission to expedite their recommendations, as a number of demobilized medical men have been waiting to be absorbed in the medical service?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The orders of Government fixing the proportion of candidates to be recruited from the war service personnel and other people were issued only a few days ago. So, the selection is expected to be published soon."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I know whether any I.N.A. men have been recruited to these jobs? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" No information, Sir."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I suggest to the Government that as it is the first time after fifteen or sixteen years that they are recruiting permanently to the medical services, they might consider the conditions under which recruitment should be made, keeping in view the recommendations of the Bhore Committee and the method in which that committee has suggested recruitment should be made to the teaching staff, to the honorary services and the various other posts? Also may I suggest the appointment of a Committee for considering all these aspects of the matter and then coming to a final decision, before recruiting these people on a permanent basis? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The suggestion will be considered, Sir. "

Maternity and Child-welfare Centres in the Province.

* 176 Q.—MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) the number of maternity and child-welfare centres run in the Province (districtwar);

(b) the amount of grants made from Provincial funds and the rules governing such grants;

(c) whether the Government have under consideration any programme for increasing the number of maternity and child-welfare centres, and if so, what the programme is;

(d) whether private bodies such as Red Cross Society and other associations are also assisted to run these centres;

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(e) what is the nature of help given to these private bodies; and

(f) whether the Government have under consideration proposals to co-ordinate the work of all organizations to obtain maximum results?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“(a) The following statement will show it :—

Districts.	Number.	Districts.	Number.
Anantapur	6	Madura	15
Bellary	4	Malabar	10
Chingleput	23	The Nilgiris	6
Health Unit (Government)	4	North Arcot	11
Chittoor	5	Ramnad	7
Coimbatore	24	Salem	23
Cuddapah	3	South Arcot	13
Godavari, East	9	South Kanara	19
Godavari, West	14	Tanjore	21
Guntur	8	Tinnevely	14
Kistna	14	Trichinopoly	9
Kurnool	1	Vizagapatam	7
Madras City	21		
		Total	291

“(b) The following amounts of grants were made from Provincial funds during the past five years :—

Year.	Amount of grants.
	RS.
1941-42	84,021
1942-43	98,427
1943-44	1,04,150
1944-45	1,22,797
1945-46	1,49,160
1946-47	1,99,200 (Budget Estimate 1947-48).

“A grant equivalent to one-fourth of the actual expenditure incurred by the local bodies on maternity and child-welfare work during the previous year is given.

“(c) Yes. Under the Post-War Scheme No. 92 it is proposed to open one hundred and fifty primary health centres in the first five-year period. Each primary centre will have a staff of one Health Visitor, two midwives and a maternity home of four beds. There will be a Woman Medical Officer (Maternity and Child-welfare) for maternity and child-welfare work in connexion with ten such centres, Post-War Scheme No. 37 provides for the training of 100 Health Visitors in each of the first five post-war years. Government proposes also to lower the qualifications of candidates for appointment as Health Visitors and provide for their training on a linguistic basis. In 1947-48 three centres for the training of Health Visitors—one at Guntur for 25 Telugu candidates, one at Madura for 25 Tamil candidates and the third at Madras for 50 candidates of all linguistic groups—are proposed to be opened.

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Government have also decided to increase the existing maintenance grant for maternity and child-welfare centres run by local bodies from 25 per cent to 50 per cent of the expenditure incurred, in the case of local bodies which cannot meet three-fourths of the cost from their own funds.

“(d) Yes.

“(e) The information is furnished below :—

Name of the private body.	Amount of grant.	By whom given.
	Rs.	
Red Cross Society M. & C.W. Centre ..	200	District Board, Nellore.
St. Mary's Convent Creche, Nellore ..	1,300	Government.
Indian Red Cross Society Voluntary Health Centre, Cocanada.	100	Municipal Council, Cocanada.
Mettur Township Committee	87	Government (1944-45).
Do.	253	Do. (1945-46).
Saidapet Health Association	350	Municipal Council, Saidapet.
Baby Welcome Home, Trichinopoly ..	300	Municipal Council, Trichinopoly.
Tuticorin Ladies' Association M. & C.W. Centre.	1,200	Municipal Council, Tuticorin.
St. Anne's Ayyampet Child Welfare Centre.	200	District Board, Tanjore.
Servants of India Society, Puduponnani.	338	Government.

“(f) The question is not clear. If the question is whether the Government will give grants to all approved private institutions for running the centres, the answer is ‘Yes’. No one can possibly object to co-ordination in principle.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“May I know from the Hon. Minister for Public Health whether the post-war period has begun in respect of this scheme, or is it yet to begin?”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“It has begun, Sir.” (Laughter.)

Improvement of the Stanley Hospital, Rayapuram.

* 177 Q.—MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have received any comprehensive programme for the improvement of the Stanley Hospital to make it fit to be recognized as a collegiate institution; if so, what part of the scheme is to be taken up in 1947-48;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Stanley Hospital cannot expand without acquiring the site of the Monegar Choultry;

(c) whether any scheme is under consideration of the Government for housing chronic invalids of the Stanley Hospital by utilizing the Monegar Choultry as the nucleus of the scheme;

(d) whether it is a fact that if the site of the old Monegar Choultry is alienated to the Stanley Hospital, it is proposed that

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the old Civil Jail buildings should be acquired for housing the inmates of the choultry and converting it into an infirmary for the chronic invalids;

(e) which was the first institution to apply for the acquisition of the old Civil Jail buildings, and

(f) whether the Government have given priority to the Stanley Hospital in its expansion schemes and whether provision has been made in the scheme for the acquisition of the Monegar Choultry?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“(a) The Surgeon-General has submitted a programme of improvements to the Government Stanley Hospital, Madras, to make it conform to the standards required of a collegiate institution. The programme is under the consideration of the Government. If and when the programme is finally approved, it will be decided what part of the scheme should be taken up first.

“(b) & (c) The scheme is under consideration and no purpose can be served by giving the details of the proposals made by the Surgeon-General.

“(d) The old Civil Jail buildings have been allotted to the Industries Department for a School of Technology and are not available to the medical department. The Surgeon-General has been asked to report what modification the scheme requires in view of the above fact.

“(e) The Joint Director of Industries and Commerce addressed the Government in the matter earlier than the Surgeon-General.

“(f) The scheme, as stated in answer to (a) and (b) above, is still under consideration, and provision can be made for any parts of it only after the scheme is finally sanctioned.”

MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA :—“May I know what part of the scheme will be taken up in 1947-48?”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“The Government are calling a conference on the 2nd May and this matter will be considered at that conference.”

MRS. M. N. CLUBWALA :—“May I mention, Sir, that the Rayapuram Hospital is one of the oldest hospitals and is now having a college also; I think they find it very difficult to expand their work in this respect unless they can provide accommodation for patients in the old Jail Buildings and the Monegar choultry. I hope the Government will take this into consideration and take the necessary steps, as the Rayapuram Hospital has been pressing for a long time for expansion.”

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“It is exactly for the reason stated by the hon. the lady Member, Sir, that this programme of improvement is now being considered.”

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE re. GUNTUR FOOD SITUATION 785

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

II.—MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE RE GUNTUR FOOD SITUATION.

MR. PRESIDENT :—“I have received notice of the following motion from the hon. Sri B. Narayanaswami Nayudu :—

‘I move that the business of the Council do stand adjourned for the purpose of discussing the statement of the Government regarding the Guntur food situation laid on the table on 23rd April 1947.’

May I request the hon. Member to say how it is urgent?”

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—“Sir, the statement itself says that the rural rationing system in Guntur has broken down. This is what the statement says:

‘What has really happened is that the rural rationing has partially broken down and grain is not readily available to the poorer classes at reasonable prices.’

“Later on it states:

‘The situation at the end of March was therefore very serious. Still the situation is being managed with considerable difficulty. Statutory rationing has been maintained in all the five statutory rationed towns and in the rural areas no one has starved though he might have had to buy his needs in the blackmarket or live on what he had stored.’

“That is the position as stated in this note, we want to know how this position has been met or what measures the Government are proposing to meet the situation and whether steps for relief and remedies have been taken.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“May I know what the Leader of the House has got to say?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“Sir, the urgency of the situation as envisaged in that statement was to draw the public attention to a very important food situation that has arisen in Guntur. In that statement, the Government drew the attention of the public to the difficult situation and have appealed to the public to part with the hoarded grains. The Government also wanted to find out what the reasons were for this hoarding of grains and how this hoarding became possible in Guntur. From the latest information that is available, it is understood that the situation has eased to a certain extent and that considerable quantities of grain have been released. Therefore, Sir, the Government took the trouble of putting this hard situation clearly in the form of a statement and drew the attention of this House. The Government also wanted to give briefly an account of the working of the producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies. These societies which were responsible for procurement hitherto have been dissolved and a new agency has been set up to procure enough of the food, that is available. Sir, information from the Collector reached the Government yesterday that the food situation there, is now satisfactory and that considerable

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p.m.

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quantities of food-grains have been secured and that rationing is working satisfactorily. That is the latest information I have got. In view of the serious food situation in Guntur, a discussion was expected in the other House and as a matter of fact, it became the subject-matter of a series of interpellations in the other House and they have been duly published. So, I really do not understand the urgency for discussing this matter now."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, I do not know why the Hon. Member sitting opposite should publish the statement at all if we are not to be given an opportunity to discuss the matter on the floor of this House. The Hon. Minister has not given full details of the present situation in that district but he has simply said that a report has been received yesterday that everything is all right there and that the situation has now become satisfactory."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Does the hon. Member want to press his motion to discuss the subject? "

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" Yes, Sir."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The statement regarding the Guntur food situation is laid on the table of the House. May I know whether this House gives leave for discussing this question? "

[Some hon. Members of the Opposition :—" Yes, Sir. "]

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I do not see anybody rising."

[Then, several hon. Members of the Opposition stood up in their seats.]

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Now, the question for consideration before the House is which is the time to be allotted for this discussion. We are rising at 5 o'clock for a very important business. It is possible that we may meet again at 6 o'clock. There are three Bills for discussion in this House. I hope, with your co-operation, to finish one Bill by 5 o'clock and the other two Bills between 6 and 7. Therefore, the only time for discussing this motion is after 7. That is the position. So, I will fix 7 p.m. for this debate."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" What about the resolution on Linguistic Provinces? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" That will have to be taken up afterwards."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" On a point of order, Sir. The time stipulated is 5 p.m. So, if the motion regarding the Guntur food situation is to be taken up for discussion after 7, that is, after the business regarding Bills is over, it will not be an adjournment of the House. It will only be an extension of the House."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" ' Any time after 5 ' means extension of the House."

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III.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS CITY MUNICIPAL (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 1947 (L.A. BILL NO. 5 OF 1947).

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

that the Madras City Municipal (Second Amendment) Bill, 1947, as passed by the Assembly be taken into consideration.

The objects and the reasons stated in the Bill are quite clear and a similar Bill has already been taken up here. So, I do not want to take much of the time of the House. What was proposed in the other Bill is generally applied in this Bill also. But there are certain changes and they are intended to carry out the proper directions of the Madras City Corporation. The first change that was made is about the several areas that have been newly brought into the City limits. These are Amjikarai and Sembiam panchayats, the Saidapet Municipality including fourteen villages and portions of Velacheri panchayat area and Chingleput District Board. Also some of the existing divisions in the City Corporation have been found unwieldy and as such, instead of forty divisions that exist now, fifty divisions have been proposed and also the strength of the Corporation has been increased to 85. Sir, another reason for this amending Bill is that certain other additions have been in the number of seats owing to reservation of certain seats. Hitherto, there has been no reservation for women, Indian Christians and Muslims under the previous Act. So, to bring these classes also in line with Scheduled classes and others, reservation of seats have been made for these communities. Again, hitherto Labour was given only two seats. Now two more seats have been added to Labour.

" Sir, there is one point upon which I want to say something. There was a certain amount of criticism by certain sections of the people as regards the increase of reservation of seats for women from three to four. I do not want to claim any magnanimity by increasing the number of seats for women. I do not also want to claim any credit for that. But, I can say that it is a step in the right direction however tardy it may be. I expect that the matter should be taken in the spirit in which it was moved.

" Sir, there is also another side of criticism that is levelled against the reservation of seats for the several members separately. There was already reservation of seats for the South Indian Chamber of Commerce, and there was already reservation of seats separately for the Madras Chamber of Commerce and the Madras Trades Association. I find nothing wrong in giving separate representation for the trade because it is one of the important items which affects the civic life of the people. Sir, hitherto, two seats were reserved for Railways. But, since the Railways have now

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been nationalized, it is considered that it is no longer necessary to provide for their representation in the Council. As far as other items are concerned, I think the Bill itself is self-explanatory and I request the House to accept the Bill."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"The motion is that the Bill further to amend the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919 (L.A. Bill No. 4 of 1947) as passed by the Assembly, be taken into consideration at once. In view of what I have stated previously, I hope hon. Members will be as brief as possible."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"We are always in that unfortunate position."

* DR. V. K. JOHN:—"Mr. President, Sir, I cannot congratulate the Ministry on introducing this Bill. It has no principle nor is there any broad policy on which it is based. In certain respects, it is retrograde. Before I pass on to the general provisions of this Bill, I ask leave to make a general remark on the introduction of Bills like this and the procedure adopted in introducing Bills by Members of the Government amending previous Acts. They do not supply the relevant sections of the previous Acts to the Members of the House. They do not print the original sections on one side and the amendments on the other. It would be very helpful to Members if old sections were printed on one side and the proposed amendments on the other so that Members may know clearly what the old sections are and what the new amendments are. When an amending Bill comes up for discussion, Members have to study the previous Acts and some of them are not obtainable. Fortunately, as a lawyer, I am able to get at the volumes and able to study the sections. But there are some hon. Members who may not be in the same position. So, I want to ask you, Mr. President, to give a direction to the Government that whenever they bring in an amending Bill, they should print the sections of the existing Act on the one side and the amended sections on the other side for the information of the hon. Members."

* MR. PRESIDENT:—"I have no objection to do this. But, does the hon. Member think that printing of isolated sections or part of sections will be helpful to hon. Members? I think it would be possible for hon. Members to get possession of the relevant Acts whenever necessary."

* DR. V. K. JOHN:—"I would suggest that a large number of copies of the amended Acts may be made available to the hon. Members, if required. Unless the copies of the old sections of the Act which are amended are placed on the table of the House, it would not be possible for any hon. Member to follow the proceedings. That is my submission, Sir."

4 p.m. "Now, Sir, having said that, I want to say that the Hon. Ministers do not seem to have studied the purpose of the City Municipal Act. They propose to raise the number of seats in the

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City Council from 65 to 85. Now, the City Council is not merely a deliberative or legislative body, but it has also executive functions. For instance, it makes appointments, it enters into contracts, it approves of the defence of proceedings in courts and has other various matters to attend to. Now, to increase the strength of the Council to 85 and make it a huge body is not conducive to the easy or convenient discharge of the duties enjoined upon it by the City Municipal Act. Therefore, I think it is a great mistake to have increased the number of members from 65 to 85; on the other hand, they should have reduced the number and clubbed together many of the divisions so that they might be able to create a Council to discharge its duties and responsibilities given to it under the City Municipal Act. If only the Hon. Ministers had taken the trouble of carefully studying the provisions of the City Municipal Act they would never have dreamt of increasing the number to 85.

"Now, under the City Municipal Act there are three authorities for executing many of the provisions of the Act; one is the Council, the other is the Standing Committee and then the Commissioner; and one of the authorities being the Council, it should not be so huge a body for carrying out the executive functions under the Act."

"Then there is also no appreciation of the functions of the Corporation and if they had some idea of the functions of the Corporation they would not have treated it a museum of communities of men and women. Schedule V of the City Municipal Act enumerates the various functions which are entrusted to the Corporation of Madras and for which the Corporation may incur expenditure. You will find that the Corporation is charged with the responsibility of providing for public health, public convenience, amenities and education. Sir, it is permitted to incur expenditure connected with public safety, public convenience, amenities, education, etc., for the lighting of public streets, extinction of fires, for the construction and maintenance and alteration of buildings, running transport services, maintenance of public libraries, reading rooms, waiting places, construction and maintenance of schools for primary education, training of teachers, rest-houses, choultries, maternity and child-welfare and rescue homes. These are the duties which the Corporation is charged to perform for the safety, health and amenities of the public. Now, if the Hon. Ministers had carefully studied the functions of the Corporation then they should not only have given representation to the various territorial divisions, they would have not only have a few councillors for what you call territorial representation, but they would have provided for persons who supplement the services which the Corporation is expected to do. For instance, they would have given representation to owners of public halls and theatres, of transport services, dairies, public bakeries, and those connected with public utility services, public libraries, reading rooms, museums, art galleries, public baths and bathing places and also given representation to those who have constructed and are maintaining schools for primary education

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and for training of teachers and those who have constructed rest houses, alms houses, poor homes and those conducting maternity the child welfare centres and rescue homes. Sir, there are a large number of hospitals run by private persons and also nursing homes run by private persons. Now, Sir, representation should have been given to doctors who are running nursing homes and conducting primary, secondary and high schools and to persons maintaining rescue homes, maternity and child welfare centres. Instead of doing this, what they have done is they have given representation to various communities, Muslims, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians and Scheduled Castes. They have also provided for representation to Chambers of Commerce, the Andhra Chamber of Commerce, the Muslim Chamber of Commerce and the Nattukottai Nagarathars' Association. I suggest, Sir, that none of those for whom they have given representation on the Council is rendering any service or any function which the City Municipal Act charges the Corporation to do or discharge. The best way of given representation would have been quite different if they had carefully studied all the functions and responsible duties which the City Corporation is expected to discharge under the Act. Then they would never have thought of giving representation to various persons in the amending Act and even under the old Act. It is callous on the part of the Ministers not to have studied the Act since they have not given representation to those who are supplementing the services which the Corporation is expected to do. These services are mentioned in Schedule V.

"Now, Sir, in giving representation to communities, I see the Ministers have not got a mind of their own. If they had a mind of their own, they should not think in 1947 of communal representation in local bodies. Once we start with this, we are finished. We should always look forward to a future in which all of us would feel that we are not members of particular communities but citizens of Madras and not Muslims, Indian Christians, Scheduled Castes or others. Now, Sir, what did they do even in regard to giving this representation. This would have been evident if sections sought to be amended were printed side by side. Section 46-A of the Act provided for effective representation for the Scheduled Castes, if such representation was found to be necessary. Section 46-A says:

In each of the three divisions in which a seat is reserved for members of the Scheduled Castes the electors of such castes voting separately from the other electors shall elect a councillor who shall be a member of any such caste to fill the seat so reserved, while all the electors including the electors of such castes jointly shall elect a councillor to fill the other seat. In each of the remaining divisions, all the voters in the division voting jointly shall elect a councillor.

Sir, one seat is to be filled by the exclusive vote of the members of the scheduled castes. Now, they have changed it. They say, we give you not one seat, but five seats but who are the electors. The Congress vehemently protested when the Executive Councillors were previously nominated to the Government of India by the

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British Government and although the British Government claimed that they had Indians on the Executive Council, the Congress Leaders said, though they were nominally Indians, they were the nominees of the British Government, that the British Government had confidence in them, that the Indians had no confidence in them and therefore it was immaterial whether they were Indians or not and that sometimes they were worse than Europeans. Now, what is the Congress Government doing with regard to these representations here. They say we will give so many seats to Muslims, although Muslims could get into the Council because there are various divisions in the City in which there are more Muslims than non-Muslims. They say, we will reserve five seats for the Scheduled Castes. How? They cannot elect their own representatives at all. There is not even a provision that they will be elected from a panel selected by the various communities. I say this is a camouflage which even a child can see. I am surprised how Hon. Ministers who are certainly intelligent gentlemen could provide for such representation for minorities. You are providing for the representation of minorities, but the Hindus, the major community, will elect the minority representatives. I say it is not representation at all. I am not, of course, pleading for representation of this or that community. I say there should not be representation of any minority community in the Council. If the Government consider that representation is required, you may do so, but do not say, we give you representation but we elect our nominees as your representatives. They will mean representation for the majority community by persons calling themselves Scheduled Caste, Muslim, Anglo-Indian and Indian Christian. I, therefore, say that the provisions of this Bill are retrograde and it is nothing but a camouflage. The only motive for increasing the number of representatives of the minorities is to ask the minorities boldly, if you want to get into the City Corporation, you should become Congressmen; otherwise you members of the minority communities can never get into the Corporation where the majority, the Hindus, will be Congressmen. You will be only putting dummies . . .

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ May I know whether the hon. Member has any brief from the hon. Member, Mr. Jagannatham. He is so very jubilant over the speech.”

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ No, Sir. I did not look behind, for I have no eyes on my back, but I am only pointing out an intelligent conception of what will be the result of this amending Bill. You want a principle; you want a broad policy in regard to this matter. Instead, the Congress Government are saying, we are amending the Bill in order to give more representation. It amounts to this, they are providing for representation with one hand and with the other they are taking it away by saying they should be their representatives in whom they have confidence and not men in whom we have confidence. I do not know whether it

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4-13 P.M. would be unparliamentary if I say, when you provide for one thing you really provide for the opposite. The real effect of the Bill is, they are not providing for the representation of minorities but they are providing for special representation of the majority community. They want some more seats for themselves and they want to put in their dummies. Sir, in the City Municipal Council we need not necessarily have been belonging to particular communities and ladies.

"In section 5, there is provision for one woman. Now we have four plus one of the other sex in the Council. Now, Sir, there is nothing in the functions of the Council which a lady must attend to. It is quite true that in a House of 85 or 65 or less if there are young ladies, fair ladies dressed well, it may remove the monotony of the business in the House. We may be looking at them. I do not understand, Sir, why the Congress Government should feel that they must raise the number of Muslims, Christians, and raise the number of Scheduled Castes and then provide for the fair sex as well. I find nothing in the City Municipal Act which necessitates the presence of ladies, Sir."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Does the hon. Member feel that the City is populated only by men?"

* DR. V. K. JOHN:—"No, Sir, we want the best available men and women in the City Corporation. If there is really a woman coming up to the front she will certainly be returned by men, I say, Sir, not only the Members of the Government but the voters are also generous and chivalrous. When an honourable and a competent lady stands for election to the City Municipal Council, they will elect her. But, suppose, Sir, they are incompetent, do we want five women merely because they are women? Are they providing for competent ladies who can get in as Muslims, as Indian Christians and Scheduled Castes? If such ladies are forthcoming and will help us in our work we must elect them."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"On a point of information, Sir, the hon. Member wanted occupational representation and pleaded for it eloquently and now that he does not want a lady, does it mean that the occupation of child-welfare and maternity should be taken up by men?"

* DR. V. K. JOHN:—"Sir, I suggested that persons who are responsible for child-welfare and maternity should be represented. Ladies may come naturally in such a case but in such a case she may not come in merely as a woman."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I am afraid the hon. Member has raised a number of foes in this House and he should give them an opportunity."

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* DR. V. K. JOHN:—"Only one word I should like to say is about clauses 13 and 14. Sir, I thought the present Ministry will be a little different from the old Ministry. Every time, they come forward with two provisions in every Bill. Clause 13 says—

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

I suggest, Sir, that it is a very undesirable provision in an Act to give the executive, wide and arbitrary powers to remove difficulties which arise by executive orders. Why cannot the Legislature be consulted? Do the Government want us to abdicate our functions? Sir, if there are any difficulties why not bring them before the House when we can pass a resolution or pass an amendment. Now, Sir, about the removal of doubts. I do not know who the draftsman of these is. For removal of difficulties an executive order can be passed but for the removal of doubts it is not the case. There is some other procedure. Sir, this House should not be a party to clauses 13 and 14."

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—"Mr. President, Sir, I had no intention to speak on the first reading of this Bill."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I am sorry you got the intention subsequently."

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—"After hearing the hon. Dr. John, I feel, Sir, even Dr. John is infectious when he begins to talk. As it so often happens every one of us on this side like to say something though at the time before he began his speech nobody thought of saying anything."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"It is a great compliment to Dr. John."

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—"I am very glad to find the Hon. Daniel Thomas in the House because, Sir, he is practically the author of this Bill. It will enable us to get some explanation for some of the provisions he has introduced. Sir, the main object of this Bill I take it is as the limits of the City have been extended adequate provision should be made for representation for these extended limits but if the Hon. Minister had contented himself with that and had introduced or changed the figures wherever they are necessary and introduced the Bill, perhaps, Sir, there would have been no cause even for my hon. Friends of the Muslim League to take exception to that. But I think, Sir, the Government have gone out of the way and tried to put some more ideas into this Bill and thereby created a hare's nest."

"Sir, if I wanted to introduce a Bill of this kind, introduce some changes, Sir, I would have given adult franchise immediately. What place is better suited for the introduction of adult franchise than the City of Madras? Why should not the Government introduce adult franchise and thereby give a quietus to all the fears entertained by Dr. John. If there had been adult franchise, Sir, all the troubles envisaged by Dr. John would not arise. The

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troubles arise because the votes are conditioned on certain circumstances which are not possessed by all voters. This City would have been the best place for the functioning of adult franchise. Secondly, Sir, which place is better suited than Madras City to try the system of proportional representation as a solution for communal representation? Sir, if proportional representation had been introduced and adult franchise had also been granted, every community would have secured representation according to its strength, they would get representation according to the adult population each community has. I wish, Sir, they had done that also. Otherwise, Sir, they could have merely introduced a provision increasing the number of Councillors in view of the extended City limits. Then, Sir, I do not know why the Ministry is so anxious to placate these vested interests like the Chambers of Commerce and now, Sir, the Piecegoods Merchants' Association also have found recognition."

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" That was in the old Act."

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" I do not know what new interest has come to be represented by these six Councillors."

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" The Muslim Chamber of Commerce."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" I do not know, Sir, so long as each division is represented by a Councillor, why these special interests should find representation in the Council. I do not understand what is the contribution these bodies specially make, Sir, for civic problems. What other interests have they apart from the interests of ordinary citizens, ordinary voters in the City, Sir? I think, Sir, I am not sure, nowhere in the world this special representation is given to such special interests in a Municipal Council. I am yet to know of it, Sir."

DR. SIR A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I may tell the hon. Member, Sir, as a point of information that such representations are given in places like Leeds, Manchester and Sheffield in England."

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" We have also such a system here in Bombay."

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" I am sure, Sir, if a Bill is brought forward to amend the Liverpool Municipal constitution people will not hesitate to say that these special interests have no business to secure special representation. What is the extra contribution these special interests make for the good of this City? After all, Sir, they will be all voters. They will have a voice in returning the Councillors in the divisions in which they live. Why should they have special representation, Sir? I feel, Sir, that this Bill has created a large number of difficulties about some of which I think my hon. Friend, Dr. John, gave expression to. Sir, indirectly Dr. John was pleading for separate electorates. I do not know why he did not directly say so."

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DR. V. K. JOHN :—" No, Sir. Far from it. I did not plead for communal electorates at all."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" That is only a commentary upon your speech."

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" I thought, Sir, that was the impression produced on the Chair, when you congratulated Mr. Jagannatham for securing a champion of his views in Dr. John."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Do not take me seriously. Dr. John says that he did not mean it."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I only said that if communal electorates are granted, this is not the way to do it. This is not effective. This is only representation for the majority community."

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" I do not propose to move the amendment standing in my name. Sir, I shall refer to it now only. I have suggested an amendment which the Hon. the Minister for Revenue has accepted in all the Bills in the Select Committee of which he was the Chairman. That is when a notification is to be made, it should be placed before both the Houses to secure their approval. Here is a provision, Sir, by which the Provincial Government may, by a notification, increase or reduce Councillors. By this they are taking to themselves, Sir, power which is dangerous to be allowed to be exercised by the executive Government. Unless such a notification is placed before both the Chambers of the Provincial Legislature and the approval of the Chambers obtained, I do not think it is a democratic procedure. The provision made by Hon. Minister for Revenue is a good feature and I wanted to congratulate him when his Bills come up. But since I find him in the House now, I congratulate him on being so accommodating and on recognizing that the voice of the Legislature in such vital matters should have to prevail as this is a vital matter. To-morrow the Hon. Mr. Chandramouli may take it into his head to reduce 65 divisional councillors to fifty because he has taken powers to reduce or increase the number. To do that without reference to the Legislature is very dangerous and that provision is very dangerous. I am very sorry the Hon. Daniel Thomas introduced it and Mr. Chandramouli is only fathering it. I wish these powers were exercised subject to the Legislature. Even now it is not too late. After all this Bill can wait for the next session. I suggest that he accepts my amendment so that the Bill may go to the other House and he might get credit as the Hon. the Revenue Minister has got."

* K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Mr. President, the Hon. Minister while introducing the Bill stated that the intention of the Bill was to bring the Muslim community into line with the Scheduled classes. I cannot really understand what he meant by that statement."

" The other day when the District Municipalities Amending Bill was under discussion before this House, we, the members of

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the Muslim League Party, pointed out our grievances. We also felt that our voices would be a cry in the wilderness as none of our amendments was accepted. Since this Bill is framed on the same lines and since we know what would be the fate of any amendments that we might give notice of, we have not tabled any amendment. That does not mean that we agree with the provisions of the Bill. But we thought that it would be enough if we just mention our grievances and put forth our objections to some of the provisions of the Bill. I am glad that Dr. John in his own inconsistent manner has pleaded the case of the Muslims so far as separate electorates are concerned. He began last time while speaking on the District Municipalities Amending Bill by espousing the cause of the Muslims for separate electorates and ended with a complete denunciation of the case for separate electorates for Muslims. But this time he has explained his case better and I am, therefore, thankful to him. Moulana Muhammad Ali stated that the persons elected from the general electorate would be men of straw; Dr. John has used an equally strong word; he has called them dummies. I am glad it is quite correct. Muslims returned through the process of reservation of seats in a ward where Muslims are not in a majority would be only representatives of the majority that returned him and by no stretch of imagination can such a person be called a representative of the Muslims. The person elected would naturally reflect only the views of the majority in that ward and not those of the Muslims who form the minority. It is only on this ground that we have been pleading for the introduction of separate electorate in district boards and municipalities. We are having the system of separate electorate so far as representation to the Legislatures is concerned and Muslim representatives are functioning quite properly. Therefore, there is no use of reserving a seat for Muslims in a joint electorate constituency especially when the majority of the voters are non-Muslims. It will be some improvement if seats are reserved in wards where the majority are Muslims and Muslims in the ward may then be able to elect their own representatives. It would have been better had the Government added a proviso to clause 4 to the effect that seats which are reserved for particular communities should be reserved in wards where the members of that community are in a majority. It would then be some slight improvement. As it is, the wards in which seats are reserved are left to be determined by the sweet will and pleasure of Government. By means of the improvement I have suggested, Muslims will be able to get representatives who will reflect the views of the community. Dr. John said again that persons who are elected from the wards in which . . .

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I think we are concerned with what the Bill says and not what Dr. John said."

* K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Dr. John said this with reference to the Bill and I have to refute some of those arguments since they are vitally concerned with the provisions of the Bill."

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MR. PRESIDENT:—"I may tell the hon. Member that we are not concerned with refuting of Dr. John. Please refute the Bill if you can."

* K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"He said rightly that such persons would only represent the views of the majority community and that is why we want that Muslim representatives should be elected through the separate electorate. If it applies to those wards where seats are reserved, much more so does it apply and with greater force it applies, to representatives who would be elected through a general electorate where there is no reservation and such a person would much less represent the Muslims."

"He spoke of Muslim wards in the City of Madras. But even there such areas have been tacked on to neighbouring areas where the Hindus are in a majority with the result that in many wards where Muslims ought naturally to be in a majority, there are Hindu majorities. I would, therefore, appeal to Government to consider the necessity of re-forming these wards so that contiguous areas where Muslims are in a majority may not be divided for political purposes in order to reduce them to a position of minority. I have mentioned some points while discussing the District Municipalities Amendment Bill and I have to repeat them here because I have been receiving representations from almost all the districts about these grievances, from which the Muslims of the Province are suffering. Dr. John spoke of panels and we know what the experience of the Scheduled classes is, from what Mr. Jagannathan and others feel about them."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I wish you confine your remarks to the Bill and deal with the Bill. As it is, it does not speak of panels. Please excuse me if I have to be stiff in this matter. We have not much time before us."

* K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"These are the main points on which we, the Muslims, are very much interested. First, we want that separate electorate should be provided for the Muslims, secondly even where reservation is provided the seats reserved for them should be in wards where Muslims are in a majority and thirdly, there must be a re-division of wards so that natural division may be restored and Muslims may not be split up."

* MRS. MONA HENSMAN:—"Mr. President, I will not take much time for I will not attempt to review any of the allegations or assertions or statements that have been made by certain hon. Members regarding my sex."

"But, Sir, I would say that a very grand future has been forecast for us; women, by the hon. Member who spoke first. He said there was no necessity for reservation of seats for women, because if a woman sets up a claim, a woman well-dressed and with a sweet smile—any man would stand out for her. I will bear this in mind at the next election for my particular seat or for the hon. Member's seat for the Council—by his fish-pond, around his house."

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near his flower beds, and on his cement walk, members of my sex, chosen for their beauty, wit and eloquence will wait on Dr. John, in order to persuade him to give up his seat and his vote and you may be sure that Dr. John will not sit again in this House in his own right."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I am not sure if he would not like the bevy in his house; he would prefer it to sitting in this House."

* MRS. MONA HENSMAN:—"They would all be young and beautiful and Dr. John and I will sit and admire them from the veranda and gallery."

"Again a suggestion was made that women would be dumkies but I join issue with him in that opinion. Really, it is the other way about and women are bringing to bear a dynamic view of things. So, it will not be quite as he said. Again, I see that four seats have been reserved for women out of a total of 66 seats, which works out to one woman's seat for every 16½ men. I stand by arithmetic and not anything else and this proves that in this Province one woman will be counted equal to sixteen and-a-half men."

"I shall close my remarks with a congratulation to the Government on clause 6 of the Bill, which foretells what the future holds for us. This is the first time that I have seen in print in any Bill or Resolution recommended to a Legislature in this country that elections should be on a basis completely void of sex distinctions and of communal distinctions. The candidates would know who are the people in their wards and we, the electors, would know who are the people who deserve support and that is guaranteed in addition the seats reserved for the different sections. This is a section which enables us, women, to choose those people whether men or women of whatever community they may belong, in addition to the seats reserved for us. I must congratulate the Hon. Minister on having introduced this provision in the Bill which will bring us all into very much closer unity and of finding out who are the best people irrespective of the other divisions that this Bill has for the present put forward. I say 'for the present' advisedly. I think that the former Bill was very, very bad and poor and this is certainly many steps better and this clause 6 points the way to something better still that we would attain in the not too distant future for distinctions of all kinds must be removed in order that unity may be established in our Province and the Country."

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P.M. THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"Mr. President, Sir, I would just mention to you, and through you to this Council, that this bill is a necessary and a salutary piece of legislation. Somewhere in 1933, a committee was appointed by the Government which contained many eminent men to go into the question of the Madras City Municipal Act. The committee consisted of persons like Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, Swami Venkatachalam Chetti and several other distinguished public men of this Province. It was therefore plain that in the City Corporation all minority communities should be represented by reservation of seats. That report was not immediately put into legislation so far as the Madras City Municipal Act was concerned. The recommendations of the

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committee were adopted in the provisions of the District Municipalities Act. In 1934 a Bill was brought into the statute book whereby reservation of seats was made for Indian Christians, Muslims, Adi-Dravidas and women in joint electorates for all the district boards of the Province. That system has been working very satisfactorily for the last 12 years. So far as Madras was concerned, it was thought desirable that this provision should be included in the City Municipal Act. India is a country of all communities and classes. These minority communities are now conscious of their position as minorities. I submit the Congress party and the Congress Ministry are anxious to safeguard and protect the interest of the minority communities. It was said that representatives elected by joint electorates from minority communities were not really representative. I absolutely repudiate that suggestion. There are many municipalities in this Province, and hundreds of members have been elected by joint electorates to represent Indian Christians, Muslims and Adi-Dravidas. I would submit the records of municipal administration and local boards for the last 12 years will belie the suggestion that has been made that those representatives are not the real representatives of the community. (K. Uppi Sahib Bahadur: Question.) Of course members represent not only their own community, but that particular area also. I submit the object and purpose of reservation of seats for certain communities in these areas is not that there should be different and there should be communal representation for these communities, but that people of these seats should be associated with the administration of these bodies. For example, from 1941 onwards, in the Madras City Corporation, there has been no woman. I submit that the present Bill makes such a position impossible. The object and policy of the Bill is that Government are anxious that representation for minority communities should be given, but that representatives of minority communities should represent not only their own communities but the particular area also. They should work together in union for the civic welfare of the entire people of the area.

"One more word, and I shall finish. My hon. Friend, Dr. John, said that the number of members provided in this Bill was too large, and that as a matter of fact, it should be less. The City of Bombay with 15 square miles has over 100 members. Our old Madras was 13 square miles in area. Now we are raising it to 50 square miles. Moreover he said, that the largeness of the number should be an obstruction. As a matter of fact, there are a number of standing committees and each standing committee has a right to opt out by letting in particular interests. For example, if there is a committee in charge of education, it can take in as members of the standing committee, members of private institutions. I would therefore submit the enlargement of the numbers is a very desirable and satisfactory feature of the present Bill, and it is not at all clear how it will clash with the competent discharge of the executive functions of that body. I would therefore submit that so far as that provision is concerned, namely, enlargement of

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the Council, and the representation of minority communities, I submit both are desirable features. I no doubt agree that reservation of seats for minorities, and reservation of seats for certain classes such as women is not ideally desirable. But we are not living in an ideal country. Therefore, so long as the committees are there, I would submit that it is desirable that that provision should be made. Recently even in the United Provinces a similar provision providing reservation of seats for minority communities by joint electorates was brought before the Legislative Assembly."

* K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Mr. President, Sir, but for the speech of the Hon. Mr. Daniel Thomas, I would not have taken part in this debate." (Laughter.)

MR. PRESIDENT :—" It is unfortunate."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Even this learned gentleman, after experience as a mufassal member and as the Chairman of some representative bodies, has to admit that reservation of seats for the minority communities is absolutely necessary. I thank the Hon. Mr. Chandramouli for God-fathering this Bill. The father of the Bill is the Hon. Mr. Daniel Thomas. The Hon. Mr. Daniel Thomas has drawn up this Bill and left it for nursing to the Hon. Mr. Chandramouli. This Bill is really a step in the right direction. Mr. John has given expression to some feelings for which we are thankful to him. He is true to himself. He is true to realities to-day. He had been advocating in a general way the necessity of representation of minorities. But he said he is not for separate electorate. He goes half way and halts. I do not agree with him. So also the Hon. Mr. Daniel Thomas. Both these gentlemen want separate representation. Mr. Daniel Thomas belongs to a minority community. I ask Mr. Daniel Thomas 'If you are true to yourself, if you are true to this House and to India, you ought to keep the real fact before you'. The real fact is that communal representation is there in this country. You cannot by mere advices and preachings wipe it out of this land. Sir, we Muslims are branded as communalists. But, in fact, in this Presidency, it is not the Muslims that started this communalism. The Non-Brahman movement came from the Hindu section. At that time, we were Congressites believing in joint electorate. With my hon. Friend, Dr. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliyar's brother—I have great admiration for him—I had to cross words even in private talk. In those days we were all nationalists. But realities forced us to change our view. Now one cannot wipe it out of India by mere words. To-day, I have to submit to Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar—I take off my hat, rather my cap—and declare that he was right and I was wrong. That is the position, Sir. I might ask Hon. Members as well as the Hon. Mr. Daniel Thomas, 'let us take facts and prove as practical statesmen'. Communalism in this country you cannot wipe out by mere preaching . . . "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The Bill does not seek to wipe it out."

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K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" As a matter of fact, the Bill provides for special representation for Muslims, now Sir. But it is only half measure."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" You want a better thing? That has been put ably by Mr. Ibrahim."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" I once again request Government to reconsider and have a clear Bill giving separate representation for Muslims and other communities, like scheduled classes, elected by themselves, brought forward at an early date, realising the real position of the community and not have this camouflage of communal representation and hoodwink them."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Does the Hon. Minister propose to reply? "

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" I will say only one or two words, Sir."

MR. K. O. ANTHONI :—" My community has been referred to, Sir."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Your community has been amply provided for."

MR. K. O. ANTHONI :—" I want to repudiate that impression."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Nobody has got any impression that your community has been treated badly."

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" Mr. President, Sir, I am sorry to say that a gentleman like Dr. John should put forward self-contradictory suggestions, one following the other, without bringing or giving any helpful suggestions. He advocated that the Corporation Council should be composed of a small number of people. At the same time he wanted representations to be given to each and every profession. This cannot be done. Secondly, I can say one thing to Dr. John regarding the executive functions. So long as there is the Commissioner, so long as there are committees, the Corporation is also expected to carry on the executive functions. They are there to formulate certain policies. So long as the civic interests of all the people are to be represented, you cannot ask a few people to sit there and represent the feelings of all the civic needs of the population. I can say that it is also contradictory to the spirit of the Bill. Then, Sir, I will say one thing regarding Muslims. The hon. Mr. Ibrahim told that reservation of seats was made where there were not Muslims in a majority. I can assure him that reservation of seats for Muslims is made where Muslims are in a majority. As for the powers taken by the Ministry under sections 13 and 14, I will say, this is only a provision for meeting an emergency and not to take wide powers. I can assure Mr. Suryanarayana Rao that every care will be taken not to abuse such powers, and that so long as the executive is there,

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such powers are necessary; for every small thing you cannot expect us to come to the Legislature for its sanction. Then, Sir, Mr. Suryanarayana Rao has advocated adult franchise, proportional representation and other such things. I can say, adult franchise is necessary, and I assure him that that is a thing for which the Congress has always stood. As this is an emergency bill introduced to meet an emergency, only small amendments have been made in the present Bill. With these words, Sir, I commend the Bill for the acceptance of the House."

The motion was put and carried.

Clauses 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and clause 1 and the Preamble were put and carried.

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

'that the Madras City Municipal (Second Amendment) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 5 of 1947), as passed by the Assembly be passed into law.'"

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

MR. PRESIDENT:—"The House will now adjourn for tea."

A VOICE:—"May I know when we re-assemble, Sir?"

MR. PRESIDENT:—"As soon as it is over." (Laughter.)

(After tea—5-37 p.m.)

IV.—MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I have to announce to the House the following messages, dated, Fort St. George, the 24th April 1947, received by me from the Hon. the Speaker of the Madras Legislative Assembly:—

"In accordance with rule 94 of the Madras Assembly Rules I transmit a copy of the Tungabhadra Project (Prevention of Speculation in Land) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 13 of 1947), as passed by the Assembly on the 24th April 1947 and signed by me for the concurrence of the Council."

"In accordance with rule 94 of the Madras Assembly Rules I transmit a copy of the Malabar Irrigation Works (Construction and Levy of Cess) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 14 of 1947), as passed by the Assembly on the 24th April 1947 and signed by me for the concurrence of the Council."

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GOVERNMENT BILL—cont.

(2) THE TUNGABHADRA PROJECT (PREVENTION OF SPECULATION IN LAND) BILL, 1947 (L.A. BILL NO. 13 OF 1947) (AS PASSED BY THE ASSEMBLY).

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move—

'that the Tungabhadra Project (Prevention of Speculation in Land) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 13 of 1947), as passed by the Assembly be taken into consideration.'

"Sir, it has undergone some important changes in the select committee in the other House."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of order, Sir, the Hon. Minister should first move to suspend standing order."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"What standing order?"

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"He has to ask you permission to suspend the standing order . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"You mean leave to waive three days' notice?"

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Yes."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Government have already asked for that. That is why, I consulted you, as the Leader of the Opposition, before bringing this measure, whether you have any objection. (The hon. Member nodded assent.) The Hon. Minister may continue his speech."

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"Sir, the Bill seeks to prohibit large extent of land in the Tungabhadra project area being purchased in the expectation of a rise in price of land when the project comes into operation, and to resell them at a profit. The list of villages attached in the schedule of this Bill defines the area of operation of this Bill. All hon. Members know that this area is a famine area, and for the first time something is being done to bring water to these villages which are in the famine area. But, Sir, when certain people got knowledge that a project is coming into being, they began to purchase land, from Rupees five to Rupees fifty an acre, the purpose being that on a future date when the project comes into operation, the price of these lands will go up, and then by selling them they can make a profit. As a matter of fact otherwise one cannot see any reason why lawyers from Bapatla, Guntur and Tenali should go there and purchase land, which can never be for agricultural purposes. Even some of the commercial magnates of the locality who have nothing to do with agriculture have consistently purchased land under this project area. These gentlemen rely upon their business concern than upon agriculture as their profession. Therefore Government thought it necessary, that there should be a Bill which should prevent this speculation in future, and so under the new clause 3

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they propose to take over such lands as are in excess of fifty acres at the price at which they were purchased and then disposed of them in the best interests of the locality and the country. Clause 9 of the Bill deals with an important aspect. It says that when a man has purchased a land in the project area, it cannot be alienated for thirty years. It is a beneficial provision which will go a long way to keep land from slipping into others hands. I must say this Bill is due to the efforts of Mr. Suryanarayana Rao. My record shows that he is one of the earliest few to bring this measure. I am glad that I have got the chance of bringing this measure, and I do hope the people of the locality will get the desired effect out of this Bill. I need not say anything more. I request this House to give this Bill a speedy passage."

* SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Sir, in supporting this measure I would say a few words. The complaint is that it is not as comprehensive as it should have been, in two or three respects, and I hope the Ministry will take these points, which I am going to mention presently, and attend to them. The first complaint with regard to this Bill is that my electorate consider it to be very limited in scope and that Government have not brought within its ambit the huge acreage which landlords in general, whose lands will be irrigated by this project, have in their possession. Some of the landlords have got two to three thousand acres, which will be benefited by this project. And I know when the Famine Code Revision Committee met, they gave an assurance, that when this project was brought into execution, they would give up lands in excess of fifty acres; and they have given that assurance, some orally, and some in writing. At that time it was thought the whole area will be irrigated with wet crops. But now, we see, for some reason or other, of which we are not aware, this project will irrigate only 15 thousand acres of wet crops and 2½ lakhs of acres with dry crops. At the time when we were proceeding with that committee, it was stated that ten lakhs of acres will be brought under cultivation under this project. It is not known why this acreage has been reduced from ten to three lakhs of acres, of which five per cent is to be irrigated with wet crops. Sir, this is nothing when compared with Kistna and Godavari delta.

" Sir, some people have been complaining and what they say has also been printed in a pamphlet, a copy of which I have given to the Hon. Minister for Public Works, that it is only a limited quantity of water that is to be impounded by this dam, and most of it is to be let down into the Kistna river, so that the ryots in that delta may have the benefit of this project. They complain this project has been undertaken not so much in the interest of the Rayalaseema districts as for the benefits of the ryots in the Kistna delta. It is for the Public Works Minister to answer those complaints, and I understand they are going to issue a Press Communiqué to-morrow, and not to-day, answering these objections. Anyhow the project is quite welcome, though no doubt it is limited in scope.

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" The other complaint is they have not taken up what is called high canal project, I mean, the high level channel. If it had been undertaken it would have brought under irrigation at least double the acreage. Well, Sir, whatever it may be, we must be thankful for small mercies. From 1943 onwards several merchants have purchased thousands of acres which come under this project and as the Hon. Minister stated, some of them are from Guntur district and Kistna district, and as was pointed out by the Hon. Minister several lawyers including two or three lawyers from Bellary have purchased four thousand acres. Of course they have not purchased them for raising dry crops. Now they are disappointed; at least they are not so elated as they were when they purchased the lands.

" As I said, Sir, we are thankful for small mercies; and I hope in due time Government will bring in legislation to reduce the acreage of big landlords who own two thousand to three thousand acres. On the other hand they are entitled to purchase in addition not more than 50 acres. Under clause 4 (2) their present extent of land is secured and they too can purchase not more than 50 acres. I do not want to take up much time of the House, and I hope Government in due time will bring a comprehensive measure. With these words I support this measure."

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, I am very happy that at last this measure which vitally affects the Tungabhadra Project area has been brought forward in this House. I am very grateful to the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue for associating my name in initiating this idea of restricting the extent of acquisition of lands under the project. Sir, on this occasion, you will forgive me if I indulge in speaking at some length which may appear to be delivering a budget speech. Sir, this project has been one of the dreams of many of the people of Rayalaseema. As Mr. Bhima Rao pointed out this scheme has undergone various changes. From the time of Mackenzie down to the time, if I may say so, of Dowley, it has undergone so many changes; and one wonders, why after all a scheme of this restricted kind has been adopted by Government. When the Famine Code Revision Committee considered this project—and I was one of its members—we recommended what we called the Swaminatha Ayyar's scheme, which consists of a low level canal and a high level canal, and it was estimated to cost, at that time, about 16 crores. But later on, there must have been some trouble with the Government of His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad on the question of sharing of waters. The enormous cost involved in bringing a high level canal without adequate supply of water made Mr. Dowley, who was then the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, to think of this alternative scheme of the low level canal. It is true, Sir, those of us who have studied the Swaminatha Ayyar's scheme felt hopeful that both the low level canal and the high level canal would form part of this project, irrigating a large extent of land. We were all greatly disappointed; and as soon as we learnt that there was this

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restricted proposal, the present Minister for Industries and myself ran up to Tanjore, consulted Mr. Swaminatha Ayyar and presented a memorandum to the Adviser in charge of Irrigation, who was pleased to order that both the original scheme and the proposed scheme should be examined from all points of view. The Tirumalai Ayyangar report gives figures and facts relating to both the schemes. But, as I said, the difficulty seems to have arisen on the question of distribution of waters with the Government of His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad and wisely, Sir, I believe, instead of waiting for a decision the Madras Government decided that we should proceed at least with the low level canal, at the same time not giving up their right for waters which would enable them to have the high level canal. When this question came up before the Ceded Districts Economic Development Board, the Special Chief Engineer for Irrigation for the Project assured us, that in the dam that he was putting up he was providing sluices for the high level canal also, so that, and if at any time it came into being—we hope it will come soon—by coming to an agreement with the Government of His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad, they would also take up the high level canal. Therefore for the present it is a restricted scheme.

“ Another feature to which Mr. Bhima Rao referred is, while the reservoir is at one place the benefits accrue from it to taluks situated far away from the reservoir. That is one of the reasons why there is opposition to the scheme. I feel, with due deference to Mr. Bhima Rao, who seems to share these misgivings of the misguided opposition to the scheme,—that all this opposition is because of the Minister for Land Revenue and his friends who are talking of linguistic provinces. The idea is, while the reservoir is located in the future Karnataka province, the waters therefrom are to irrigate the so-called Andhra districts of the Andhra province. (Laughter.) I wish this question of linguistic provinces is not brought up at this stage.

“ Another point I want to deal with is the pamphlet about which Mr. Bhima Rao spoke. I have a copy of that pamphlet with me. It is but natural for people of Karnataka to feel as they do. By the way, I will go into the Karnataka province, when it is formed; because I come from a village situated in the Karnataka area; and I am not at all sorry for it. But the main objection behind this opposition to the scheme is due to the fact that the reservoir and the large number of villages and lands that will be submerged by the reservoir and the thirty thousand population that will be affected by this submersion belong to the Karnataka province; while the benefits therefrom will accrue to the Andhra districts of the so-called Andhra province. I am not worried about this at all. For when schemes of this large kind are undertaken some have to suffer so that a larger number may reap the benefits thereof. It is in this way the Hon. Minister for Public Works, when he visited some time ago those beautiful villages which will be submerged by the reservoir recently, brought home to the people

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of their unreasonableness. He said, ‘ it is true, you are going to suffer; but remember the very large number of people who will be benefited, and with the lands you have to give up, other taluks will become prosperous and that will also bring prosperity even to those who are now affected by it.’

“ I am very sorry that the Government have delayed in issuing ^{6 p.m.} the promised communiqué on the subject. In fact, Sir, this Government has not taken the trouble to educate even the legislators about the Tungabhadra Project, its potentialities and its possibilities, though they have a big publicity department. Even my hon. Friend, Mr. Farookhi Sahib, who represented these districts in the Central Assembly does not know where Mallapuram is which is the area proposed to be submerged under water, where the water will flow and so on. Sir, the legislators have a right to know all these. It is the duty of the Government to educate the legislators first and then the public as to what this project stands for. The Government will issue a communiqué to-morrow as suggested by Mr. Bhima Rao, but the mischief has already been done. This leaflet I have in mind was issued two months ago and we have been asking the Government to counteract this propaganda. This leaflet is a conglomeration of exaggeration of facts and suppression of facts, but I do not blame the authors. It is a propaganda leaflet on behalf of the Karnataka province. In propaganda we have to take the weakest points in the opponent and make much of them. I am very sorry that this Government communiqué has been delayed. But I hope the communiqué when it is issued, will satisfy at least my friend, Mr. Bhima Rao, who has to plead with the voters in his constituency and satisfy them and tell them that the fact that they would belong to the Karnataka province or that they would not belong to an Andhra province should not influence them in anyway and prevent them from using their judgment in assessing the value of this project. Who knows, my hon. Friend, Mr. Bhima Rao, may be aware—that if a plebiscite is taken many of the taluks which are now claimed by people who want them to be included in an Andhra province may form part of the Karnataka province? Because, Sir, the other day, when the hon. Member, Mr. A. B. Shetty, when he was not Minister, put a question in the Assembly asking for a list of places in which Kanarese is the regional language, I was surprised to find that many of the taluks for which a claim is laid on behalf of the Andhra province are bilingual, and if a vote is taken many of the villages, perhaps whole taluks, may go into a Karnataka province. Unfortunately, Sir, I have to refer to this contentious question, but there it is. All this trouble is due to the fact that a proper appreciation of the benefits expected to be conferred by the project has not been brought home to the minds of the public.

“ Sir, the hon. Member, Mr. Bhima Rao, referred to a recommendation of the Famine Code Revision Committee relating to the restriction of holdings. It is true, Sir, the Famine Code Revision Committee suggested—they did not fix 100 acres though some of us fought for it—the Committee suggested that if within 10 years

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after the waters of the Tungabhadra is supplied for irrigation, the lands are found uncultivated, the Government should take the land from the landholders at the price at which lands were sold before the water was available and parcel them out among landless labourers. Sir, that was the idea at that time. And I am glad that in this Bill, fifty acres is considered to be a fairly economic unit under the Tungabhadra Project.

"Sir, I was one of those few people who were present on the occasion when His Excellency the Governor of Madras laid the foundation stone of this dam. I went up the hill where the foundation stone was laid and looked round, I was told that for the distance as far as my eye could reach, water would be impounded. It was a glorious sight for one to imagine what it would be when it became a fact. But I was wondering why, when so much water could be impounded, the waters could not be utilised from the beginning of the reservoir by the lands about the reservoir right up to the end of the Kurnool taluk in Kurnool district. Unfortunately, Sir, the contour of the land is such that it is not possible for lands very near the dam site to be irrigated. Secondly, Sir, the level of the land is such, though the canal is running by its side, it is only on one side irrigation is possible and not on the other side. It is unfortunate, for in a place like Kistna district the waters would have irrigated both sides of the channel bringing more land under irrigation.

"Another fact which hon. Members must know is, if I am not mistaken and I hope I will not be corrected as I was done when I spoke on the Madras City Municipal Amendment Bill—for the first time, Sir, in the history of the world, what is called 'dry irrigation' is being adopted in this project area. The water is being let in to grow dry crops and not wet crops. Only a small percentage of the project area will be under wet cultivation growing wet crops. Most of the land, in fact 85 per cent of it, will be only dry-irrigated area growing dry crops like chulam, commercial crops like cotton, and perhaps in some areas where water is more easily available, indigo and other crops. Therefore, Sir, I do not think that 50 acres provided as the maximum extent of project land which a person may acquire is high.

"There is a point that was not made clear in the other House and might now be cleared by the Government. Why did not the Government accept all the points announced in the communiqué of the Madras Government, dated 7th February 1946. In this communiqué, the then Government laid down the principles on which they would bring forward legislation. I expected, Sir, to have all these points incorporated in this Bill, but I find, Sir, that it has not been done. One of the points made there was that a man may acquire up to 50 acres, but no person after the Act came into force could acquire more than 50 acres of the project land without Government's permission and such permission would only be given to those who satisfy the authorities that they are genuine agriculturists. No such condition exists here and anybody may now acquire 50 acres under the project. And then it was said: 'And

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undertake not to dispose of the land until a certain number of years after the water is made available.' That has been accepted. But we do not find here the provision that if land is acquired in contravention of the provisions it will be liable to be confiscated. All that the present Bill says is: If a man acquires more land, within three years the Government can exercise the right of purchasing the land at rates at which the man purchased it. But the Advisers' regime had come to the conclusion that if anybody purchased more land than 50 acres after a particular date, all that land would become confiscated to Government, may I remind Sir, without compensation. In order to discourage persons from speculating in land before the Act came into force, all purchases of land between a date to be prescribed in 1944 and the commencement of the Act would be set off against the limit of 50 acres mentioned above and water would not be allowed for irrigating more than the restricted extent of the holding so acquired. This principle also has not been introduced. The Bill, Sir, seeks to take power for Government to acquire project land in certain areas, if a person has acquired more than 50 acres after 1st October 1944, but it does not penalise him to the extent the Advisers' Government wanted to do. It does not prevent a man who already has a thousand acres from acquiring 50 acres more, and if he is influential enough to get a permit, for acquiring 100 acres even. (Interruption) Yes, with a permit. I know he can manage to get a permit, Sir. It should have been made penal for any man who already has land to acquire even this 50 acres, because the land he already has will give him enough trouble to bring it under cultivation when the water flows down the canal.

"Sir, if only the good rule that we have suggested to the Government of having joint committees when bills of this kind are introduced had been followed, it would have enabled some humble people in this House also to have brought to the notice of the Government certain factors which should be taken into account when a Bill of this kind is introduced. Let it be remembered, Sir, that this Bill is of a socialistic nature: restricting a man from purchasing more than a certain extent of land tends toward socialism. Let us not fight shy of it. If we go further and prevent people from owning more than a certain extent, that is real socialism. Let nobody be sorry that we are proceeding along these lines, when the Advisers' Regime was prepared to go so far.

"Then, Sir, before I close I want to say one thing more. I have not given notice of any amendment because I want this Bill to be passed as soon as possible. After the communiqué was issued by the Adviser Government people who were sending out agents from far off Tenali and Bapatla ceased to do so and people who had bought lands even parted with them fearing that water would not be available or their lands would be confiscated. That apart, I appeal to the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue—I am glad the Hon. the Prime Minister is here—this project presents problems which are very big and perhaps only of the kind which arose under the Tennessee Valley Authority. Here I have the reports of the

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p.m. Special Officer covering hundreds of pages, dealing with every problem connected with the Tungabhadra Project, and the problems are many. There is the question of population at the area which is sparsely populated; there is the problem of cattle, manure, etc. There are also other problems connected with the bringing of land under cultivation, such as coaxing the ryot till now accustomed to depend on rain to make use of the canal water when the rains fail and also when the rains come in order to grow some other subsidiary crop. Then, Sir, it may be necessary to change the agricultural practices of the tract. The water can flow along the canal during certain periods only. What crops can best be grown, what proportion food crops should bear to commercial crops—these are some of the problems, which you come across in this project and which would not arise in a project intended for wet cultivation like the Ramapadasagar project. We have many such projects for dry irrigation in these areas such as the Gandikotta project. Therefore I would like the Government not to be satisfied with what they have done, but to take in hand and redeem the pledge given by the previous Prime Minister to appoint a high power executive who will be in a position to take decisions on the various problems raised by the Special Officer and devise methods to solve them, so that when the waters flow along the canals, the lands may not remain barren as they are but become smiling fields."

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"Mr. President, Sir, both the speakers that have spoken on this proposition have spoken on subjects many of which do not belong to my portfolio. But nonetheless one or two points, I am bound to answer.

"With regard the need for a high power executive to deal with the general, social and economic advancement of the area, I may state that the matter is under the consideration of the Government, and when the time comes, Mr. Suryanarayana Rao will be more than satisfied in the matter.

"As a matter of fact, the only criticism that requires answer is that the big landlords still subsist in that area. People who own more than fifty acres of land not by purchase but by owning them for years have not been penalized. It is true. But such a type of legislation, when it comes, must be one which will be applicable to the whole presidency. We cannot start with that kind of legislation for a limited area which the present Bill will cover. When the Government feel the need and when people demand, such questions can be considered in the context of the whole presidency and decided. We have to judge this Bill by the immediate need, the need for preventing speculation, and I hope that the Bill satisfied that test.

"In the event of the High Level Channel scheme coming into existence, the area covered by this Bill will have to be extended beyond Bellary and Kurnool districts. Hence the new section 1 (2) (b) (ii) was added by the Select Committee. The Government are aware of any possible development that may occur, and they have provided for that also.

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"With regard to confiscation to which Mr. Suryanarayana Rao referred, that point was raised in the Select Committee also, but it did not find agreement. A day may come when we will have to deal with these things with a wider outlook and with an eye to a more equitable system of owning lands. Till then, my hon. friends must be satisfied with the present measure which will fulfil the immediate object for which it was intended. There was no criticisms about that matter. I hope the hon. members will pass the Bill with all possible speed."

The motion was put and carried.

Clauses 2 to 16 were put and carried.

The Schedule was put and carried.

Clause 1 was put and carried.

The Preamble was put and carried.

SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"I beg to move—
'that the Bill be passed into law'."

The motion was put and carried.

(3) THE MALABAR IRRIGATION WORKS (CONSTRUCTION AND LEVY OF CESS) BILL, 1947 (L.A. BILL NO. 14 OF 1947) (AS PASSED BY THE ASSEMBLY).

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"I beg to move—
'that the Malabar Irrigation Works (Construction and Levy of Cess) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 14 of 1947) as passed by the Assembly be taken into consideration at once.'

"Malabar is a big district with a big population and also a big rainfall. As all know, the rivers flow directly into the sea and there are few irrigation works in the area. (The Hon. Sri K. Madhava Menon:—No irrigation works.) I can say that there is at least one irrigation work in Malabar. It was purchased from a private owner in 1902 for Rs. 3,152. It yields a net revenue of Rs. 240 per mensem. It is in Palghat taluk. Except this, the record shows that Malabar has no public irrigation work. The Bill provides for the acquisition of lands for the construction of reservoirs, tanks, dams, etc., in Malabar. The post-war schemes contain a few such proposals. But objection has been taken that the land in that area belongs to the janmis and not to the State. The object of the Bill is to confer on the Government powers necessary to acquire such private rights. Under clause 3 power is taken for the construction of irrigation works on Government or acquired lands.

"Another important feature is the levy of water-cess, which will be the first charge on the land and the crops raised thereon.

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" Another important clause is that which does not pass off the benefit of the increased yield due to the supply of water from any irrigation work to the landlord. Whoever cultivates the land will get the benefit, and the janmi cannot claim any enhancement of rent.

" Therefore, this is a start, a good start I should say, for constructing irrigation works in Malabar, an area which, as I said in the beginning, has got a big population but which is deficit so far as food is concerned. Malabar is claiming to be a new linguistic province and that province ought to be self-sufficient in food. This Bill may help in the realization of that ideal. No objections have been received to the Bill which was published as early as January. I hope that this Bill will receive the general approval of the people of Malabar and that the House will accord its sanction to the legislation in as speedy a manner as possible.

" (Replying to an interruption) The new irrigation works have not yet been planned. First of all, it is necessary for the Government to acquire lands which form part of the bed of watercourses after paying compensation which shall not exceed the value of an equivalent extent of land on either bank of the watercourse adjoining the land acquired. More than dams, we have to construct tanks and reservoirs. I hope that a close investigation will be made and the works planned soon after we get the power that we want under this Bill."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR:—" This is the first occasion when the Government of Madras have ever thought of constructing irrigation works in Malabar. We have been crying for irrigation facilities in Malabar all these years, and it is gratifying that the Government have heard our cry and come forward with a Bill like this. We from Malabar are thankful that we also come under the scheme for the provision of irrigation works. (Interruption by Dr. V. K. John).

" We are talking about irrigation works. If my hon. Friend wants us to talk about Moplahs, we are only looking for an opportunity to talk about it. My hon. Friend might nooh-nooh or talk in a spirit of levity. But many a thing which was talked of in such a spirit has become an accomplished fact. I will leave that matter at that for the present, and talk about irrigation.

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p.m.

" I hope my hon. Friend, the Revenue Minister, will not sleep over the Bill but will go ahead with the Bill, will not allow the Act to be a dead letter but will give effect to it and show some signs of activity in that part of the world. We the people of Malabar are thankful to him and to the Government for showing so much consideration to Malabar."

DR. V. K. JOHN:—" Sir, I rise to support the Bill and thank the Government for bringing forward the Bill. I want to assist them by making one suggestion. Under section 4 of the Act the Government have to make and publish a declaration under

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section 6 of the Land Acquisition Act without following the procedure laid down in sections 4 (1) and 5-A of that Act. A notification under section 4 (1) is necessary so that the market value of the land may be fixed. According to the Land Acquisition Act a date has to be fixed. No date is apparently fixed. It has been skipped over. I suggest that the Government might examine the position and find out whether a date should not be fixed on which the market value is to be fixed for land to be acquired. I have studied the Land Acquisition Act. I am very familiar with it. I suggest that the Government might examine this question. If they find that they have to fix a date, they might introduce an amending Bill which might fix the date from which this Act should come into force, so that there may not be speculation and high values are not paid. I have referred to this point because people must know when this Act will come into force."

* SRI M. NARAYANA MENON:—" Sir, I rise to thank the Government for bringing forward this Bill which is in fact, long overdue. For the last 150 years we have been crying " water, water." Though water is available, the people of Malabar are not benefited by it. The British Government was not pleased to provide us with irrigation facilities. Now this Government has come to our rescue and this Bill is the first step in that direction. So far as the rights which the Government has to acquire for the building of an anicut or a reservoir, I agree the provisions are unobjectionable. I have nothing to say about them except to point out a lacuna—as stated by my hon. Friend, Dr. John—that under section 4 a date has to be fixed. It is a small matter which may be got over by making proper rules.

" I wish to refer to some of the other provisions of the Bill. In Malabar river-beds belong to the owners of the banks on either side. If the bank on one side belongs to a person the river-bed adjacent to that bank belongs to him. If both the banks belong to the same person the river-bed between them wholly belongs to him. In Malabar the Government has no proprietary right over the land as in the ryotwari tracts. This point has been raised several times in courts and even the earliest decisions of the Madras High Court have upheld it. In the cases that have gone to the Privy Council the decisions are to the effect that the Government has no proprietary right over the lands in Malabar and consequently has no proprietary rights over river-beds. Even in the case of zamindars, this principle has been invariably applied though their proprietary rights over the banks are said to be derived from the Government. In Malabar this principle applies with greater fitness as individuals and not the Government are the owners of the lands.

" I shall refer to clause 5 of this Bill. Under that clause the Government have claimed much more than they ought to. I am pointing out this fact, so that the Government might explain

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their intentions or correct the mistake. In clause 5, sub-clause (1) what the Government claims is that all the water in the watercourse and all tributaries and branches thereof should become the property of the Government, when the Government constructs an irrigation work on the said watercourse. If the claim of the Government is to all the water in the watercourse, tributaries and branches up to the irrigation work one can understand it because the Government cannot distribute water properly when there is third party intervention with the water-supply. If water is allowed to go down to the river and to the sea, landowners on either side of the river must be entitled to use it as they have been doing prior to the passing of this Act. There is no justification on the part of the Government to claim their water also. It must be clearly expressed in the sub-clause that the water which the Government claims is water up to the irrigation system, and that all the rest of water flowing down the river might be made use of by people as they have been doing before. Otherwise the result will be this; petty landowners will have to go to Government officials, Revenue Inspectors, Tahsildars or Collectors and get permission from them to make use of the water. It is very difficult for them to approach these officials to get permission. I submit therefore that the Government should at the earliest opportunity definitely declare their rights with reference to the said sub-clause. I think the Government can do so in the rules they are making under the Act. Again, clause 6 says that any person who suffers loss on account of material diminution in the supply of water after the construction of the irrigation system shall be entitled to compensation for such loss. Of course it is quite clear that some compensation must be given. The compensation is provided at 15 times the loss in the case of lands which have been deprived of water and only 12 times in the case of other undertakings. In the Bill which was published originally it was only 12 times in both the cases. The Select Committee raised it to 15 times in the first case. I feel that the compensation provided is not sufficient in either case. I shall illustrate the point. Suppose the loss incurred every year by a landholder is Rs. 100. The compensation to him will be 15 times Rs. 100 that is Rs. 1,500. What is the interest he will get on this Rs. 1,500? What is the interest that the Government give? What is the ordinary bank rate? The bank gives 3 per cent. Government investments are giving $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 per cent. The man loses every year more than Rs. 50. This is a public undertaking; it is done on behalf of the people. Why should particular individuals, suffer under such a provision? I hope the Government will consider the point and make necessary changes.

"The most obnoxious clause is clause 14 under which the rights which the owner has to enhance the rent on account of the irrigation system, have been taken away. This legislation is concerned only with the rights of the Government for taking powers in their hands in order that an irrigation system may be constructed. It is convenient to read clause 14 at this juncture—

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"Any increase in the yield of the land or in the extent of land cultivated by reason of the supply of water from any irrigation work shall not entitle a landlord as defined in the Malabar Tenancy Act, 1929, to claim any enhancement of the rent or renewal fee payable to him nor shall such increase be taken into account in determining fair rent under that Act."

I submit the money that is used for the construction of the irrigation system is not the money belonging to the tenant only, it is the money belonging to the people including the landowners. In fact, the irrigation systems are constructed for the benefit of the land and of the persons owning the land. The cultivator also must get a portion of the benefit. To deny absolutely any benefit to the owner is neither fair nor equitable. I have been approached by many people in Malabar, by many landowners to submit to this House that this is an act of injury done to them, and of unfairness shown to them. The best course, therefore, is to drop clause 14 now but this point may be taken up when the tenancy legislation is attempted. If the House is not pleased now to fix a due proportion of the benefit to the landowner, let there be legislation after full and open discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of the course suggested. There is no point in the argument that people have not raised any objection to the Bill although it was published two months ago. Nobody ever expected that such a provision as clause 14 would be introduced in a legislation claiming river-beds for the construction of our irrigation system. Therefore people have paid no attention to this legislation. Suppose people have been negligent hitherto and suppose the difficulty is pointed out now only can we in fairness deny the right to them. My humble submission to the House is that this is a matter which the Government must take into consideration when the Tenancy Act is revised in the course of the next few months.

"This clause cannot be legally sustained with reference to the provisions in the Malabar Tenancy Act. Under that Act, for the calculation of fair rent and renewal fee, the gross yield of the property for three years immediately preceding the date of ascertainment must be taken into account. But under clause 14, in order to fix fair rent, we have to take into consideration what the annual gross yield of the land was prior to the construction of the irrigation work. It is very difficult even for the cleverest Commissioner or Revenue officer to do this. This Bill directly comes into conflict with the provisions of the Malabar Tenancy Act and Malabar Compensation for Tenants' Improvement Act. This point also may be considered when the revision of the Malabar Tenancy Act is taken up.

"One thing more I wish to point out. Under clause 6 some compensation is payable. To whom is this compensation payable? Is it payable to the landowners? Is it payable to the kanam tenant? Is it payable to the cultivating tenant? These are the three questions I wish to ask. If it is made payable to the cultivating tenant, it is a grave blunder. Under the Malabar Tenancy Act the tenant may give up the land at any time and may get away with the compensation amount. The landlord who is there to

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cultivate the land, has to suffer every year as the tenant has gone away with the money. The compensation cannot therefore be given to the cultivating tenant. If the compensation amount is given to the kanam tenant he should be asked to return it to the landlord when the property is redeemed. If it is given to the janmi, he will reduce the rent to the extent of the loss which the cultivating tenant suffers on account of not getting sufficient water from the irrigation system. The compensation amount cannot be paid to the cultivating tenant because he can surrender the land at any time under a registered notice. The landlord will have to find another tenant. These are some of the defects which may be considered and rectified when the tenancy legislation is taken up. It is absolutely necessary that these defects should be removed. I hope the Hon. Revenue Minister will look into them with an impartial mind.

"Because under the Tenants' Improvements Act, even if a tenant makes an improvement at the time of redemption or at the time of commencement of ejection, the jenmies are entitled to get a commission. Hence my above submission, Sir."

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—"Mr. President, I would not have intervened in this debate at all, but for the speech of my hon. friend Mr. Narayana Menon which is likely to give an impression that the whole of Malabar agrees with him in the views he has expressed just now on this matter. Sir, I too have known many people in Malabar and I have also known their opinion in regard to this matter and I can say that their views are not in accord with those just now expressed by Mr. Narayana Menon."

"With regard to the defects pointed out by him in clauses 5 and 6 of the Bill, I think those can be rectified by an executive order enabling the riparian owners to make use of water from these irrigation sources."

"In making certain observations about clause 14 of the Bill, and pointing out certain defects therein, I think my hon. Friend, Mr. Narayana Menon, was really viewing it from the point of view of the landlords and pleading their cause in this respect. If Government construct any irrigation work, it is in the land which is in possession of the tenant and not the landlord. I cannot find any logic or reason in my hon. Friend's argument about the landlord's claim for any enhanced rent. The policy of the Congress Government is that the intermediaries must go, as far as possible. Apart from that, so far as I know about the minds of the people in Malabar, I can boldly say that it is not their view that clause 14 should be so amended as to entitle the landlord to claim for an increase in rent or for a share in the benefits accruing out of the land on account of the irrigation work, for which he has not contributed anything. I do not want to say anything more on this."

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except that it was my wish that the views expressed by my hon. Friend on behalf of the people of Malabar should not go unchallenged."

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—"Mr. President, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition appealed to me as Revenue Minister not to allow this Bill to die."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"I think what he said was, 'Let not the Minister sleep over the Bill.'"

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—"I think he also used the word 'die,' Sir. Very well, Sir, I can promise him that when one is made responsible for the administration in a popular Government, he cannot in the least afford to sleep over any matters, and much less over this and I hope that Malabar will get the benefit under this Bill."

"Sir, the implications of my hon. Friend Mr. Narayana Menon's remarks with reference to irrigation projects were that if he were to be in charge of the treasury or to be on the Finance Committee, he would not let sleeping dogs lie, but he would wake them up, if at all that was needed."

"Then my hon. Friend Dr. John has pointed out a defect in clause 4 with reference to the prescription of date for the land to be acquired. I shall get the matter further examined by the Legal Department and other legal experts concerned and, if necessary, we shall get it amended at a later stage."

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Narayana Menon, has pointed out a number of things to which my hon. Colleague has replied. With reference to the defect pointed out in clause 5, as has been said by my friend Mr. Madhava Menon, it can be rectified by an executive order. With reference to the rate at which compensation is to be paid, he had also some complaints to make. I have explained the same thing yesterday in the Assembly. This 15 times the reduction in the net annual profits of the land caused by diminution in water-supply on account of the construction of the irrigation work, was arrived at after full discussion at a conference. The question was asked, while under the Land Acquisition Act the landlord is entitled to compensation at 20 times the annual rental value, why should it be only 15 times in the present case? The answer is, that simply because the man to whom this compensation is going to be paid is also one who is going to get the benefit of the irrigation work, he should forego a portion of the compensation. That is why we have cut down the compensation from 20 to 15 times in case water was used from the irrigation work for irrigation purposes and raised it from 12 to 15 times in case water was used for other than irrigation purposes, which is a fair compromise."

"With regard to clause 14, what my hon. Friend, Mr. Narayana Menon, said in effect was that the benefits accruing from the improvements should also be shared by the landlord. I can say this straightaway that this enactment does not confer any new rights"

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nor take away any old rights that were in existence at the time when this Act comes into force. It only seeks to see that any benefits accruing out of the State money being spent on the irrigation works, to the enhancement of the value of the land, should not go to the landlord. It is a negative provision inserted in this clause and it is there in order to help the tenant who is the actual cultivator.

"With reference to his question, to whom is this compensation payable, I would invite Mr. Narayana Menon to refer to sub-clause 5 of clause 6 which, I think, must satisfy him, because under this clause, it is the tribunal that is to apportion the compensation that is to be paid to the owners of areas to be acquired. A special Act always supersedes a general Act and this being a special Act, even if it injures any of the provisions of the general Act, it should be deemed to be an improvement. The whole question should be looked at from the point of view of the benefit that it will confer on the people of Malabar and it is in that light that the Bill has been conceived and framed, and if anything more is to be done, it will be done at the proper time.

"Sir, I thank the House for the support it has accorded to this Bill and I request it to pass it into law immediately."

The motion was put and carried.

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I shall now put the Bill clause by clause to vote."

Clauses 2 to 20 of the Bill were put and carried.

Clause 1 was put and carried.

The Preamble was also put and carried.

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"Sir, I move—
'that the Bill be now passed into law'."

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

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE RE
GUNTUR FOOD SITUATION—cont.

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Mr. B. Narayanaswami Nayudu will now move his adjournment motion regarding the Guntur Food Situation."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, Sir, with regard to the motion for adjournment regarding the statement of Government on the Guntur Food Situation, before taking it up directly, I shall just say one word at the outset. Unfortunately this statement has been given under the authority of the Government, or the Secretary, and I don't think it was their intention that a debate should be raised on it."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"This is the Government statement that was presented in the other House, Sir."

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MR. PRESIDENT:—"What the hon. Member says is that it is not so said on the face of it."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU:—"Well, Sir, there are three questions which I wish to raise with regard to this statement. The first question is the abandonment of rural rationing about which, what the statement says is this: 'Rural rationing has partially broken down and grain is not readily available to the poorer classes at reasonable prices.' Sir, though figures have been given, unfortunately the figures really relating to rural rationing have not been set out in the statement. What I have been able to gather from the statement is that the Guntur district is a surplus district and can export some rice, besides feeding the non-producing population. All that I can gather from the figures furnished in the statement is that in the previous year a total amount of 93,464 tons of rice was procured and for inland consumption 43,613 tons were used, and 49,820 tons were exported. Those are the figures with regard to the previous year. In the present year, it is estimated that there will be available for procurement 81,200 tons of rice of which 42,000 tons are for export and 39,000 tons for inland consumption. Thus practically the quantity of rice which is available for export is also necessary for inland consumption in the district. The first point you will notice is, whereas in the previous year, the inland consumption was 43,643 tons of rice, the present estimate covers only 39,000 tons. I do not know how this inland rice quantity has been reduced by an amount of 4,643 tons of rice. That is one thing. The procurement in the previous year for January 1946, February 1946 and March 1946 are given in this note. They amount to 57,619 tons of rice; that is, last year, so much quantity was procured from the ryots. But this year, for the same months, the procurement both through the societies and through the millers amounted to 14,389 tons of rice. Fifty-seven thousands six hundred and nineteen tons last year but this year only 14,389 tons. The point I wish to know from the Hon. Minister for Food is—though I put a question, and no doubt it was late in the evening, but I expected him to give the information in this note—it is not however stated in the note—how much of these 14,389 tons of rice that has been procured has been sent over for export and how much of it has been retained for inland consumption. Even now, if the Minister gives the information, I will be grateful. I just wait to take an answer from him, if he has one.

"The next question I would like to put is: 'during these months of January, February and March, how much of this procured rice was given away last year for export and how much of it was consumed inland.' That will enable us to know whether there was really a good supply so far as internal needs required, i.e., what was the supply, what was the demand, how it was met, or was it not met at all. The two important points therefore which are necessary to be cleared are: was there any export of rice, and was there anything at all supplied to the rural areas.

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Of course, they say that the statutory rationed areas, i.e., the urban population, has been given, but as regards the rural population, evidently they were starved outright. I would come to it later on. But the points I wish to know from the Hon. Minister are, what was the amount procured, and did you give anything at all to the rural areas. Did you export any portion of it to other districts; if that had been allowed, who was responsible for it? I do not mind whether it was during the time of the present Ministry or the previous Ministry; has it been brought to the notice of the Government by the officers concerned that the rural areas have not been given rice, that they were left to shift for themselves, but that the urban areas were supplied plentifully with rice, at least to the maximum amount for which they were eligible. Who is responsible for it; how did it occur; what steps did this Ministry take in regard to this matter? It is a plain question I am putting and I hope the Minister will find it possible to give the reply. After all, will it be impossible for this Government to know what was supplied in January, February and March; what was the export during those months and what was the supply made previously by the societies. Is it difficult to get this information? Even now I wait for an answer from the Hon. Minister.

"The next point I would like to raise is this: a very serious statement has been made in this note as regards the attitude that was taken by the ryots with regard to paddy. Here you have the situation where the urban population has been supplied plentifully, and we have the rural population practically not supplied with anything at all. We have also a producing population in existence. What will happen? Does the Minister expect that these persons who have stocks of paddy or rice in their hands will refuse to give to the inland consumers, does he expect them merely to keep quiet? The reason for the failure of the societies to get sufficient paddy for the requirements of the district is said to be that the ryots with paddy in their hands sold it in the black-market at the highest price. May I know if the Minister challenges the equity of the proceedings that took place in Guntur? Rationing might have worked alright in the urban areas; but in the rural areas what were they doing? Did they not create a situation which obliged the producers to part with their stocks when practically the people were left without anything at all? And what is the next remark in this note: they say the tobacco ryot has got plenty of money and therefore he goes and buys it. Here it is:

'Undoubtedly, a large quantity of paddy and rice has been sold to the upland taluks; it is impossible to estimate this amount. This state of affairs was aggravated by the partial failure of millet crops in the upland parts of the district and by the amount of money which the ryots in the upland taluks have got from such paying commercial crops as tobacco.'

I am very glad, Sir, that on the Treasury Bench, there are now certain persons who know what these commercial crops are, why these ryots are growing these crops and what money they are making on tobacco. Do we not know how many ryots make money from tobacco in order to have a rice meal? Does the Minister grudge the tobacco man having a rice meal? Why should

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he not go and buy rice, why should he go and buy cholam and maize? Why should he be found fault with for it? If he wants to grow a tobacco crop, is it a sin? And what is the result of it all? The rice-eating ryots have less to eat. Sir, there is a proverb in Chittoor which says: 'పరి రోజు అమవాస్యయేన'. On the Amavasya day only these unfortunate ryots eat rice; on the other days they take only ragi in the Chittoor district. Does the Minister want that the peasant should continue to eat ragi and give *tharpanam* only with *perugu* and *pappu* on Amavasya days? Does the Minister want the poor ryot to eat ragi only on Amavasya days because he cannot get rice in sufficient quantity? Sir, it is most iniquitous and I wish to make the strongest condemnation of the statement made here that rice-eating people have been deprived of their rice because the tobacco people have gone and bought the rice for themselves.

"Again, Sir, it is clearly iniquitous to say that the situation has been met in the most natural manner. Water finds its level. We have a producing population who have got stocks, and instead of blaming the Government officials, you want to blame the ryots who grow the paddy and you want to blame the consumer when you say that the tobacco people go and buy rice. All this is really curious. This is a very serious statement made by a responsible Government. It says there are two main causes for the producers withholding their stocks:

'The first is that the ryots expected that the price of paddy would be raised or that the Government would give a bonus.

'Repeated declarations were made that neither would be done because the Government of India had ruled against an increase as a matter of all-India policy. But the ryots still seem to hold that there might be some increase in the offing.'

Then reference is made to Dr. Ranga and the note says:—

'Dr. Ranga is reported to have stated that he advised the ryots if necessary to resort to *satyagraha* by not yielding their stocks to the Government and letting it be acquired by force. Then Dr. Rajan, the Food Minister, would be forced to fly to Delhi and fight for increasing paddy price.'

Sir, the central point on which the whole thing turns is whether the Government are going to say finally 'no' or reserve it as a matter of expediency or what may be called 'practical politics' so that the ryot may go on getting only Rs. 11 or Rs. 12 and not more. If there is any attempt by the ryots' associations to ask for to agitate for and to get an increase in the paddy price, is that going to be called a crime and is that going to be penalized by this Government? That is the plain result of this statement here. Mr. Ranga, as a leader, has perhaps indulged in irresponsible talk; let us call him an irresponsible leader; but does the Government want to penalize the ryot if he asks for an increased price for paddy? I am asking the Government, if they think like that, the reason for it. In the speech of the Premier there was statement regarding this price of paddy. With an individual like that as Prime Minister, at the top of the Government, with the declarations that have been made previously and with the action of the

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previous Ministry—with all these things before them, the Government have thought it fit to announce an additional payment of As. 8. Is this Government going to sit tight on the ryot and see that he accepts this Rs. 5-7-6 and tell him: 'If you ask for more, please note the Public Safety Act will be applied to you' or something like that? Sir, my submission is: the question of the agriculturists' prosperity is the one thing on which the existence of a Ministry depends here or elsewhere. If Delhi does not come to the rescue, are you so helpless in the matter of meeting a legitimate demand? If you want to satisfy the consumer, by all means do that. I do not want you to raise the price so far as the consumer is concerned. But is there any other way to assist the agriculturists? Time and again, member after member from this side of the House has cited the case of the poor elementary teacher getting Rs. 25 and asked how he could be expected to live upon that. I ask the Prime Minister, and there is Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliyar also who knows the difficulties of these ryots, how many of these ryots can live on Rs. 25 or Rs. 30 per month? In each village you can count the ryots who get an income of Rs. 30 and less per month. Have they got a provident fund system to help them in their later years? Have they got a pension; have they not got their women and their children to support; have not they got their children to educate? Do they get dearness allowance as many others do and how are they to get anything at all which they need? I ask the Members on the other side: Is there not a pledge on your part to make the ryot class a prosperous class and in these days when the prices of all things are going up, when you are also satisfied that these prices will not go down in the near future, are you not entitled to draw upon your reserves or raise further taxation in order to meet the legitimate demands of the ryots? Sir, that is the central position, and that is the position which I wanted to explain, though it be at this late hour of the day. Sir, there is a set of creatures in the world who always think that the tail it is that moves the head and the head does not move the tail. Sir, this cannot be called a democratic government if this state of things is to continue. I do hope, Sir, that this Government, headed as it is by a man like our Premier will see to it that it is the head which moves the tail and not the tail that moves the head."

7.15
p.m.

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, I should really congratulate Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu on the telling way in which he has put the case of the Guntur people. I only want to say a very few words, Sir. We would like to hear from the Hon. Minister for Food what the present situation in that district is. For, I thought, from the statement which the Hon. Minister has presented to the House, that rural rationing has failed, but now I understand from the Hon. Minister that the situation has now become favourable and that there will be no further breakdown in rural rationing. Sir, we want to know whether, from the official information that Government have received, they

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have been convinced that this new experiment of producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies has failed to come to the rescue of Government in the matter of procurement. Now, Sir, even the millers may find it increasingly difficult to procure enough of the grains because the increase in the cost of living still shows an upward trend. Even for the ryot, the cost of living has increased and so, the producer has to be paid a little more, and not the middleman, Sir. When there is an increase in the cost of living all round and when people working in offices are given increased wages and salaries, is it not necessary that the ryot who produces food should be paid a little more in order that he may maintain his standard of life which is already low? I ask, Sir, should he not be given a little more money for the amount of grain that is taken from him. While far from being an inducement to the producer, I think it is an important point to be considered. Unfortunately, Sir, we are tied down with the Government of India and I do not know when the Commodities Board set up by the Government of India will report and will fix the prices of grains. I think, Sir, the Government of India should fix the prices in such a manner as to enable the actual producer to get a little more in order to make him keep up his standard of living. This would perhaps induce the people to part with their grains, and they generously come forward without any coercion on the part of the officials. Sir, now that the producer-cum-consumer co-operative society is out of the field and that the old machinery of procurement has been installed in Guntur and other districts—and deficit districts only depend on procurements through agencies—we would like to be assured that not only stocks for internal consumption but also supplies for deficit districts will be ensured. I am sure the object of my hon. Friend, Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu is merely to elicit information from the Government and to allay the fears that may be in the public minds as regards the alarming situation in Guntur. Especially, Sir, by the series of supplementary questions that were put in the Assembly, people were under the impression that it was something alarming. I am sure that Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu's object is merely to elicit information so that the fears of the public may be allayed. With these few words, Sir, I request the Hon. Minister for Food to enlighten us on the points that I have mentioned."

* ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Mr. President, Sir, the statement of the Government placed on the table of the House reveals more than one alarming feature. At the very outset, it points out that there has been no general and widespread failure of crops to apprehend a famine. Then, Sir, it points out that the trouble is largely due to the inability of the new procuring agency. It also states, Sir, that the target figures were reached last year in spite of a bad season, but this year, it was not only not possible to export but there was not sufficient paddy for the people of the district itself. It also states, Sir, that there has been blackmarketing and people were getting paddy at the highest price at which they were able to get. It also states

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that a responsible Congress Leader, Mr. Ranga, threatened the Food Minister by stating that if necessary he would advise the ryots to resort to satyagraha by not yielding their stocks to the Government and letting it be acquired by force.

"Now, Sir, I would like to know from the Government why the method adopted by the previous Ministry of paying bonus to the paddy-grower was not adopted by this Ministry also. The fact is this: Let me not mince matters. The real cause for this grave state of threatened famine in Guntur is not to be found either in the failure of the procuring agency or in the failure of the Government to pay bonus or in the refusal of the Government of India to increase the cost of paddy. Now, Sir, what the man in the street feels is this, and we want a reply from the Hon. Minister on this point. Is it not due to the cliques, if I may say so, that exist in the Congress Party and about which Gandhiji also has mentioned? Is it not due to the rivalry in the various groups in the Congress Party that this state of affairs in Guntur has been brought about. Sir, it is said that some Congressmen induced the paddy-growers not to part with their paddy in order that he may bring discredit on the present Government. We want to know from the Government what the real state of affairs is. Is it a fact that some gentlemen was instigating the people not to part with their paddy? In the statement placed on the table of the House, Government have stated that there is sufficient quantity of paddy in the district. Such being the case, what is the cause for the refusal on the part of the people to part with their paddy? Again, there is another point, Sir. It is stated, Sir, that the millet-eaters are not prepared to eat the imported millet.

"So, Sir, I think that this Government is responsible for the state of affairs in the Guntur district because people outside feel and the people in the district also feel that they are made to suffer on account of the bickerings in the Congress Camp. I also feel, Sir, that these people ought not to suffer on this account and that a state of famine ought not to be brought about on account of differences in the Congress Camp. So, I ask, why Mr. Ranga, being a responsible Congress Leader and the President of the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee, should go to the Food Minister, a Tamilian gentleman and say, 'if necessary, I would advise the ryots to resort to satyagraha by not yielding their stocks to the Government and letting it be acquired by force.' Therefore, Sir, this Government is responsible for this state of affairs. Let the Government place all the facts before the public, let them place all their cards before the table in order that we, belonging to the other party, should know what the real state of affairs is. Government admit that there is sufficient paddy; they admit that blackmarketing is going on in the districts; they also admit that people who are accustomed to eat rice have now to take to millets. In view of these things, Sir, it is necessary for people outside to know whether there is really a state of actual famine or not.

"Sir, the other point is about the failure of the producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies. Sir, much was said about these

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societies in previous speeches and in previous meetings. That these producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies have failed is admitted even by the Government. Now, having found out their lot, what are the Government going to do with these societies? Is it only in the Guntur area or only in particular areas that the Government are going to take action against these societies by handing over the machinery of procurement to other agencies or are the Government going to continue these producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies in others parts of the Province in order that there may be famine on some other occasion in those parts? Is it only then that they would like to take action with regard to these societies in those parts of the Province? I simply suggest that it is necessary to take drastic measures against these societies. Sir, Malabar has been clamouring against these societies. (The Hon. Sri K. Madhava Menon:—"No, no.") There is difference of opinion. Sir, in regard to this matter, there is no unanimity of opinion. My hon. Friend on the other side may say that it is untrue. We hope that it is so; but I have heard that hundreds and thousands of people sent memorials to the Prime Minister against these societies. So, Sir, we want a categorical reply from this Government whether they are going to continue these societies which were the pet societies of the previous Government and particularly of my hon. Friend, Mr. Prakasam, the ex-Premier. Are they going to continue these societies, or are they going to say good-bye to these societies handing over the work of procurement to experienced agencies?

"Now, Sir, there was a great clamour formerly against merchants. We do not know the reason why the Prakasam Government was so much against the merchants. It was on account of the feeling that this merchant community should not exist that the previous Ministry wanted these producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies to come into being. Sir, some people thought that these societies were instruments in the hands of the Congress Party to strengthen their position. But, now we find that the present Ministry is going to do away with these societies at least in one or two districts and so it is not a party question. So, the question is not really understood by the people at large. Therefore, we have got a right to know from the Hon. the Minister for Food whether they are going to put an end to the producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies, whether they are not going to allow the usual and normal channels of trade to continue the work of procurement and ease the situation or whether they are going to allow this experiment to continue in other parts of the Province and make those districts also face a situation similar to that of Guntur. We hope, Sir, that the Hon. Minister in charge of Food will make a clear statement with regard to these matters and will allay the suspicion that is lurking in the minds of the people. In spite of the fact that there has been a change-over in the Ministry, in spite of the fact that the old order has changed and given place to a new order and that the present Ministry was

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expected to rectify the defects of the old Ministry, nothing has been done in the matter of procurement of food. Nothing has been done to see that a situation such as the one which has arisen in Guntur is prevented from doing harm. I hope, Sir, the Hon. the Minister for Food will try to do his best to see that the suspicion of the people is removed."

7.30
p.m.

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—Mr. President, Sir, again and again I went through the statement on the Guntur food situation that has been placed on the table of the House, but I have not been able to find out from it what the exact position is, and whether the people will get sufficient food in the ordinary way or not. The first paragraph of the statement says that rural rationing has partially broken down and grain is not readily available to the poorer classes at reasonable rates and the sentence following it gives the reason for it, viz., 'The trouble is largely the result of the inability of the new procurement machinery to cope with the work'. What is it that the Government have done to remedy this evil? What have they done in the matter? They say that paddy has been found to be plenty there. The last sentence of paragraph 2 of the statement says; 'that neither the target figure for procurement this year nor the amount estimated as exportable surplus can be regarded as excessive or beyond the capacity of the district to attain'. That being the case, why were you not able to procure the necessary paddy; why did this rural rationing break down and what steps the Government have taken to prevent the breaking down of rural rationing and to alleviate the suffering caused to the people on account of the breaking down of rural rationing. They admit that the cause of this failure was primarily the inefficiency of these famous producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies, to do their work. Secondly, they say that as a result of their inability to cope with the work, the grains went underground and people had to go to the blackmarket to purchase the foodgrains. Well, Sir, they feel a sort of consolation that since the ryots have plenty of money earned out of the commercial crops they can afford to purchase grains in the blackmarket and they mean by implication that they need not take any steps to prevent this blackmarketing. But, I want to know, Sir, just as my hon. Friend, Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu, how many of these ryots have this tobacco money with them. I do not know whether the majority of the ryots being poor, will be able to procure paddy in the blackmarket. I ask whether there is sufficient money with the masses to purchase paddy in the blackmarket? It is admitted there is paddy there. Then what steps did the Government take to make those foodgrains released to the people. If they found it difficult to get them released what steps have they taken to satisfy the immediate wants of the people. The statement says there is plenty of paddy in the district, and they say they did not want to bring in paddy either from Kistna or any other adjoining surplus district, because the incentive to procurement within the district would have gone. Do they want the people to suffer then?

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You have not been able to make the ryots surrender their paddy immediately and you say that paddy has gone underground. Until you are able to make the people surrender their paddy, is it not your duty to see that paddy from other districts is brought in order that people may not suffer. On the other hand, you say, there is no necessity for it and if you have done it there would be no incentive for the local ryots to surrender their paddy. Does it not amount to doing things in a bureaucratic way?"

"What is the situation now? I find from the statement that the situation in the district, however, is slowly improving and stocks are now being sent in small quantities. I ask, is it sufficient? Is the despatch of paddy in such small quantities to the rural areas sufficient to meet the needs of the people? Will the people be saved from starvation as a result of the despatch of such small quantities of paddy? We want an answer to these questions. In this connexion, I have to refer to a supplementary question I put on the 23rd April. In that question I asked the Hon. Minister for Food whether in view of the fact that these producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies have failed in their objective, the Government would think of revising their policy in regard to these societies? At once came a categorical reply that it was too early to give out the intention of the Government before they were in full possession of the facts. Therefore, I thought that the Government had not come to any conclusion in regard to that matter. I went home that evening and found from the papers that the Government had issued a Press Communique stating the intention of the Government, adopting the very words of the Minister contained in his answer. I put also a question whether the producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies in the four districts were suspended. When I put these questions on the floor of the House, could not the same answer be given to the House? Is it the way that Government want to treat this House? When I put the question in the morning, we were told that nothing was decided, but in the evening we found a Press Communique issued on the very same subject. I submit, Sir, that Government have not been fair to this House in withholding information and making us to rely on the statement issued to newspapers."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I thought your question referred to the general policy."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"It is not a general one, Sir. I shall leave it at that, Sir, and come to the other points."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Oh! You have other points?"

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, when the Government wanted to give up the ordinary trade channels so far as the procurement and distribution of foodgrains were concerned, we on this side of the House cried hoarse, we

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implored the Government and even entreated them not to experiment with the lives of human beings when they were in mid-stream. They said, 'we have a very splendid plan and we are sure to succeed.' Now, they admit in three or four places of the statement that 'they have failed because the trouble was largely due to the inability of the new procurement machinery to cope with the work.' Then they say that 'the second cause was the change-over of the agency of procurement from the millers to the producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies, and again they say, 'the fact that the societies have proved inefficient as procuring agents in Guntur district could not be disputed'. It is also stated, that the result of the failure of the societies to procure sufficient paddy for the requirements of the district, much less for export, was that the ryots with paddy on their hands sold it in the blackmarket at that highest prices they could get for it. In the end what had they to do? They had again to go to the normal trade channels which they condemned at first and said that they should not be entrusted with the work. As a matter of fact, they condemned the entire trading community. Of course, they may be blackmarketing among some of them, but you should treat them in the best manner possible and not condemn the whole community. They have got very great experience and you should try to utilize their experience. Do not entrust this work to this new machinery however efficient that may be in your own opinion. Our opinion is quite the contrary and our representations in this regard to Government have proved abortive. What is the result? In the words of the Press Communiqué issued on 23rd April by the Government, the position in the deficit districts continues to cause anxiety and that Guntur which is a surplus district is facing a crisis. It is also stated that on account of the failure of the producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies, the situation in the Circars gives room for anxiety. If only, Sir, the Government had the sense or had given some weight to the representations made from this side of the House, this situation would not have arisen in those districts, especially in Guntur. Now, what have you done in respect of the matter? You have gone back to the very people whom you condemned as very unfit and therefore, our complaint has been entirely justified by the situation created by your conduct. (Interruption by the Hon. Sri K. Madhava Menon 'Live and learn.') Sir, this situation would not have arisen if you had listened to us and you would have eased the anxiety of these unfortunate people. Well, Sir, after all we live to learn, and since you say, we live to learn, would you allow yourself to be benefited by the experience in the four districts of the Circars? With regard to the policy in the other districts I am not aware of, but I would suggest your waiting for some time more in view of the experience of the working of the new machinery you have set up, so that people may not suffer. Therefore, I would appeal to the Government to be benefited by the experience they have gained in those four districts and try to revise their policy with regard to these societies, and restore the ordinary trade channels.

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In this connection, I would like to draw the pointed attention of the Government to one more sentence that occurs in the statement. The reason given, or one of the reasons for inadequate procurement is, that Dr. Ranga is reported to have stated that he advised the ryots if necessary to resort to Satyagraha by not yielding their stocks to the Government and letting it to be acquired by force."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" It has been referred to by two hon. Members already."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Here, I am asking the Government to take a different view of the matter."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" It is not an extract from the statement, but an extract from the *Indian Express*."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Yes, but Government have not contradicted it and so I take it that they rely on that extract."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" How can the Government contradict that statement?"

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" I thought Government had taken it for granted and if they think that it is not true, it is up to the Government to take a different view. But, what steps have they taken to prevent instigations of such responsible persons? Dr. Ranga has instigated the ryots, in the words of the *Indian Express*, not to surrender paddy to the Government. Does it not constitute an offence on the part of any ryot to withhold paddy and not surrender according to the orders issued by the Government. Here is a responsible person, a top-ranking Congress leader, who is instigating the people to commit an offence. What steps have Government taken against that gentleman, who is responsible for the present troubles in Guntur, according to this uncontradicted statement, which is extracted in this statement. Why is it they have not taken any action against him? Is it because he is a top-ranking leader that he should go scot-free? Is it not necessary on the part of the Government to take action against him so that such offence may not be committed not only in that district but in every other district also, especially when they have given publicity to it? I would ask Government to ponder over the matter and take necessary steps before it is too late."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I am sorry I gave you some tea."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" What 7-45
we want, Sir, to know is what steps have the Government taken P. 30.
to alleviate the sufferings of the Guntur people. Neither the statement nor the Press Communiqué makes the position clear. What is the present position, Sir? What steps have the Government taken?"

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Mr. PRESIDENT:—"You will hear it from the Hon. the Minister if you allow him to reply."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"What are the steps they are taking and is there any possibility of starvation and consequent deaths? What steps are they going to take with regard to the other districts as a result of the experience that they have had in this part of the country or do they want Guntur to be repeated in other parts of the Province also in order to revise their policy? I want a reply for all these, Sir."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"My hon. Friend over there and I belong to Malabar. He and I come from that place which is the first victim of these producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies."

Mr. PRESIDENT:—"I hope the Hon. Mr. Madhava Menon will be more prudent not to tickle his friends."

* K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The first victim is Malabar. But it is far away from Madras, from Andhra Desa and other places. It is behind the Western ghats and nobody knows what is taking place there and people who come from there like Mr. Madhava Menon make much of these producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies. It is not true that the scheme is a success because they are making huge profits. Anybody can make profits in the circumstances in which these societies are placed. I would make in one year with a few thousands lakhs of rupees if monopoly is given. You do not know, Sir, what is taking place there. In the area in which I live there is a co-operative society with Rs. 65,000 capital and they may have made a net profit of 1 lakh of rupees within a short period. It is a monopoly. The food supply has been made the monopoly of a society and there is pilfering, stealing and all sorts of things. My hon. Friend might deny but I can prove everything, Sir. The persons hit by these societies are the poor Mappillas. I may quote one instance about these societies in the area in which I live and about their employees. In this area there were 42 rationing offices before the producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies came into being. After the coming into existence of producer-cum-consumer co-operative society it reduced these ration shops to 32 out of 42. Before the producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies came on the scene 27 shops were in the hands of the Muslims. They reduced these to 8 from 27. Seventy-one Muslims were engaged in these shops and they were reduced to 11 Muslims. These unfortunate Muslims have been the sufferers because of the political split between one party and another. Mr. President, Sir, in the election of Directors in Manjeri in Moplahnad this was evidenced. I think my hon. Friend, Dr. Rajan, knows about it. Out of about 2,800 share-holders approximately, 900 are non-Muslims and 1,800 are Muslims. But the election of Directors were manipulated in such a way that no Muslims except two were elected."

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Mr. PRESIDENT:—"My hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, will kindly allow me to make an observation. The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition has spoken about producer-cum-consumer societies and given all facts when the budget was under consideration. The producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies are not as such before the House now. We are only concerned with the food position in Guntur. I want to request the hon. the Leader of the Opposition that if he has got to say anything regarding Guntur I have no objection to his going on. I only request him to stop his statement about the conditions in Malabar and confine himself to Guntur."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"These co-operative societies are not ideal institutions. They must be scrapped everywhere. The Hon. Dr. Rajan who is now having the portfolio of Food has himself given an indirect warning to the ex-Prime Minister at its very inception and the only hope now is that himself and the Hon. the Prime Minister have given a warning in an indirect way in those days. Now it is left to the new Ministry to remedy the situation by going into the whole matter. Not only myself but everybody wants the Government not to launch on this scheme and now that it has almost been scrapped in Andhra Desa, we hope that it will also take place in Malabar."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Sir, I do not want to keep the House longer than it is absolutely necessary. When the need for this adjournment motion was brought to my notice, I did not feel it so very urgent as it was urged to be. I did make a statement on the Guntur situation at the latest I could get it. I tried to avoid an adjournment motion if it were meant to elicit the facts of the case as it prevails to-day by making such a statement but I did not succeed. If the hon. Gentleman would have gone through the statement not as a critic but as one who wanted to understand the efforts of the Government to tackle the situation that has come up before them so suddenly he would have realized that we did put into it all the efforts that were necessary to tide over the difficulty. This afternoon Mr. Narayanaswami Nayudu wanted some information but I could not give the information at once. He did suggest that I could get it from the Secretariat even at that late stage but since I could not quite grasp the details of what he said, of course I did not take that advice. Even now if that piece of information which he wanted would help me to clarify the situation I shall certainly do so. The statement made by the Government was an honest and downright statement for which they should have credit. By various stages we told clearly the steps we have taken to deal with the breakdown and we have also not hesitated to say how it broke down and have laid the blame on the doors responsible. Therefore, there is nothing to worry about. Surely the present situation as it is to-day is changed, Sir. The report deals with the position five days ago. Since then the anxiety which the Government had is now completely more or less gone. Procurement has increased, ration

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depots have been provided with paddy and storage is getting accumulated gradually.

"No doubt the difficulty in procurement is still there but one factor which I would like to place before the House is there is complete failure of millet crops. Guntur is divided into two areas, one is upland dry area where commercial crops like tobacco and other things are grown. The other is delta area where paddy alone is grown. Generally in normal years what happens is the upland lands grow their own millets which is the staple food of the people and whether they produced tobacco or millets, the Government did not envy them and had no intention of asking them to do this and that. Now when even millets have failed and these people in the uplands who used to grow and eat millets did not get their food and finding sufficient money in their hands to pay enhanced price for paddy, there was nothing wrong in their coming and taking over the available paddy in the low lands. There is nothing to be envied here. The Government were giving only a statement of bare facts as it existed. They were describing the position step by step to lay the blame at their proper source. When they were mentioning these they had naturally to mention about the difficulty in procurement and about people who hindered the same. A few important Congressmen did as a matter of fact hinder such work. There is nothing to defend for their actions and the mere fact that I have failed to make mention of such a fact is proof positive that we recognized the fact and if things would become necessary of course whatever action should be taken shall be taken. There is no use of my thundering here or on the platform 'I shall do this and that.' The other day it is to my great regret the ex-Premier in the Assembly made a statement. He says that if Dr. Rajan touches Ranga, a series of Rangas will come. There is no use of talking like that. There is no need for that. I even asked Dr. Ranga to help me with his propositions. It is not as if we are trying to quarrel with everybody. The ex-Prime Minister said that we must give Rs. 5 more for each bag of paddy. There were also many other suggestions made.

8 p.m. "But the Government of India have instructed the Madras Government on the price of paddy. I had been to Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the Food Member of the Government of India, to discuss with him and in fact Dr. Ranga was a little prophetic in saying that Dr. Rajan would fly to Rajendra Prasad. I did go and apprise him of the situation and asked him whether he could not enhance it in any way. But he said he could not find his way to do it both for reasons, national and international. But he did not stop there and we set to work to find out some way of raising the price of paddy for the producer. The Press Communiqué that was issued would have convinced anybody as to the efforts made in devising methods by which we could put another eight annas into the pockets of the producers. We worked up at the rate of a half and quarter anna for the various transactions in the process wherein the paddy passed from the producer to the consumer and by a

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series of stemming up, we were able to scrap up about half a rupee in the whole transaction. But this means that we have cut down the middlemen's profit terribly and it would not be worthwhile of any man to enter into the transaction. We have fixed the prices in such a way that the middlemen's profit would but cut, though they had come to our rescue and at last half a rupee was procured to the producer. Also we have asked the producers not to give paddy but to give it in the shape of rice so that they might have the bran and other minor items and in that way he stands to gain. We have done our best under the existing circumstances to put as much as possible into the pocket of the producer. Nobody seems to have recognized the efforts we have made nor at least appreciated what we have done and it is a misfortune that the public at large could not actually understand the way in which this eight annas per maund has been arrived at. They imagine that the price of paddy has been raised and it is all wrong. The price remains the same but by some adjustments which neither enhances the price of paddy nor materially reduces the margin of profits, we have given annas eight to the producer. That is really the position that we have endeavoured to do. We have not hesitated at the voices of objection which will be raised against us, when we touch the producer-cum-consumer societies; we did not flinch. We openly said that these societies have failed. Not only did we say so but we stopped the activities of the societies and on the day before the issue of the press communiqué, the procurement work by the co-operative societies had come to a standstill. More than that, a Government of any guts cannot do. If our actions are the subject-matter of criticisms, I regret to say that what all we had done had not been appreciated. While you are entitled to criticise, I at least expected, from the knowledge of the fact that we have stood up to our conviction, appreciation that the way in which we had proceeded is a right one and that is the best that could be done in the circumstances. The question was asked whether we are going to give a bonus as was given last year. I may say that the Government of India took the Madras Government to task for it. The Assam Government said that they must provide for a bounty and they started an agitation and the Central Government had to pull up the Madras Government. Therefore, it is not possible. Even if it were possible, supposing it were possible, what would be the cost involved; it would amount to nearly 10 crores of rupees, if we were to give two or three rupees for each bag. Food, I agree, is worth any thing but the situation has not become so critical as to drain the coffers of the Government to the last pie. The fact is that we have tided over the situation and I say that there is nothing in Guntur that we need worry about. This fact is proof positive of the fact that our steps are correct and the judgment that we displayed in this matter is entitled to the consideration of the public at large.

"Reference has been made to the differences in the Congress camp. In any party, there are differences of opinion but that does

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not necessarily mean that as a consequence of it, we must have only famine. Feeling ran high on certain questions and opinions also were expressed strongly but on that account, have we flinched from doing the right thing? We have stopped the activities of the societies in that district because we felt that that was the only solution. We have stopped that in the ceded districts because we felt that that was the only solution. We had information from the Collector of East Godavari with whom I had a conversation at four o'clock while the House was sitting and he expressed to me how they were able to get along and how the situation has come back to normalcy. It was a good assurance to hear from him and I can give that information to hon. Members of this House. I assure them let them not be frightened that something very serious has happened and that the Ministry has not done the right thing in dealing with the situation. We have done everything possible though it meant causing unpleasantness in four or five districts in which this scheme has been put forward and worked for the last two or three months. Large amounts of money have been involved in those societies. We also know how these societies failed. We cannot allow that money, the people's money, to go like that. The fact of the matter is that the scheme was put into operations at a most awkward time and that is really the cause. The harvest is yet incomplete; paddy is coming and the societies were asked to start their operations. The result was that while they wanted to buy, they had to buy large quantities, they had only a few lakhs where crores were wanted. The result was that they told the agriculturists to keep on paddy while they would arrange for money with which to buy the stock. The producer kept it with him but only for a time. He had calls on his money for payment of taxes and for other things. He was pressed into a situation wherein he was forced to part with his paddy as quickly as possible so that he might realize the amount as he could not hold over his stocks till the societies came to him. That is reason No. 1. Reason No. 2 is they had not enough godowns where they could keep their paddy in and they had not the mills necessary for the purpose and they had to go to the millers to get the paddy husked. There were so many obstacles inherent in suddenly starting on a new venture and things would have been difficult even with the best of staff. But here the staff were quite inexperienced in buying and milling. They were graduates and literature M.As. but they were not the best men suitable. Inexperience of these people added to the difficulty and especially at the infant stages of the operations, all these things accounted for the failure of the scheme. There is nothing very wonderful or defeatist about the failure. It was a venture which was started without proper precautions and without being assured of sufficient capital and experience and the result was they were unequal to the task. We had therefore to revert to the old machinery as quickly as possible to retrieve the situation. We have saved the situation. On behalf of the Government, I have placed my cards on the table and I am glad

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the motion has provided me with an opportunity of explaining the position in a clear manner. I want people to understand the attitude of Government and I want hon. Members opposite to appreciate our difficulties and to help us in our attempts to tide over the unfortunate situation which will affect you and everybody in the country. We are glad that the grave situation has been tided over and the hon. Members may rest assured and leave the situation to us to solve."

SRI M. D. T. KUMARASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Who does the Hon. Minister mean by producer, is it the person to whom eight annas is given?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"It is the person who produces the grain."

SRI M. D. T. KUMARASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"In that case the actual cultivator will not be able to have any for his own purpose."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The hon. Member does not understand what I have said. The producer is whoever gives paddy for procurement."

SRI M. D. T. KUMARASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"The tahsildars and the deputy tahsildars do it differently."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I am afraid I cannot go into a review or an explanation of the definition of who is the producer and how the matter could be dealt with."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"This is a matter which can be decided by Government by executive action and ensure that proper steps are taken to see that money reaches the proper person."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU:—"The real crux of the position is the price the societies were paying. While the millers were paying, say Rs. 10, the societies were prepared to give only Rs. 9, the balance of Re. 1 constituting their profits. In other words for every bag of paddy they sold to the society they were asked to lose Re. 1 but they were getting it in full in days when the miller was the procurer. The real question is what the ryot gets for the rice, I do hope that this Government will not stand on prestige and will come to a quick decision regarding the question of the subsidy to be given."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I declare the motion talked out."

V.—HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I have to announce to the House that the following message has been received by me from His Excellency the Governor:—

"In pursuance of clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 62 of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Archibald Edward Nye, Governor of Madras, hereby prorogue this session of the Madras Legislative Council with effect from the conclusion of business on 25th April 1947."

The House stands prorogued."